

THE SENDING

***HYMN #426** "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"
("The Presbyterian Hymnal")

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE**

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We hope that you will return to worship with us again! We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome into membership all who love Jesus Christ, accept him as Lord of all life, and seek to serve him as part of his body in the church. We invite you to speak to one of our elders, greeting you at the door as you leave the worship service.

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC

LOOKING AHEAD

The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides a Drive Thru Lunch Pickup at BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM.

Sunday, September 19

9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Monday, September 20

7:00 PM – Session Meeting

Tuesday, September 21

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Quilting 101 in BPC Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 23

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat
6:00 – 8:00 PM – "Suds of Love" at Harris Laundromat

Saturday, September 25

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Girl Scouts
Archery Club – BPC field, pavilion & basement

Sunday, September 26

9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM – Worship Service

Wednesday, September 29

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 3

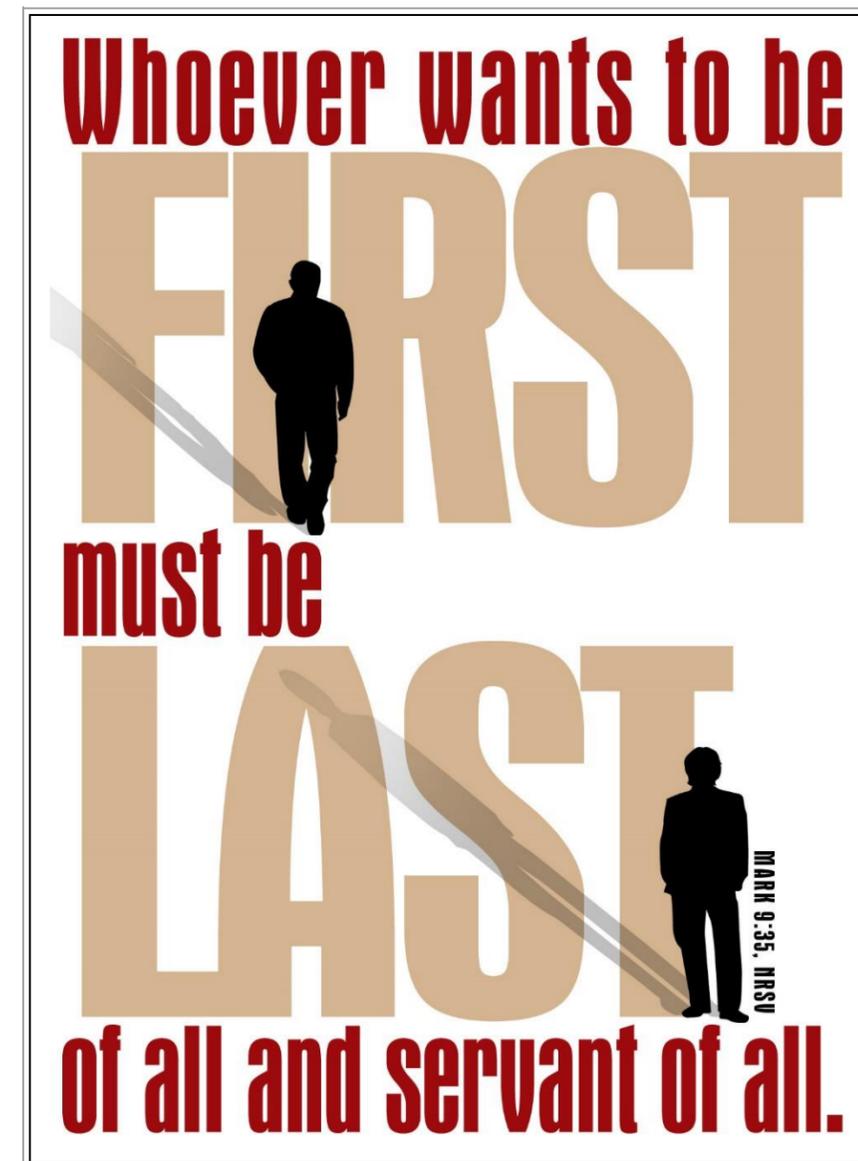
10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received
9:00 AM – Sunday School in the BPC Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM – Worship Service with Communion

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Sherry Shifflett, <i>Clerk</i> Jenny Linebarrier, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Property</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Nurture</i> Carrie Paxton, <i>Christian Education</i>	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Hannah Jackson, <i>Communications</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



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Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
September 19, 2021

*"A family of faith in Jesus Christ,
yesterday, today, and tomorrow."*

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!

DAILY LECTIONARY						
Sunday, September 19	Monday, September 20	Tuesday, September 21	Wednesday, September 22	Thursday, September 23	Friday, September 24	Saturday, September 25
Morning: Ps. 67; 150 1 st Read: 2 Kings 4:8-37 2 nd Read: Acts 9:10-31 Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 Evening: Psalms 46; 93	Morning: Ps. 57; 145 1 st Read: 2 Kings 5:1-19 2 nd Read: 1 Cor. 4:8-21 Gospel: Mt. 5:21-26 Evening: Ps. 85; 47	Morning: Ps. 54; 146 1 st Read: 2 Kings 5:19-27 2 nd Read: 1 Cor. 5:1-8 Gospel: Mt. 5:27-37 Evening: Ps. 28; 99	Morning: Ps. 65; 147:1-11 1 st Read: 2 Kings 6:1-23 2 nd Read: 1 Cor. 5:9-6:11 Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48 Evening: Psalms 125; 91	Morning: Psalms 143; 147:12-20 1 st Read: 2 Kings 9:1-16 2 nd Read: 1 Cor. 6:12-20 Gospel: Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18 Evening: Psalms 81; 116	Morning: Ps. 88; 148 1 st Read: 2 Kings 9:17-37 2 nd Read: 1 Cor. 7:1-9 Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15 Evening: Psalms 6; 20	Morning: Ps. 122; 149 1 st Read: 2 Kings 11:1-20a 2 nd Read: 1 Cor. 7:10-24 Gospel: Matthew 6:19-24 Evening: Psalms 100; 63

The Service for the Lord's Day

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

People: Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Leader: Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

People: Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Leader: Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

People: Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.

***HYMN #399** *"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"*
(*"The Presbyterian Hymnal"*)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

While we try to live in God's way, we know how often we follow the wrong advice, or walk down sin's shadowed streets. Yet, God watches over us and calls us to confess, so we might be welcomed into the embracing arms of mercy and healing. Let us pray as we say,

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus, Wisdom from on high. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet do not understand your ways of peace and gentleness. We do not plant ourselves in your hope and grace, and so reap harvests of disorder and conflict.

Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms, and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *(Please take a moment for silent confession.)*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the wisdom from above: God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need, so we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet.

People: Bathed in the living waters, fed by the Bread of life, we are given new life and hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *(sung)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNGER CHRISTIANS

ANTHEM *"A Heart to Serve"* Valerie Showers Crescenz
(based on Psalm 37:4, Psalm 51:10, and Deuteronomy 10:12)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Mary Elizabeth Paxton

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 31:10-31 (Pew Bible, OT, p. 613)

¹⁰A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. ¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. ¹⁵She rises while it is still light and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. ²²She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: ²⁹"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." ³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 9:30-37 (Pew Bible, NT, p. 45)

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

SERMON

Rev. Debi Madden

***HYMN #333** *"Seek Ye First"*
(*"The Presbyterian Hymnal"*)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING GOD'S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory

**Doxology (sung)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication*