

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us today. We envision a church worshipping with joy, loving each other with compassion and reaching out to the world with grace and justice.

CHILDREN

There is Children's Church for children between the ages of 3 to 10. Downstairs there is also a nursery and a separate room for nursing mothers.

UPCOMING

12:45 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026: English Conversation Group meets at the church.

Church AGM: After service on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026

Lord's Supper Service: Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Adult Bible study:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. Led by Reid Campbell. Meets next on February 11.
- **ISMCA study groups** are meeting—contact Will or Chi Perrie.
- **Women's Bible Study** Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Laura Priddle on the book of Romans. An additional group meets every other Monday evening at 7:15 p.m. Meets next on Monday, February 23, to start studying Romans.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Carolyn Allen's recovery
- Family of the week: Ian McGill and sons Nolan and Connor

SERMON

Young Restless and Religious
Colossians 2:16-23

Religious rigour does not lead to results.

So...

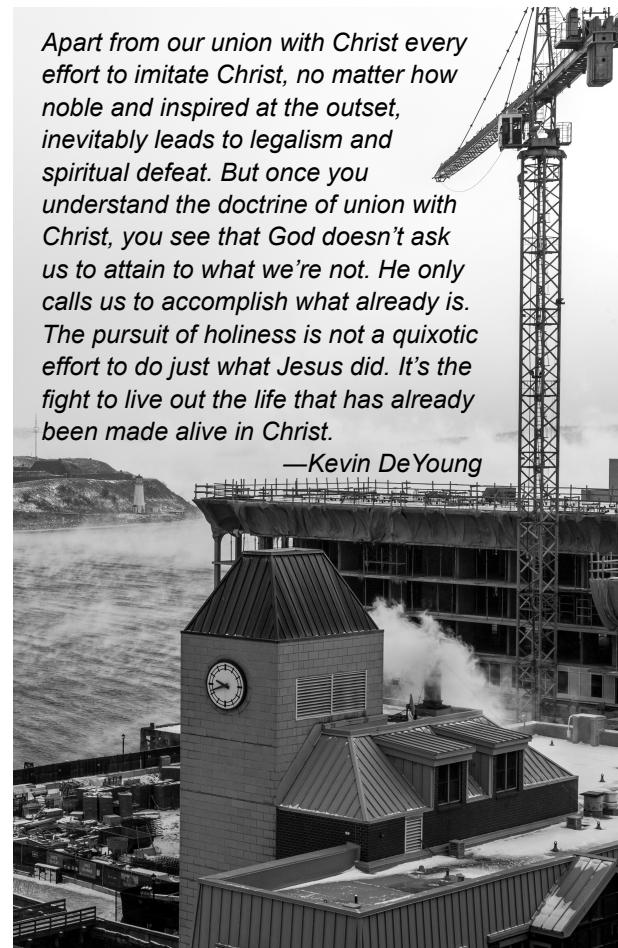
1) The law can't exonerate you (v.16-17)

2) Experiences can't qualify you (v.18-19)

3) Asceticism can't sanctify you (v.20-23)

Apart from our union with Christ every effort to imitate Christ, no matter how noble and inspired at the outset, inevitably leads to legalism and spiritual defeat. But once you understand the doctrine of union with Christ, you see that God doesn't ask us to attain to what we're not. He only calls us to accomplish what already is. The pursuit of holiness is not a quixotic effort to do just what Jesus did. It's the fight to live out the life that has already been made alive in Christ.

—Kevin DeYoung



BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 8, 2026

www.bedfordpca.org

49 Nelsons Landing Blvd., Bedford, NS

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Elders

Jim Poopalapillai—Pastor
Peter Bustin
Reid Campbell
Will Perrie
Glenn Wadden

Deacons

David Campbell
Honza Pokorny
Edward Woolley

Pastor Emeritus

Don Codling

HOW TO GIVE

E-transfer to bedfordpca@gmail.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

People: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

Minister: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

People: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

—Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6

HYMN OF PRAISE

To God Be the Glory

OLD TESTAMENT READING

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

—Genesis 1:26-2:3

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Based on Old Testament reading

SONG OF REFLECTION

What Wondrous Love is This

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbour set neighbour against neighbour and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

—Romans 5:1-2

SONGS OF RENEWAL

Psalm 104B
Whom Shall I Fear

GOSPEL READING

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

—John 1:19-28

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND CITY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

NEW TESTAMENT READING

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according

to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

—Colossians 2:16-23

SERMON

Young Restless and Religious
Rev. Jim Poopalapillai

CLOSING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!