

BEDFORD FUMC NEWS



The Secret to Walking on Water

Most people are familiar with the story of Jesus walking on the water. He needed to do some self-care and hoped to get dropped off somewhere for some quiet rest and prayer. But the crowds found him, so he ministered to them and fed them. Afterward, he sent his disciples ahead by boat so that he could go up into the mountains for that much-needed respite from the pressures of life.

It wasn't long before the disciples were in the middle of a raging storm that made it hard to progress to their destination. Water in the ancient world was something feared. It represented chaos and even evil, but many of those on the boat were fishermen and had probably encountered similar storms. They didn't become afraid until they saw Jesus walking toward them amid the storm. They thought he was a ghost. Something else feared and believed in, in their time. Jesus says, "ego eimi," the same name God declared to Moses. It means "I am" or "I am who I Am." Its meaning is varied, but one aspect is that God is the ground of our being and ever-present in our lives. God comes to our rescue when we are in need. He was telling his disciples; he was there to rescue them!

What happens next is the fun part! Peter wants to be like Jesus. He asks Jesus to command him to walk on the water, and Jesus says, come on then! So, Peter puts one foot over the gunwale of the boat, and his foot finds purchase, so he swings his other leg over; and I imagine he stood there for a moment, amazed at what was happening, then he began walking toward Jesus. It started really well. He was moving with determination toward Jesus. He was doing it! He was walking on water.

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Continued

The Secret to Walking on Water, continued

Then something happened. He felt the wind blow and the waves slapping up against him. He lost focus on Jesus and let his fear of the water and storm take over. He began to sink, actually, drown. It must have been a terrifying moment for Peter, not to mention embarrassing. Peter cries out; Lord save me! Jesus reached into the turbulent waters and rescued Peter.

Something similar happens a lot to all of us. We are moving through life, doing fine, and then we lose focus, and old fears and hurts distract us. They take us back in time to when those hurts occurred. Just like Peter, who remembered his fear of the water and storm, let his fears overtake him, and he began to sink. When we let our fears and hurts overtake us, we can feel like we are sinking. Like the disciples, we know what can keep those old fears and hurts from overtaking us when we remember that God is “ego eimi,” the ground of our being, the one who comes to our rescue.

Peace

Rev. Terry Brammer

Treasurer's Report

We had income for the month of \$44,323.72 and expenses of \$22,384.06 and a June month-end balance of \$43,728.83. We received the \$27,000 check for our grant on June 23, 2026, so without the grant check we spent \$5,060 more than we took in.

~Jack Kenworthy, treasurer



Soul Food

We will meet on Wednesday, August 5 in the Friendship Classroom at 10:30 AM. Kay Collins will lead the discussion on *The Story of Grace* by Horatio Bonar. Lunch at a local establishment will follow at the close of our meeting, around 11:30. We welcome newcomers to our book club.

Our book for September 2 is *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate with Sherry Hardesty leading our group in discussion.

~Linda Schoonmaker

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Friendly
Reminders

Please let me know of any additions and/or deletions to the prayer list as well as changes to committee meetings and any other announcements. If I don't know about these, I cannot keep the prayer list, bulletin and calendars up-to-date. You can email me at bedfordfirstumc@gmail.com or leave a note in the basket on the ledge outside my office window. Thank you for helping me to stay current.

~Tammy Dodds, administrative assistant

4 Sydney Gilmore and Sherry Hardesty
11 Maggie Minton and Daxin Kopp
12 Richard B. Bell and Marlow Minton
21 Deklin Kopp
30 McKinley Minton, McCoy Minton and Sarah Gilmore



What's Happening

August 4, Hospitality Committee at 9:00 AM
August 5, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
August 12, Administrative Council at 5:00 PM
Last Monday of the month, Euchre at 2:00 PM
Every Tuesday, Men's Breakfast at Denny's at 9:00 AM
Every Thursday, Fiber Time at 2:00 PM
Every Saturday, Gideons at 8:00 AM

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*The Mission of Bedford First
United Methodist Church is to
grow in faith in Christ and to
reach out in God's love to make
disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.*