

BEDFORD FUMC NEWS



Lord Help Me!

As a pastor and theologian, I sometimes read a passage in the Bible, that I may have read several times before, but something different, or something I had not noticed before, jumps out at me. One of those passages is the story of Jesus and the Canaanite women in Matthew's gospel. If you would like to read it for yourself, it is Matthew 15:21-28.

Jesus has been traveling around healing and teaching. He then came into conflict with the Pharisees and scribes (nothing new there!), and then traveled to the cities of Tyre and Sidon. The two towns were north of Israel and were Gentile cities. "Gentile" was a catchword or description of anyone who was not Jewish. They were a people some looked down on and considered contact with them to render one ceremonially unclean. Shortly after arriving in this area, a Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and calls on him to heal her daughter. Because she is concerned for her daughter, she is loud and persistent in her request for Jesus to have mercy and heal her daughter.

She caused such a commotion that the disciples seemed embarrassed and resentful of the attention she was bringing to the situation, so the disciples urged Jesus to tell her to stop and go away! Here is the shocking part, the part I had not noticed before. Jesus tells the disciples and the woman he was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. Apparently, not to her or people like her. Jesus adds that giving the children's (meaning Israel's) food to the dogs (meaning Gentiles) is incorrect. But the Canaanite woman loves her daughter and is desperate to

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Lord Help Me! continued

get the help she needs and deserves. Hence, she persists, challenging Jesus's supposition, and reminds him that even the dogs get the crumbs from their master's table. Jesus relents, the daughter is healed, and Jesus tells the woman it is because of her faith that Jesus met her need.

I don't know if Jesus needed to learn a lesson about helping the "other," but I doubt it. Jesus had ministered to other Gentiles before this event. Matthew's audience was primarily early Jewish believers, and the dislike between different groups was still pretty strong. It probably is the case that Matthew told the story the way he did to teach his audience a lesson about loving and caring for everyone, regardless of ethnicity or religion. One thing is for sure, whether you believed that Jesus was "schooled" by the Canaanite woman, or that the early church needed to be taught a lesson, it is a lesson we still need to learn!

~Rev. Terry Brammer

200th Anniversary



This October 25th, Bedford FUMC will celebrate 200 years in existence. Reverend John Hogsett, our district superintendent, will deliver the sermon and we have also invited six former ministers to join us: Reverends Judi Early, Michelle White, Tim Ahlmeyer, Curtis Hurley, Robert Sharp and Ron Mercer. After worship, a dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall. (Reverend Sharp says he plans to be here.)

We ask two things of you: please attend this celebration and invited a former member/attendee/friend to join you. We would love to see a full house!

~Jerry Jackson

Soul Food

Soul Food Book Club will meet on Wednesday, September 2 at 10:30 AM. Sherry Hardesty will lead us on a discussion of *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate. We will go out to lunch following. Newcomers are welcome to join us at any time.

Our book for October 7t, also to be led by Sherry, is *How To Read A Book* by Monica Wood.

If you have any questions, you can email me at bill.schoonmaker@comcast.net.

~Linda Schoonmaker



Liturgists for 2027

Our liturgist pool has been steadily shrinking. Please consider being added to the liturgist rotation—you don't have to be a perfect public speaker—you just need to be willing to help. If this is something you can do, please let me know. Thank you.



~Tammy Dodds, administrative assistant

Lay Servant Academy

FUMC Southern Rivers District (includes Bedford) is holding a Lay Servant Academy on September 26. Classes being offered are *Introduction to Lay Ministry*, *Preaching 1* and *Leading Worship*.

Details are posted on the bulletin board in the main hall. If you need the link forwarded to you, just let Tammy know and she will forward the email.





2 Judy Quyle
3 Nancy Cuba
8 Judy Clifton and Kathy Myers
12 Jerry Jackson
19 Katarina Kwakye
24 Carla Abel



September 2, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
September 8, Hospitality Committee at 10:00 AM
September 9, Administrative Council at 5:00 PM
September 15, Church office is closed
September 18, Cum Libris book club at noon
September 29, Church office is closed
Every Sunday, Chimes Practice, 8: 45 AM (begins Sept. 13)
Every Sunday, Choir Practice, 9:30 AM (begins Sept. 13)
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

*Bedford First United
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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.*

Bedford First United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2026

Present: Pastor, Janet Jackson, Jerry Jackson, Bill Barnes, Mary Barnes, Karyn Price, Jack Kenworthy, Lee Cuba, Judy Quyle, Darryl Ivanson, Sally Alesia.

Absent: , Cole Quyle.

Visitors: Rick Bell.

Janet opened the meeting at 5:04. Opening prayer Jack.

M/S, Jack Kenworthy, Bill Barnes, to approve June 10, 2026, minutes. Adopted.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Jerry explained that \$27,000 has been received from the district for Electronic Circuit Rider project. The credit card has been received. Jerry and Tammy are signers. It has a \$2000.00 limit.

Trustees: Jerry Reported that he has talked to painters concerning the water damage painting. There is a new roof on the bell tower. The parsonage has been emptied including folding chairs. It has been listed. Judi gave the church \$500.00 to cover cleaning and other stuff.

SPRC: Karyn says that the SPRC committee recommends the Tammy get a raise to \$20.00/hr. and increase her time to 20 hours per week. M/S, Judy Q., Jack K., to approve the recommendation, Adopted.

Unfinished business:

Electronic Circuit Rider Proposal has been approved. Equipment has been ordered.

New business:

Notes:

The next meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday in August 8/12.

Adjournment: 6:10

Lee Cuba, Secretary