BEDFORD FUMC NEWS

November
2026



Unrelenting Love

The book of Ruth in the Hebrew Testament is only four chapters long but is jam-packed with lessons about the nature of God. These lessons are lived out by two women, Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth, and their experiences and interactions with other characters in the story.

Naomi's husband moved her and her two sons to Moab from Bethlehem due to a famine in the City of Bread. They risked a lot in moving. They became refugees in a foreign land where they didn't have many, if any, rights and were probably not welcome. But, despite that, they make a life for themselves. It wasn't long until tragedy hit, and Naomi's husband passed away, leaving her widowed, without support, and with two sons. Her son's marriage and the addition of two daughters-in-law may have made the pain of loss bearable. For ten years, they were a family that cared for one another.

More tragedy was yet to come to Naomi. After ten years, both of her sons passed away. The author of Ruth does not tell us how it happened, but the grief and loss were shared with Naomi's daughters-in-law, who are now widowed. At this time in the world, women who did not have a male presence in their lives for protection and provision found themselves in a bind. The solution for Naomi was to return to Bethlehem, reconnect with family and friends, and send her daughters-in-law back to their parents since they were young enough to remarry.

Orpah did return home, but Ruth pleaded with Naomi to let her continue the journey to Bethlehem. In the text of chapter one, Ruth makes a compelling argument for why Naomi should let her continue, so she relents, and they continue on to Bethlehem, where the village women greet them. The reader of Ruth is left to assume that they found lodging and acceptance from family and friends of Naomi. Still, the question remains: why did Ruth insist on accompanying her mother-in-law back to her hometown, where Ruth, as a Moabite, may not be accepted? The best answer is that she loved Naomi and wanted to make sure she arrived safely and was cared for in her grief and old age. She was willing to sacrifice what was in her best interest (returning to her parent's house) to care for the interests of another person, in this case, her mother-in-law, Naomi.

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Unrelenting Love, continued

Ruth is a picture of love on two levels. The first is as one person caring for another, even when difficult or inconvenient. The Apostle Paul speaks often about caring for the interest of others above our own. Jesus said we must lose our life to find it. Maybe we find our life by setting aside our wants and desires and caring for others.

Ruth is also an example of God's love for us. No matter how bad things get, God is with us. God's love is unconditional and unrelenting. When bad things happen like they did to Naomi and Ruth, God takes us under God's wing and cares for us.

Rev. Terry Brammer

Incorporation Meeting

After worship on Sunday, November 15, we will hold an all-church meeting to elect three directors for our Board. This meeting should take approximately ten minutes and is required in our by-laws. Please plan to attend. Thank you.

Janet Jackson,
Administrative Council President

Soul Food



We will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship classroom on Wednesday, November 4th. We will be discussing *Beneath the Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Linda will lead the discussion. This is a long book, so I hope you have all been reading it over this past month. Those who wish will go to lunch following our meeting.

Our December 2nd book is *The Christmas Stranger* by Richard Paul Evans.

Linda Schoonmaker
bill.schoonmaker@comcast.net

200th Anniversary Celebration

Bedford First UMC celebrated 200 years of ministry on Sunday, October 25. A special worship service, with the message delivered by District Superintendent Reverend John Hogsett and greetings from former pastors, followed by a time of food and fellowship, made this event extraordinary. We had 75 worshippers in attendance and raised $1,758 for LIFE Food Pantry. Many, many thanks to everyone who worked in front of and behind the scenes to make this day one to remember.

Reverend and Mrs. John Hogsett

Southern Rivers District Superintendent





Pastor Robert Sharp with his wife Cynthia and daughters.

BFUMC 1979-1984

200th Anniversary Celebration



Pastor Curtis Hurley and wife Laura.

BFUMC 1997-2006

Pastor Joy Ahlemeyer, wife of Pastor Tim Ahlemeyer.

BFUMC 2006-2008



Pastor Michelle White and husband David.

BFUMC 2014-2019





Pastor Judi Early.

BFUMC 2019-2026

200th Anniversary Celebration













200th Anniversary Celebration





United Methodist Mountain Mission

The Mountain Mission truck will be at our church on Monday, November 16. We are usually one of the first stops, so please have any donation to the church prior to November 16.

Current needs include belts, socks, purses, pots and pans, quilt pieces, material, yarn, small household items, and knick-knacks, collectibles, etc.

If possible, pack donations in boxes since that is easier for the driver to stack in the truck.

Monetary donations can be mailed to P. O. Box 888, Jackson, KY 41339

Bedford Christmas Parade

Donations needed: Our church is making small craft gift bags to give out at the Christmas parade on Saturday, December 5. Most can be made for less than $1. We will make up as many as we can from the donations we receive to pass out at the parade.

Linda Schoonmaker





3 Arthur Spiess
5 Bill Schoonmaker
13 Jean Kozak
14 Ann Groce
16 Elizabeth Hobbs
28 Tom Hurd



November 4, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
November 11, Administrative Council at 5:00 PM
Every Sunday, Chimes Practice, 8: 45 AM
Every Sunday, Choir Practice, 9:30 AM
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 Methodist Church

1409 K Street
P. O. Box 84
Bedford, IN 47421

812-275-2627
bedfordfirstumc@gmail.com

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
October 10, 2026

Present: Pastor Terry, Janet Jackson, Jerry Jackson, Bill Barnes, Mary Barnes, Karyn Price, Jack Kenworthy, Lee Cuba, Judy Quyle.

Absent: , Darryl Ivanson, Sally Alesia.

Visitors: .

Janet opened the meeting at 5:00. Opening prayer Judy.

M/S, Jack, Bill, to approve September 9, 2026, minutes. Adopted.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Jack explained the balances for September. Beginning $22,730, ending $19,607. $242K was received from the sale of the parsonage.

Trustees: Bill Reported the clock in the sanctuary has been replaced. Jerry reported most of the outside painting projects have been done.

SPRC: Karyn reported that they have given up on the nursery worker.

Unfinished business:

None.

New business:

M/S, Jerry, Bill, to deposit the $120K of the trust fund into a 6mo. CD at 4.25%, then $120K of the parsonage sale into a 11mo. CD at 4.25% and $120K of the parsonage sale into a 2yr. CD at 4.9%. Adopted

M/S, Jack, Karyn, to take the balance of the parsonage sale to cover expenses incurred in the process of the sale of the parsonage and apply it to the general fund. Adopted.

Notes:

The next meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday in November. 11/11.

Adjournment: 6:20

Lee Cuba, Secretary