

*...with a lowercase "b"*

As of 2015, 15.4% of the population of the United States considered themselves "Baptists," but there is no clear definition of the word "Baptist." It is hard to know what a "Baptist" church will be like. *At Bedford Road, we adhere strongly to the founding principles of the early Baptists, who broke with the early Reformers on key issues.*

- Baptists found their sole authority for faith and practice in the Scriptures. They rejected the authority of church dogma and tradition.
- They rejected the sacramental view of salvation, believing instead in personal responsibility before God. Individuals *must choose* to be Christians and are baptized in obedience to their faith.
- Baptists believed the church is composed solely of baptized believers. The Reformers saw church and state as a single entity, so to be a part of a principality or kingdom was to be "a Christian."
- They rejected hierarchy and denominationalism. Each congregation is responsible for staying true to the Scriptural model of the Church.

We recognize that the word "Baptist" comes with baggage, but we continue to use it because we believe the significance and weight of the foundational principles is more important than negative connotations. At the same time, the word itself is not as important as what it represents. For this reason, we say we are *baptists with a lowercase "b" who follow Christ with an uppercase "C."*

## *Financial Summary*

<b>2023 Budget</b>	\$224,885	<b>Budget to Date</b>	\$17,300
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$4,325	<b>Giving to Date</b>	\$15,217

*A full financial report for the partial fiscal year May-Dec 2022 will be available this coming week. Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at [bedfordroad.org/giving](http://bedfordroad.org/giving).*

Website: <http://bedfordroad.org>;  
Streaming: [youtube.com/@bedfordroadbaptist](https://youtube.com/@bedfordroadbaptist)  
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*Creating environments where people  
encounter Jesus and journey together*

