

...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."*

Coming this autumn! We will be having a special 8-week Bible study open to everyone that will provide a breakdown of (1) the biblical doctrine of the church (2) the history of the church, and (3) the function of the church in our postmodern, post-Christendom world. **Sign up in the foyer!**



Financial Summary

2023 Budget	\$224,885	Budget to Date	\$129,750
Weekly Budget	\$4,326	Giving to Date	\$134,926

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.



*Creating environments where people
encounter Jesus and journey together*

Today's Worship

“Be the Centre”
© 1999, Michael Frye, CCLI# 2650429

“Word of God Speak”
© 2002, Pete Kiple and Bart Millard, CCLI# 3912788

“Sanctuary”
© 1982, Randy Scruggs and John W. Thompson, CCLI #24140

- Lord's Table -

“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”
Public Domain, John Fawcett and Johann Hans Georg Nageli, CCL# 25369

“Consuming Fire”
© 1996 Tai Anderson, Brad Avery, David Carr, Mark Lee, and Mac Powell, CCLI #2222053

- Exploring the Scriptures Together -

Upcoming Events

August

- 5 Southern NH Rescue Mission
- 13 God's Backyard "Soft" Relaunch
Youth Group Ice Cream Social [See Shaun Mitchell]
- 27 Barbecue Lunch after worship gathering

September

- 2 Southern NH Rescue Mission
- 10 God's Backyard Launch
- 13 Perspectives on the Church, 7:00pm
- 23 Men's Breakfast, 9:00am

Website: <http://bedfordroad.org> Email: info@bedfordroad.org
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Pastor: Erik K. DiVietro, MA, MDiv, PhD pastor@bedfordroad.org



The Mess They'd Made with Worship in Prayer (1 Corinthians 11:2-16)

The Big Idea:

Nursery is provided 9:30-11:30am for children ages 0-3.
Our children's ministry (God's Backyard) is on a summer hiatus.
We will be doing a "soft opening" of the updated program in August,
with the full program returning on September 10.