



# UPLIFT Newsletter

The United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Blairsville, PA

OCTOBER 2016

Well, in a little over a month, it will all be over—or should I say it will just be starting. For over a year campaign rhetoric has consumed the airwaves and permeated our conversations. Some have pegged their tent securely in a particular camp. Some are trying to discern their way through the redefinition of political parties. Some are praying for divine guidance about the future of this nation we love. You read and listen and pray you're making the right decision, all the while realizing that your vote may be cancelled out by someone using the eeny, meenie, miny, moe method of choosing.

How is it that we are best governed? In the old, old days, governance was by a theocracy, that is a form of rule in which God is recognized as the supreme civil ruler and laws are interpreted by God's priests. It makes perfect sense to be ruled by the Lord God, who is sovereign and just and true. All is well, as long as those who administer the day to day details are faithful and true to God. For many years, God's people found security and joy in being ruled by God—but in the latter days of Samuel, things changed. "Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, 'You are old and your sons do not follow your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.' This thing displeased Samuel. He prayed to the Lord and the Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.'" (1 Samuel 8)

You've heard the expression, "be careful what you pray for, you might get it." From that day on, for God's people it has a long line of kings, Saul, David, Solomon..... Some good godly men and some self serving, some giving themselves to the promotion of God's kingdom and some building only for themselves. Throughout the Bible we see that God uses those in position of power. Sometimes he ordains an evil ruler as a punishment to the people for their sin. Sometimes God uses a ruler who does not know him to be a blessing to his people. Sometimes God says, "You think you know what is best for you—then go ahead and see how far you get without me." And sometimes God redeems his wayward people with the gift of godly leaders. But whatever the circumstance, I believe God is in control, and in his ultimate plan there is good for us.

As a student of history, I have always been interested in the faith practices of those who lead. C.S. Lewis wrote, "If you read history you will find that Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next." The question is not, who are we?, It's "Who are we becoming?" Its not a matter of where we want to be ten years from now, it's a vision of where God would have us be three generations from now. The core question of successful leadership is not, "How will I be remembered in the annals of history?", but rather, "How will what I do serve to promote and exhibit God's kingdom?" True leadership begins in service of other's, in the model of Jesus who Paul describes as "he who emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...who humbled himself and became obedient..." (Philippians 2).

As we cast our ballots in a few weeks, we are searching for one who will address our needs and meet our expectations. We want a leader who will make us the best nation we can be. But I assure you whoever our next president will be, he or she will only be as effective as we are in our citizenship. The greatness of a nation is defined by the readiness of each of its people to do that which is right and good in the neighborhood in which they live. The character of a nation is defined by the values, the ethics, its people uphold.

May your ballot be cast in prayer with a deep desire that as a partial result of it, God's kingdom would be known in some fuller way. "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone; for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and dignity." (1 Timothy 2:1).....

In Christ's love,



## Scripture Texts for Worship

The scripture texts for October are given for your study in preparation for Worship.

### Sunday, October 2

Guest Minister  
Rev. Dr. Roger Petersen

### Sunday, October 9

II Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### Sunday, October 16

Luke 18:1-8  
Jeremiah 31:27-34

### Sunday, October 23

II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

### Sunday, October 30

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4  
Luke 19:1-10

### Sunday, November 6

Haggai 1:15-2:9  
II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

## New Leadership

At our September 25<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting, the following were nominated and elected to three year terms: to the office of ruling elder, Class of 2019– Bonni Dunlap, Ron Hood, Elaine Jellison and Rick Shoemaker; to the office of deacon, Class of 2019 – Jen Borbonus, Ken Doak, Tom Holby, Beverly Lindsey and Bobbi Monroe. We look forward to the service and leadership they will offer. We thank the Nominating Committee for their work.

## November Newsletter

Articles are due to the church office by Sunday, October 16th.

## Worship Assistants

### October 2—Communion

Liturgist: Dennis Gould  
Flowers: Kevin & Lori Smith  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

### October 9

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone  
Flowers: Irving & Beverly Lindsey  
Projector: Jonathan Clayton  
Audio: Alex Baker

### October 16

Liturgist: Jean Heberling  
Flowers: Cindy Borbonus  
Projector: Shakira McKinney  
Audio: Jaison McKinney

### October 23

Flowers: Naomi Sigafoes  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

### October 30

Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

### Offering Counters

Jean Heberling and Gene Artman



CHRISTMAS

## Choir News

Christmas is just around the corner so...plans are in place for this year's Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, October 5th at 7:45 p.m. and will continue each Wednesday evening following choir rehearsal. Those who would like to participate are invited to come together for practice. The cantata will be presented during the worship hour Sunday, December 18th. Contact Cindy for more information.

## Bell Choir Notes

Beginning in October, we will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor classroom located on the right at the end of the hall. We look forward to another year of ringing and participating in the worship and music program of the church. Currently, we have at least one position open in our 3-octave choir and would like to fill it ASAP. If you are not already one of our ringers, prayerfully consider helping to fill in our sound. Anyone interested in ringing can contact Vicky Westley.

Rumors are there is some interest in forming a children or youth bell choir. Parents with interested children or youth are asked to contact Vicky.

## Pathway Shelter Donations

Throughout the year, we collect items for the Pathway Homeless Shelter in Black Lick based on their specific needs at that time. This shelter serves all of Indiana County. Throughout the month of October, we will be collecting:

Cleaning supplies  
Disinfectant spray

Paper towels  
Dishwasher tabs

They can be placed in the designated container in the vestibule. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the "Board of Deacons." Also at any time, the shelter will take donations of any gently used or new household items. Anything that a person might need to set up a house from small appliances to furniture. Pathway stores these items and then when a family has the opportunity to move into housing, they are able to help furnish them with items. If you have any questions, please contact the Deacons.

## World Communion Sunday

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, October 2nd, World Communion Sunday during worship. Rev. Dr. Roger Petersen will lead worship. The cloth on the communion table and the baskets used to serve the sacrament are gifts from our partner congregation in Rwanda, the Gitarama Church. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

## 2017 Budget

The Finance Committee asks that all committee chairs look at their budget figures for 2017. If you need financial information for your committee, please contact the church office. We ask that you submit your committee budget to the office by Sunday, October 16th so a preliminary budget can be prepared for the Session meeting.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Once again the Deacons will assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for families in the community. We ask that you consider donating food items or giving a monetary contribution. Articles of food can include: canned fruit or vegetables, boxed baked goods, pie fillings, Jello, boxes of stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, just to name a few. Boxes will be available at the back of the church for the collection of food donations. Please check expiration dates on items before donating them. If any member of the congregation is aware of a family who may need a Thanksgiving basket please contact Pastor Tim or Mary Anzelone. Thank you for your generous help in the past, and we look forward to sharing another happy holiday with those in our community!

## Change Your Clocks!

Don't forget to set your clocks back...Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6th. Mark your calendar!

October is....



## 9th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 20, 2016

Immediately following worship  
in Fellowship Hall

Come join our church family for a great  
Thanksgiving meal and fellowship!

Please fill out and return the form in the offering  
plate –

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

How many attending, including yourself? \_\_\_\_

Maybe you would like to share your favorite –

Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

Casserole \_\_\_\_\_

Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to help prepare on Saturday,  
November 19 @ 10:00 AM by peeling potatoes  
and setting tables?

\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

Would you like to help prepare on  
Sunday morning during worship?

\_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

Thank you to all who help to make this dinner  
an enjoyable event each year!

Please contact a committee member  
for more information.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

## Moment for Mission

*Oregon Congregation Connects with Children from the Community*  
What do you do when your Sunday school consists of one three-year-old child? If you're First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Point, Oregon, you invite other kids from the community to join her. That's exactly what the congregation, which is 27 members strong, did. In an effort to surround their young one with more children her age, the church body decided to reach out into its neighborhood. It invited to Sunday school, among others, the children of parents who used to attend the church as little ones. The first attempt was centered on the Advent season, and when the Sunday school grew to eight, the church decided to run another class during Lent. It was so successful that First Presbyterian decided to offer vacation Bible school this summer for the first time in 15 years. "We have felt the enthusiasm and the energy it has given our congregation," said Sandy Gurney, a ruling elder who has helped lead the Sunday school. "It's not us who is doing this. It's God who's helping this, and the kids really feel that." Just as importantly, it has made an impact on that little three-year-old's life. "When she wound up at her mother's place on Christmas Day," recalled pastor Agnes Brady, "she insisted on telling the Christmas story because it wasn't Christmas without telling the Christmas story. We were just delighted that we were making that kind of impact in a family where the Christmas story would not be considered to be part of the Christmas celebration. It was very much a direct relationship to the Sunday school." There was talk of following the lead of many churches by making the class a nine-month program, but Brady suggested first giving it a try during Advent and then picking it up again over Lent. This keeps the commitment level down for the small congregation and also allows for the class to remain unique. "It keeps it special enough for the kids that we get them," Brady said. "We don't have the people to run it year-round—we'd be pulling people out of worship all the time—but we have people who are willing to step out of worship for a month for the kids." The Sunday school now includes three preschoolers and five elementary school-aged children. It begins in the sanctuary before the worship service and includes Brady and the "Church Mouse"—a quiet and shy puppet that whispers in Brady's ear to help instruct the class. "Some of the kids had never been in the church at all," Gurney said, explaining why they start in the sanctuary. "We just try to use that time to explain a little bit about what we're doing and then a little bit about the church service itself." The Sunday school finishes up in a classroom, running for roughly 90 total minutes and involving everything from Bible songs to crafts. It all seems to be having a lasting effect on the children. "The second week of Advent, one little boy asked his mom, 'What's the name of that fun place we go to on Sundays?'" Gurney said. "And she said, 'You mean church?'" "We're known as a fun and safe place. They're very comfortable now with coming to church." *Mike Givler, Communications Coordinator for the Synod of the Trinity*

## Financial Literacy Workshops

Do you run out of money before you run out of month? Attend an interactive and free workshop. Topics will include: Wants vs. Needs, Tracking Spending Habits, Preparing a Budget, Living Within Your Needs, Saving Money & Debt Repayment. Workshops schedule is:

Oct. 12 ..... 8:45 am—12:15 pm  
PA Careerlink Bldg, 300 Indian Springs Rd

Nov. 9 ..... 5:45 pm—8:30 pm  
ICCAP Office, 827 Water St.

Dec. 14..... 12:45 pm—3:30 pm  
PA Careerlink Bldg, 300 Indian Springs Rd

For more information, call Family Promise at 724-464-5220 or email [FLCindco@gmail.com](mailto:FLCindco@gmail.com).

## Addiction, Help and Recovery

"Concerned about Addition: Picture Your Community Drug-Free" is an event to talk about addiction, help and recovery. Speakers will include: US Attorney, David Hickton; Indiana County District Attorney, Patrick Dougherty; Family Services—Senior Manager of Outpatient Services, Kelley McNichols; and Certified Recovery Specialist Supervisor, Mike Krafick. The event will be held October 5th at the Rustic Lodge in Indiana from 6:00—8:00 p.m. The event is open to the public and is recommended for parents, loved ones, first responders, and concerned citizens.

## PW Fall Gathering

The Kiskiminetas Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering entitled, "Come and Be Fed" will be held October 12th at NuValley Presbyterian Church in Rural Valley from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Join us for worship, dedication of pledges, Thank Offering, Hunger Fund and Least Coin, Resources and Displays and Workshops on Providing Food for All. For more information, contact the church office.



## **Pancreatic Cancer Awareness**

The 4th Annual Pancreatic Cancer Awareness 5k Run/Fun Walk will be held Saturday, November 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Indiana County Hoodlebug Trail beginning at Divine Destiny Church parking lot. For more information or to register, contact Debbie Bork at 724-479-9325.

## **Church Kitchen Information**

The church has received from the Department of Agriculture, an Eating and Drinking License for the kitchen. This requires that no wet dish cloths or towels be left in the kitchen to dry. There is a drying rack in the table storage room for this purpose. Also, it is required that the counters and other surfaces be cleaned with a sanitizing solution after every use. The materials to make the sanitizing solution and the directions on how to make it are on the window sill in the kitchen.

## **Home Communion**

If you are not able to come to Sunday morning worship and would like to receive communion in your home, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 and arrangements can be made for the sacrament to be shared with you.

## **Church Parking**

Those able to walk are asked to please park across the street in the lot so those with difficulty walking can park closer to the building. Please refrain from parking in the Episcopal Church spaces.

## **Suicide Task Force of Indiana Co.**

Is this you, or someone you know?

\*Sad and not enjoying the things I used to

\*Depressed and spending most of my time in bed

\*Harassed at school or work

\*Scared and barely hanging on

\*Hopeless and thinking of suicide

Don't know where to turn? Just need someone to talk to?

Help is only a call away...the Open Door Crisis Line (24 hour line)

**1-877-333-2470**

## **Prescription Drug Take-Back**

Safely drop off your prescription medications at the Blairsville Borough Police Dept., 203 E. Market Street. A permanent box is located at the police station.

The program accepts:

- Prescription and over-the-counter dosage medications
- Liquid medications
- Nasal sprays
- Inhalers
- Pet medications

The program CANNOT accept:

- Sharps
- Syringes/needles
- Illicit drugs (heroin, marijuana, etc.)
- Radioactive medications

The Drug Take-Back program is sponsored by Armstrong, Indiana, Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission and the Indiana County District Attorney's Office.

## **Need Help....**

Do you need help:

- \* Feeding your family
- \* Becoming a volunteer
- \* Getting taxes done
- \* Avoiding eviction
- \* Caring for my grandmother
- \* Keeping my heat on
- \* Joining the workforce
- \* Finding a summer camp
- \* Protecting a friend

Dial 2-1-1...it's a friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, information or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first.

## **Did you know?**

- ◆ That Evangelical theological Seminary in Cairo has over 200 students enrolled in its programs?
- ◆ That there are almost as many Presbyterians in Mexico as there are in the USA?
- ◆ That Kenya has twice as many Presbyterians as in the USA?
- ◆ In 50 years the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus has grown from 50,000 believers to more than 5.6 million believers?
- ◆ There are 51 congregations in the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba—33 are fully organized with sessions and another 18 are missions?