



# UPLIFT Newsletter

It was a summer afternoon and I was standing by the registers of the grocery store chatting with the owner. I noticed a boy park his bicycle by the front door. As he entered he went directly to the dairy case and picked up a gallon of milk. He took it to the cashier, laid his \$2.00 on the counter and then with milk and change in hand, he headed for the gumball machines. With care, he placed the gallon jug on top of the gumball dispenser. He put his nickel in the slot and turned the knob. But as the bright red ball came down the shoot, the jug of milk fell on the floor, baptizing everything within five feet of the impact. He froze in place. "Mom gave me \$2 for milk, now its gone!" As fixed as I was on the young boy's mess, I was just as transfixed on my friend, the store owner's, eyes. What would she do? Would she chase the boy from the store telling him to never come back again? Would she lecture him for his clumsiness? Would she give him a mop and bucket and tell him to clean up his mess? Would she send him home empty handed to face the wrath of his mother? What happened next would tell me something about my friend's character. She looked the frightened boy in the eye. That wasn't very wise to put your milk on the gumball machine was it? The boy shook his head. Are you ever going to make that mistake again? He shook his head again. She gave him a towel to dry off and told him to go and get another gallon of milk. He said, "All I had was the \$2." "I know", she replied. She reached into the pocket of her smock, pulled out \$2 and gave it to the cashier to pay for the second gallon of milk. As the boy came back with his milk she told him to be careful going home, and off he went.

It's a story of mercy and grace. That young boy by his foolish actions deserved whatever the store owner would have done or said to him. But she chose to have mercy on him by not giving him a punishment he deserved. At the same time, she chose to show him grace in that she gave him a gift, a new gallon of milk, that he did not deserve. She could have left him to the empty handedness of his poor choice, but instead she chose to restore him.

Last month we considered the reality of our sinfulness—the state in which we find ourselves as a result of our poor choices. They say not to cry over spilt milk, but sometimes the tears cannot help but flow. And as we stand in the puddles, the sour stench makes us miserable. That sad state is not where God wants us to be. Yes, he confronts us in where we have sinned. He calls us to confess where we have gone wrong. But in the confession, he does not condemn us to the point of abandonment. Instead he provides a way for us to be restored, forgiven, offering us a new beginning.

But who cleans up the mess we've made and who pays the price for the next gallon of milk? We can't undo what we've done. We can't pay when we don't have anything left within us. In an act of grace, God pays the price of our sins. He doesn't say— "I'm God, its no big deal to me." Our sin is a big deal to him. He doesn't say, "Ah, forget about it." Our sin has to be paid for. God says, "Someone has to make things right here—you don't have the ability to do that, but I do—I'll pay the price so that justice is done and I'll pay myself by giving myself out of love.

A basic tenet of our faith is that we are all sinners. But God is not content to leave us in our sin, and so he comes to us where and how we are and offers himself as a ransom to set us free. The price for our redemption is far more than any of us could give. But as God gives himself on the cross for our sake, the price is paid in full. God did not sit on his throne and watch what happened on the cross with delight. God himself was on that cross enduring the weight of our sin—mine and yours. The pain, the anguish, the death, the grave were the necessary consequence of our sin. The question becomes—how do we respond to such a gift of grace? How do we show our gratitude for the debt he has paid for us? We respond by living a life of thanksgiving—being to and for others who Jesus is to us...

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Jim*

## Worship Assistants

### November 1—11:00 am

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone  
Acolyte: Eli Borbonus  
Ushers: Nancy Boone, Kim, Ron,  
and Shakira McKinney  
Flowers: Joanne Torrance  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

### November 8—11:00 am

Liturgist: Lisa Hainaut  
Acolyte: Olivia Eckenroad  
Ushers: SS Kids, Linda George &  
Elaine Jellison  
Flowers: Cindy Borbonus  
Projector: Jonathan Clayton  
Audio: Alex Baker

### November 15—11:00 am

Liturgist: Bonni Dunlap  
Acolyte: Brylea Borbonus  
Ushers: Jeff & Rose Lewis  
Flowers: Terry & Barb Brown  
Projector: Shakira McKinney  
Audio: Jaison McKinney

### November 22—11:00 am—Communion

Liturgist: Thanksgiving Team  
Acolyte: Willow Weimer  
Ushers: Joan & Kayla Moran and  
Rick & Willa Shoemaker  
Flowers: Bill & Vicky Westley  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

### November 29—11:00 am—1st of Advent

Liturgist: Rick Shoemaker  
Acolyte: Eli Borbonus  
Ushers: Jim & Mary Piper  
Flowers: Marilyn Neal  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

### November Treasurer's Helpers

Elaine Jellison & Janet Smith & Deb Lint

## Newsletter Deadline

Please have articles to be published in the December issue of the UPLIFT Newsletter to the church office by Sunday, November 15. Thank you.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

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 a member of the Deacons by Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generous help in the past, and we look forward to sharing another happy holiday with those in our community!

## Community Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service will be held Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Dan Cunkelman will be the speaker. The service will be hosted by the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church and sponsored by the Blairsville Area Ministerium. The community is invited to attend.

## Advent Devotionals

Advent booklets will be available the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th. This year's devotional is entitled, "The Jesse Tree" by Debra Grant. It includes a daily devotion for personal growth each day of Advent. Please take one and share one with a friend.

## Thank You

Dear Pastor Tim and the congregation,

We want to thank you for all your help at our fund raising dinner for the American Legion, as well as your prayers. It was so kind of you and the church for allowing us the use of your beautiful hall. Once again thank you so much and God bless you all.

Brady & Cindy Hogue and Jim & Karen Kissock

## Scripture Texts for November

- |    |                    |                  |
|----|--------------------|------------------|
| 1  | Revelation 21:1-6a | John 11:32-44    |
| 8  | Hebrews 9:24-28    | Mark 12:38-44    |
| 15 | I Samuel 1:4-20    | Hebrews 10:11-25 |
| 22 | Revelation 1:4b-8  | John 18:33-37    |
| 29 | Jeremiah 33:14-16  | Luke 21:25-36    |

### December

- |   |               |            |
|---|---------------|------------|
| 6 | Malachi 3:1-4 | Luke 3:1-6 |
|---|---------------|------------|

## Fabulous Firs

Trees will be displayed Friday, December 5th from 1:00-8:30 pm at the Blairsville Community Center. Deadline to enter your tree or other display is Friday, November 27th. Contact Dorinda Eckenroad for more information, 724-459-6148.

## **In Memorium**

**Jack Merlin Durfee**

*Born –*

June 19, 1926

*United with the Blairsville congregation –*

July 31, 2012

*Entered the Church Triumphant –*

October 9, 2015

## **A BIG Thank You**

We want to express our appreciation to the Dollar Tree of Blairsville for their collection and then donation of over \$1,000 of food products that we used in the Deacon's Pantry, ICCAP distribution, Thanksgiving baskets, sent to Pathway Shelter and Family Promise day center.

## **Family Promise 2016**

The schedule has been set for the 2016 year. We will host families in the Family Promise program the following weeks: January 3-10, May 15-22, August 21-28 and October 30-November 6. If you would like to volunteer during our host week, please contact Gene Artman or Pastor Monroe for more information.

## **Christmas Music**

Our Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome. Rehearsals for special music for the holidays are being held Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. You are welcome to join us for the special music rehearsal or both. If you are interested in more information about the choir, please contact Cindy Borbonus, director or any choir member.

## **Wreaths for Indiana County Veterans**

On Saturday, December 12th at noon, a fresh evergreen wreath will be placed at the entrance of each Indiana County cemetery to honor our Indiana Co. Veterans who sacrificed so much. There will also be a ceremonial wreath laying at the Indiana County Courthouse Veteran's Wall at the same time. Churches across the county are asked to ring their bells at noon. There are 177 cemeteries in Indiana County and 12,200 veterans buried in them. The goal of this project is to raise \$4,000. All proceeds beyond the goal will be donated to the Indiana County Dept. of Veterans Affairs to be used for veteran programs. Gifts can be sent to Wreaths for Indiana County Veterans, P O Box 45, Kent, PA 15752-0045. Checks payable to VFW Post 1989.

## **Mission Moment**

*Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel*

As combat operations in Afghanistan wind down, countless military members and their families are wondering about the long-term costs of repeated combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. For many families, it has been a challenge just to get through it. All too often, their spirits have become impoverished, making it easy for them to lose sight of a hopeful future. Now they are asking themselves, Can our family, having survived this trial, not just survive but grow as time goes on?

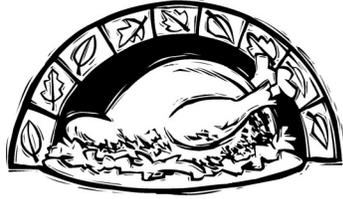
Rev. Dr. Bill Middleton is a US Navy chaplain and PC(USA) minister currently serving as director of the Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation in Washington, DC. His mission is to develop programs that liberate those oppressed by the burden of battle, restore peace to those for whom peace has been in short supply, and provide a glimpse of a more hopeful future to those whose hope has dimmed amid heavy demands.

The Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel asks that you continue to pray both for the men and women serving our nation and for the families who love them. We also request your prayers for chaplains who, like Bill Middleton, minister in Christ's name to those still suffering from the visible and invisible wounds of war and for all our chaplains—as well as their families—as they serve those who serve our country so faithfully and well.

*—Chaplain Lawrence P. Greenslit, US Navy (Ret.), director, Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel*

## **Financial Workshops**

Financial Workshops are scheduled and available to the community. Topics will include: Wants vs. Needs, Tracking Spending Habits, Preparing a Budget, Living Within Your Needs, Saving Money & Debt Repayment. All workshops will be held in the small conference room in the PA Careerlink building, 300 Indian Springs Road, Indiana from 8:45 am—12:15 pm. Dates are November 10, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 9, and April 13. Workshops are free. Please preregister to FLCind-co@gmail.com or Family Promise, 724-464-5220.



**8th Annual  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Sunday, November 22, 2015**

In Fellowship Hall immediately  
following morning worship.

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

Please fill out and return the reservation form in the offering plate—

**Thanksgiving Dinner RSVP**

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

Including yourself, how many are attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Maybe you would like to share your favorite:

Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

Casserole \_\_\_\_\_

Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to help prepare on Saturday, November 21 @ 10AM by peeling  
potatoes and setting tables?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Would you like to help prepare on Sunday morning,  
November 22 during worship?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Thank you to all who help to make this dinner an enjoyable event each year! If  
you have any questions, please contact a committee member.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

**St. Andrew's Village News**

A membership drive is open to anyone wishing to join the Friends of the Vil-  
lage. Please contact the church office for more information.

**MADE IN AMERICA**

*(Blairsville, to be exact)*

The Grannies sewing group has several handmade items availa-  
ble for your purchase. Funds raised through the sale of these  
items help to support our mis-  
sion of providing a blanket to  
each person baptized in our  
church, quilts distributed to fire  
victims and Habitat for Human-  
ity, stuffed bunnies and bears  
given to the Alice Paul House  
and Citizen's Ambulance Service,  
dignity robes to the Indiana Hos-  
pital Women's Imaging Center,  
lap robes for those in our church,  
and dining scarves for residents  
of St. Andrew's Village. These  
are just some of the distribution  
points of our sewing projects.

As you consider your needs for  
the upcoming holiday gift-giving  
season, look to fill your stockings  
or gift bags with some of the fol-  
lowing. Your generosity will help  
to support the sewing projects  
within our church and the com-  
munity.

**Fleece Scarves**

\$10.00

**Decorative Scarves**

\$12.00 - \$20.00

(depending on style)

**Stuffed Bears & Bunnies**

\$15.00

**Knitted Dish Cloths**

\$3.00 medium

\$4.00 large

**Shopping Bags**

\$3.50

**Hanging Hand Towels**

\$4.00

**Hot Pads & Pot Holders**

\$3.50 to \$5.00

(depending on size)

Contact: Janeen Swope

(724) 739-0130

## Christian Education News

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; Give thanks to him and praise his name." Psalm 100 vs 4*



### **Children to Children Coat Collection**

Our church is truly blessed to have such a caring, loving, and giving congregation, I feel so blessed to be a part of it. Because of your generous donations we were able to help approximately 42 children keep warm this winter with coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Your help and generosity will not go without notice.

From the children who received and from the bottom of my heart..... **THANK YOU!**

*May God Bless You Always  
Deb Lint, CE Chairman*

### **COMING IN DECEMBER**

***KIDS DAY OUT***  
***December 12, 2015***  
***11am to 3pm***  
***Ages 3\*\* – to grade 5***

**MUST BE POTTY TRAINED**

We are going to have a great time watching a movie, eating lunch, baking cookies, playing some games, craft's, hearing a story, singing with Miss Cindy, then Christmas Eve practice for all those who have parts.

#### **REGISTRATION FORM BELOW**

Fill it out then either put it in the collection plate  
or mail it to the church.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
(We will not release any child without parent permission)

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Questions, see Deb Lint or Jen Borbonus

## **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary...**

Invites you to bring your family or guest and drop in for cider, sandwiches, and a variety of community activities—

- \* President's meet-and-greet
- \* Advent meditation
- \* Dramatic readings of the Nativity and other Christmas stories
- \* Christmases-around-the-world display
- \* Prayer stations of the Nativity
- \* Christmas craft making and cookie decorating
- \* Caroling by Board's Head Wassail Quire
- \* Kelso Museum exhibits for the Season
- \* Handmade gifts from Bethlehem sale
- \* Christmas-tree lighting

Come and go when you can—and rsvp by November 30th. Email [ctappy@pts.edu](mailto:ctappy@pts.edu) or call reception at 412-362-5610.



### **Toy Drive**

The Blairsville Eagles 1488 Ladies Auxiliary will again be hosting a Toy Drive for our local community. Requested donations are new or gently used, unwanted toys, books, games and puzzles. The toy collection will continue through the end of November. A FREE shopping day is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th from 11:00 am—2:00 pm at the Blairsville Eagles for anyone in our community who may be in need. Drop off days are Sundays at the Eagles from 1:00—2:00 pm. Please enter through the side door. Thank you for your support!

***Thank you*** for all the kind words, cards, prayers and concern during this time following my dad's passing. I have felt the love of God and his people surround me many times in recent days...for this I am truly grateful. Please continue to keep my family in your prayers as we face the holidays ahead.

*With much appreciation, Jill Wolford & family*

*We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, November 22nd during worship.  
Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.*

## **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: Lysol spray and wipes, paper towels, hand soap, 409 spray

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.

## **Craft Show**

SS Simon & Jude Parish will host a Craft Show Saturday, November 14th from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. There will be wood crafts, holiday decorations, flower arrangements, quilts, baked goods, candy, dolls, bake sale, great food and much more. Admission is free. There will also be hourly door prize drawings.

## **Special Offerings Update**

-We recently received our Peacemaking Offering Sunday, October 4th. We received a total of \$427.15. We were able to designate 25% or \$107.15 to be sent to the Family Promise Program in Indiana.

-Sunday, November 1st we received a love offering for the family of Rev. Eugene Rubanda. A total of \$574 was received. Our session has designated an additional \$400 be added to it for a grand total of \$974. These gifts will be sent to the presbytery office to be forwarded on to the family in Rwanda.

-Thank you to all those who gave to these special offerings. We pray they will be used to bless many.

## **Compassion News**

Dear United Presbyterian Sunday School,

I greet you with love in Jesus name, thank you for your letters, I'm glad to know that you are very well. I want to tell you that my last visit to the doctor was on October 16th and in my last medical check-up in the CDC, the doctor recommended me to take care of me and to feed well. The physical activity I do in the CDC is to play soccer. In the CDC I've learned that in order to take care of my body, I must to do exercise. What kind of sport do you practice? Do you have pets? I want to thank you for your sponsorship because is a blessing and I'm glad for that. I thank God for you, for your prayers and your words in your letters, blessings! I'm always grateful with you, because you support me and you give me letters. I want to tell you that I'm very well in life, I'm sharing more with my friends, laughing, playing and doing so much more. I give you the Bible verse of Proverbs 4:5 I say goodbye with affection and gratefully, I ask you to pray so I can be more close to God.

With love,  
Jeferson Rojas, Colombia

Dear United Presbyterian Sunday School,

How are you doing? I am okay together with my family and we thank God. I am grateful to write to you this letter. School is going well because I am passing. Thank you for your prayers that helped me to pass. Thank you! Thank you for your letter you sent to me and I was very happy to see your family photo after singing and I was happy to hear that you have your choir alone. Thank you!

Samuel Mutabazi, Rwanda

Dear United Presbyterian Sunday School,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. I am very glad to write to you this letter. My family and I are doing well and I am doing well at school. I am in grade 5. How is the weather in your country? May God's peace be upon you.

Thank you so much for the gift you sent to me. I bought clothes and shoes. May God bless you. Thank you so much.

Thank you so much for the photo you sent to me. It pleased me and my family.

Vestine Hagenimana, Rwanda