



# UPLIFT Newsletter

It doesn't matter where in the world, or in what time period we live, people are people. Left to our own devices and desires, our moral compass points in one direction—inwardly. The book of Judges tells the story of the Israelites as they settled into the Promised Land. It was a new place where they encountered new people with new ideas and customs. Many of these new paths led to spiritual dead ends. Judges ends with the words, "In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes." The more things change, the more they stay the same.

As the Christian Church was coming into being there was a degree of ordered chaos. The church in Corinth was a prime example. As he begins his letter, Paul writes, "It has been reported to me that there are quarrels among you...each of you says, 'I belong to Paul' or 'I belong to Apollos' or 'I belong to Cephas' or 'I belong to Christ.'" It was not until generations after the coming of the Holy Spirit that the New Testament was put together in the form we have today. Before that, each congregation had a different set of writings from which they learned the things of faith. It wasn't until the 300's that Christians came to a discernment about which documents were "God breathed" inspirations and which were not. Once orthodoxy was established, the church could move forward under the banner of truth. The whole process of forming the canon of scripture was the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people of faith.

Of course, even with the truth defined, there was the matter of interpreting what scripture meant. You would think— "God said it, I believe it, end of discussion" but we come to scripture from different experiences with God. We each read Scripture from the perspective of our personal faith journey. While it is the same God with whom we walk, we each know God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in a different way. One of the challenges of being the church is trusting the validity and authenticity of each other's experience. Now, its not a matter of saying "If you feel its right in your mind, then it must be right in my mind too." Rather, its examining the Scriptures together under submission to the Holy Spirit and then coming to agreement on what we know to be core truths and foundational principles.

We call such basic beliefs essential tenets. The word "tenet" comes from the Latin meaning "he holds". In other words, essential tenets are those things, those articles of faith onto which we must hold and uphold in order to be aligned with God's truth and God's will for a relationship with him. We find them in our walk with Christ, the movement of the Spirit and the standards laid out in Scripture.

While some are hesitant to list essential tenets, I appreciate the fact that the Fellowship Community, with whom we have joined, has done so. It's not that other Christians don't also uphold such beliefs, its that we stand firmly in declaring "this is what we believe and because we do this is how we will live out our faith." In the months to come we will examine the tenets one by one. Last month in your newsletter you received a copy of the document outlining them. I hope you'll look at it again and begin to reflect on how such aspects of our faith keep us close to God and to each other.....

In Christ's love,



## Worship Assistants

### September 6—10:00 am

Liturgist: Barb Brown  
Flowers: Ron & Kim McKinney  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

### September 13—11:00 am—Communion

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone  
Flowers: Pat & Janeen Swope  
Projector: Jonathan Clayton  
Audio: Alex Baker

### September 20—11:00 am

Liturgist: Dennis Gould  
Flowers: Soni Clapper  
Flowers: Tom & Janet Smith  
Projector: Shakira McKinney  
Audio: Jaison McKinney

### September 27—11:00 am

Liturgist: Bonni Dunlap  
Flowers: Ed & Becky Bence  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

### September Treasurer's Helpers

Deb Lint & Gene Artman

## Scripture Texts for September

- 6 James 2:1-10, 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37  
13 James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38  
20 James 3:12-4:3, 7-8  
Mark 9:30-37  
27 James 5:13-20  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

### October

- 4 Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

## Newsletter Deadline

Please have articles to be published in the October issue of the UPLIFT Newsletter to the church office by Tuesday, September 15. Thank you.

## Worship Schedule Change

Sunday, September 13, 2015  
Worship returns to 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

## Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th immediately following worship. The agenda includes the approval of the 2016 Pastoral Terms of Call and election of Elders and Deacons for the class of 2018. Please plan to stay for this meeting.

## Offerings and General Assembly

Last year, the Session took action for 2015 that we would only forward to the General Assembly per capita funds that were given for that purpose. In other words, no per capita would be sent to General Assembly from general congregational offerings. Those who stated that they did want their General Assembly per capita paid will have their request honored (assuming they contributed the funds). At the same time, our Presbytery has clearly stated that it will only forward to General Assembly those funds remitted for that purpose. They will not use Presbytery funds to make up the difference of what congregations have withheld. The Synod has not taken any steps to make up that difference either. All this is to say that none of your contributions to the local church are going to the work of General Assembly unless you have specifically designated them to.

## ICCAP Care-N-Share Day

ICCAP has set Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> as the 28th Annual Care-N-Share Day. We will once again be a drop off site for groceries. From 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. our doors will be open to receive food items that will stock the Indiana County Food Bank. Mark your calendar and plan to Care-N-Share with families in Indiana County.

## Mandatory Reporter Training

According to our Book of Order, all ministers, elders and deacons in the church are considered mandatory reporters of child abuse. The presbytery has provided the 3 hour training required by Act 31 and 126. Pastor Tim and two elders attended this. We have put together that same training here at the church. It is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. We have opened it to all churches in the area in an effort to make our community a safer place. We are working in partnership with The Alice Paul House of Indiana. The training is set for Thursday, September 17 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

*We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, September 13th during worship.  
Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.*

## **Please Call**

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like the pastor to know, it is important that you call the church office or contact him personally. Latrobe and Greensburg hospitals sometimes call the church when there is an admission, but not always. Indiana Hospital does not inform clergy that a parishioner has been admitted even though some admission questions imply they will. The only way to make sure the pastor knows is for you or someone from your family to let him know.

## **Chancel Choir**

Our Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome. If you are interested in more information about the choir, please contact Cindy Borbonus, director or any choir member.

## **Handbell Choir**

Our Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals in October. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 p.m. The choir and director would love to have more members become ringers. No experience is necessary, you will be trained. If you are interested and would like more information about our bell choir, please contact Vicky Westley, director or any choir member.

## **Presbyterian Women News**

The Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering will be held at Grace Presbyterian Church in Kittanning Wednesday, October 7th from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. It will be a day of celebration with worship, fellowship, music and mission. The Rev. Boyd Edmondson will share some highlights from his recent trip back to Rwanda. Boyd and his wife, Shirley, spent six months in Rwanda last year as part of an exchange with our sister Presbytery there, and they left a part of their hearts there when they departed. Lunch will be prepared by the Grace church ladies, and the cost remains \$5.00 at the door. Reservations are due by October 2nd.

## **Health & Wellness Ministry Conference**

Zion Lutheran Church in Indiana has scheduled a Health & Wellness Ministry Conference Saturday, September 26th from 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Conference is free, but donations will be accepted to cover cost of refreshments. End-of-life issues will be the focus.

## **Compassion Child News**

Dear Friends,

I am Mugabo Dieudone, senior pastor of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God church of Rwanda where your sponsored child, Hagenimana Vestine, attends. I thank you so much for your support to her. May the Almighty God bless you abundantly. The major occupation in our community is agriculture, whereby the people grow different crops, such as bananas, beans, maize, sorghum, assava, and others. Animals like cows, goats, sheep, rabbits, pigs and chicken are kept. Other activities include fishing, carpentry and charcoal burning. We have two climate seasons in the year which include rainy and dry, but we do have prolonged droughts and too much sunshine. This has been a major hindrance as far as agriculture is concerned. It's very difficult to predict the weather changes, hence affecting annual production. Other challenges include poverty, unemployment, lack of enough land for farming activities, water shortages, diseases, prostitution, and drug use in youth generation. Some of the children are orphans, homeless, and street kids and have no means to go to school or have medicines when they fall sick. Getting food is not easy. So the center becomes one way to reduce this burden in our community. Our vision for our community is to take them out of their vulnerability, and release them from their social and spiritual poverty by helping them to create small businesses, teaching them ways to fight against poverty, training them how to raise their children, how to search for the welfare of their family, and teach them how to read and write for those who did not get a chance to go to school. We want all caregivers and children to receive Jesus Christ as their King and Savior. Sponsored children are different than other children in the community who are not part of the center's programs. Our children are able to go to school and to get the required necessities like school uniforms, books, school fees, and medical care facilities. They are taught the Word of God and some have become Christians and got baptized. In one year we received 325 letters from sponsors. Letters make children feel happy and comfortable in their lives. They feel they have good and caring families from abroad. On the other hand, children feel bad and lonely when they do not receive letters from their sponsors. A sponsor's encouraging words help children do better in school and want to participate more in the center's activities. For this reason, we ask you to write letters. We request you to pray for the caregivers, especially children and their families for spiritual growth, and be able to overcome poverty and improve their standards of living. Pray for our country and our church to complete our new temple building and church offices. We thank you very much for the good work you are doing for Vestine. May God bless you.

Yours sincerely,  
Mugabo Dieudonne

## 5K Walk

The 3rd Annual "Walk for a Wonderful Life" is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. at Mack Park Grandstand. Cost per walker is \$15 and proceeds benefit the Suicide Task Force of Indiana County Community Education Program.

## Looking Ahead...

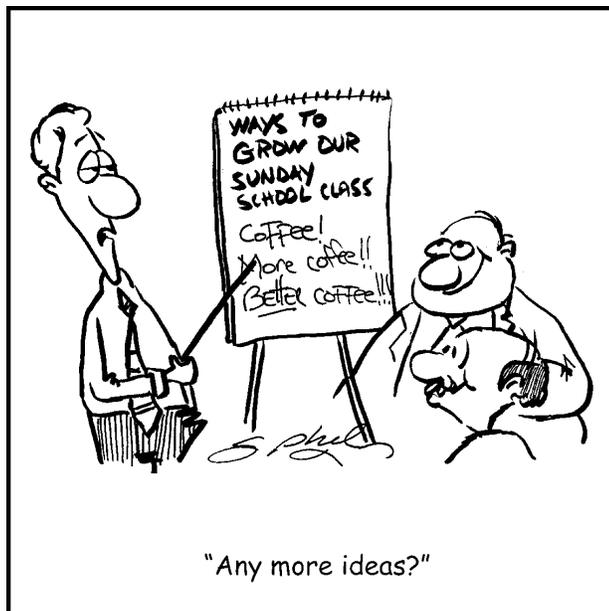
\*We will host families in the **Family Promise Program** the week of October 18-25. Many hands are needed to complete the tasks that go along with being a host church. If you would like to become involved with this ministry, please see Gene Artman or Pastor Monroe.

\*On Wednesday, October 7th the **Historical Society** will host Blairsville historian, Jim Burd as their guest speaker at their monthly meeting. Jim's presentation will focus on the Packsaddle Gap. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The public is welcome to come and hear Jim's presentation. (Jim is the brother-in-law of Peg Lockard.)

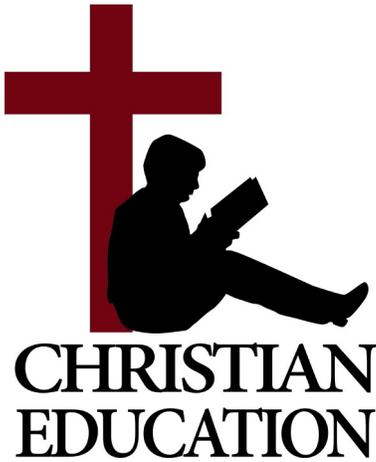
\*The **Blairsville American Legion** Post 0407 will host a fundraising dinner Saturday, October 24th from 4:00—7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The dinner will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, drinks and dessert. The Legion is asking for a donation of \$10 per person received at the door. Take outs will be available.

\***Daylight Saving Time** ends Sunday, November 1st. Mark your calendars and remember to change your clocks!

\*Remember to keep **our students** in your prayers as the school year has begun. We wish you all a SUCCESSFUL year!



Sunday School  
Classes  
Begin  
Sunday,  
September 13  
9:45 a.m.  
There's a  
spot for  
everyone...  
and the coffee  
is on!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

It is hard to believe summer is about to end; all the bright sunshine and picnics, sitting on the porch rocking, watching the sun rise then set is a memory. What comes next is Fall, my favorite time of the year when we see all the beauty of the earth with all the changing colors, the temperature of the air gets cooler and life seems to slow down a little.

Even we change, but **GOD DOES NOT!** He is always there for us, unconditionally, never changing, always loving.

Each year in Sunday School the classes, teachers, and books may change...

**BUT NEVER THE LOVE OF GOD!!!**

### Meet the Teachers

Heidi Weimer  
Jamie McKinney  
Cindy Borbonus  
Sheila Borbonus  
Kim McKinney  
Bill Lint  
Dave Semsick  
Bobbi Monroe  
Susie Cotti  
Deb Lint  
Marilyn Neal

~~~~~  
And a cast of children  
who teach the  
teachers each week.

*\*COMING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER\**

### “CHILDREN TO CHILDREN COAT COLLECTION”

What a better way for our children to show their Gratitude for all of God’s blessings he has given them than to give back to those who are less fortunate.

The program begins **September 27 and ends October 25.**

This is for all the primary children but those in grades 3—5 will handle a lot of the work on Saturday mornings.

Please contact Deb Lint, chairman of the event or Kim McKinney or the Office for questions, comments or concerns.

## CHILDREN’S FALL FUN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10, from 4 to 6

AGES: Prschool—Grade 5

(MUST BE POTTY TRAINED)

Costumes not necessary, but adds to the Fun!  
(Restrictions on types do apply and NO masks, keeps down accidents)

Watch for further information.

Questions, comments or concerns, contact Deb Lint or the Church Office.

Watch for further information in Bulletins and on the Church’s Web Page ([r-church.com](http://r-church.com)) for more Christian Education Happenings or contact Deb Lint or the church office.

The United Presbyterian Church of Blairsville  
137 N. Walnut St.  
Blairsville, PA 15717



Dear Church Family and Friends,

This fall in Sunday School we are Growing in Grace and Gratitude. One of the lessons the children will learn about is the special coat that Joseph's father, Jacob, gave him. How special it would be if we could express our Gratitude to God for all of God's blessings to us. Well we can!

Beginning Sunday, September 27, through October 25 we will have a "CHILDREN TO CHILDREN" COAT COLLECTION. We will accept "NEW and GENTLY USED coats (ones that are clean and not in need of repair) for children in all sizes. (Hats, Gloves and Scarves too.)

Monetary donations will be accepted, just mark them, "CHILDRENS COATS" and place it in the collection plate and coats will be purchased. We will watch the coats pile up each Sunday morning. The coats will be delivered locally to children in need.

For questions, comments or further information please contact Deb Lint, CE Chairman, Kim McKinney, or the Church Office.

In Christ's Love