



THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

*"a community of believers, called by God, led by the Holy Spirit
to know Christ and to make Christ known"*

Rev. Timothy R. Monroe

137 N. Walnut Street - Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

November 29, 2015 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Rick Shoemaker, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude Marilyn Neal, Organist

Lighting of the Candles Olivia Eckenroad, Acolyte

Introit # 593 *"Lord, Speak to Me!"*

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;

***As you have sought, so let me seek
your wandering children, lost, alone.***

Call to Worship

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**People: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

**People: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**People: All the paths of the Lord
are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

*Hymn # 84 *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

*Prayer of Confession (*First silently, then responsively*)

Leader: There are times, Lord, when we lose sight of the light
of Your presence in creation and in our lives.

People: Lord have mercy.

Leader: Your light came into the world in Jesus,
shining in the darkness, and it was not overcome;
but we have failed to recognize His presence.

People: Christ have mercy.

Leader: Your Spirit enlightens the whole world
wherever people turn to You; forgive us for our failure
to open our lives to Your presence in the Spirit.

(*All who are able, please stand.)

People: Lord have mercy.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Rick & Willa Shoemaker

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in November's dark night.*

*While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Anthem "When Will Messiah Come?"

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Sermon "Ready?" Randy Stear

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn # 153 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer ("...debtors...and debtors")

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

**Accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our
hands, the gifts of our labor and of our lives to serve You.**

**Gladden our hearts as we watch for Your coming and help
us to share that gladness with all. Amen.**

*Hymn # 154 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

PLEASE JOIN us in the ritual of friendship by signing the attendance pads that are at one end of each of the pews. If you are here for the first time, we would appreciate it if you would give us your local telephone number. Please help yourself to a church brochure, a *Welcome Packet* or a copy of our newsletter, *Uplift*. These are available at the back of the church. We thank you for joining your voice to ours in sacred worship.

TODAY WE WELCOME Christian Storyteller, Randy Stear to worship. Randy and his wife, Rev. Katie Ward-Stear, live in Indiana, PA. Please be sure to greet him.

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Rick Shoemaker; Acolyte, Olivia Eckenroad; Advent Readers, Rick & Willa Shoemaker; Ushers, Jim & Mary Piper, Nancy Boone and Naomi Sigafos; Projection, Blake Tonkin; Audio, Mitchell Tonkin; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Marilyn Neal.

THE DEACONS will check blood pressures following worship today. If you would like to have your numbers checked, please see Kim McKinney or Beverly Lindsey.

GRANNIES will meet in Fellowship Hall Monday, November 30th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

BOY SCOUTS will meet in Fellowship Hall Monday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m.

THE FOOD BANK will distribute groceries Tuesday, December 1st from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. from Fellowship Hall.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

THE PRAYER CHAIN is coordinated by the Adult Sunday School Class. If you have a prayer request or know of someone's need for prayer, please contact Shirley McLaughlin.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH will sponsor avaccination clinic at the Blairsville Community Center December 16 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. You are eligible for vaccines at low or no cost if you are underinsured or uninsured. Please call the PA Dept. of Health at 724-357-2995 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

THANK-YOU to all who helped make our Thanksgiving dinner a success again this year. Those who stepped up at last minute to help the committee, those who prepared food, set up and clean up, those who contributed monetarily, the worship speakers and especially all the kitchen help, it was much appreciated.

OUR BELL CHOIR rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. We still need ringers for our lower octaves. We would love to have you join us. No experience necessary, we'll train you. If you have questions or are interested in ringing, please see Vicky Westley, director or a bell choir member.

CHOIR REHEARSALS are held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always appreciated. We will begin rehearsing special music for the holidays on Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. If you are interested in participating during this time, we would love to have you. For more information, please see Cindy Borbonus or come to rehearsals Wednesdays. You're always welcome.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS can be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. 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.

PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY invites you to bring your family or guest and drop in for cider, sandwiches, and a variety of community activities for the Christmas season Friday, December 4th. Come and go when you can—and rsvp by November 30th. Email ctappy@pts.edu or call reception at 412-362-5610.

COOKIES WANTED...The Evangelism committee is asking all families in the congregation to donate at least 4 dozen cookies, candies, or holiday treats (no cupcakes, cakes, or pies) for our Annual Holiday Cookie Sale to be held Saturday, December 19th, 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your fellow bakers, family, friends, co-workers, groups or organizations to participate. All baked goods may be dropped off in a disposable container on Friday, December 18th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions contact Erica Ash or the church office. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the back of the sanctuary. Please let us know what kind of cookie you will be donating so we don't have too many duplicates!

THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. Who has time to bake dozens of different cookies? No need, just make your best cookies and shop for the rest! Cookies are \$7.00/pound and all proceeds benefit the Pathway Homeless Shelter.

MISSION MOMENT - *Israel/Palestine/Jerusalem*

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship visited Israel and Palestine in January 2014 in an effort to learn from Palestinian and Israeli advocates for peace and an end to the occupation who are committed to nonviolent direct action. Our experience there inspired this poem.

"On Jericho Road"

This road is the center of the universe
Thousands of years, she said,
People from all over the known world have
Walked between Jericho and Jerusalem . . .
And now a wall, concrete and nearly five of me high
Even the cracks boarded up so no notes
Might be passed, no word shared,
No smile offered, no connection to be found.
Words on a wall . . .
Ignorance reigns
If only I knew where the key is
Civil and human rights, not white privilege
Free Palestine

Here a concrete reminder to work to open mind and heart at all costs

The hands that build can also tear down
Open 4,000 year old Jericho Road
And the dirt whispered child, I'm coming home
The scariest part of a wall
Is the way that it numbs
The offensive inures
Till we no longer remember
4,000 years of walking together
On Jericho Road

—Rick Ufford-Chase, executive director, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Randy Stear <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure checks
Monday	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Bank
	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Historical Society Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Cantata rehearsal
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>