

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE  
December 3, 2017 ~ 11:00 AM  
**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

Words of Greeting Mary Anzelone, 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 Acolyte  
Introit # 73 *"The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well"*  
***The Lord my Shepherd guards me well, and all my wants are fed:  
Amid green pastures made to lie, beside still waters led.  
My careworn soul grows strong and whole  
When God's true path I tread.***

Call to Worship (*Psalm 80*)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

**People: Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine,  
that we may be saved.

**People: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.

**People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

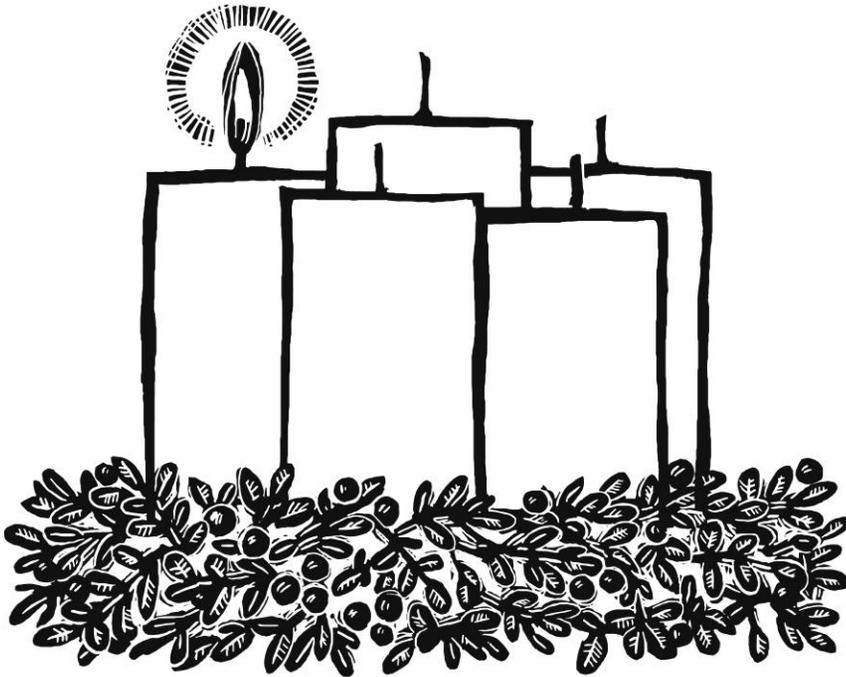
\*Hymn # 440 *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

\*Prayer of Confession

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. We  
study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of your reign.  
We trust in things that pass away and forget your eternal promise.  
Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by your hand, so that we  
may be ready for that day when you come to reign in glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri



— FIRST SUNDAY OF —  
**ADVENT**

**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

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Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

*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      The Ritchie & Ferguson Families

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

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

Sacrament of Baptism

\*Sharing of the Peace

\*Time with the Younger Saints

### DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson      Isaiah 64:1-9 (pg. 694 of OT)

Anthem      "Rise Up and Get Ready"

Gospel Lesson      Mark 13:24-37 (pg. 50 of NT)

Sermon      Rev. Timothy Monroe

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

\*Affirmation of Faith      (*Confession of 1967*)

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His life as man involves the church in the common life of men. His service to men commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of mankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of men in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on man's inhumanity to man and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of man's life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.**

\*Hymn # 426      "Blessed Assurance"

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

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

\*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn # 318      "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"

\*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.

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Mary Anzelone; Ushers, Ed & Becky Bence and Bill & Vicky Westley; Projector, Shakira McKinney; Audio, Jaison McKinney; 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 Gene and Chery Artman.

THE WHOLE CHURCH of Jesus Christ rejoices as Greyson Miles Bennett, son of Matthew and Alicia (Santoro) Bennett, is baptized into Christ and the family of faith.

OFFICER TRAINING will be held today immediately following worship. Oncoming elders and deacons are asked to please bring a bag lunch and plan to stay for a time of conversation.

OUR DEVOTIONAL this Advent season is entitled, "Oh Holy Night!" by Sarah Reinhard. Advent is a season of preparation, so it's naturally busy, even without the cultural stress of more, more, more. Let Advent be your gift to the baby Jesus, a way to get your heart and soul ready to receive him on Christmas Day. May this devotional serve you and your family well, helping you to prepare for the arrival of our Savior with prayer and action. May your Advent be blessed with Jesus, and may your family be better for it. Devotionals are available at the back of the sanctuary.

GRANNIES will meet Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Grannies also have a display of items for sale to support their ministry. Please see the bulletin insert for more information.

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 Nancy Campbell or the church office. Requests are kept in confidence.

LITURGISTS are an important part of our worship service. If you are interested in assisting in worship as a liturgist or would like more information, please see Elaine Jellison.

THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

THE 2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. They have been placed in alphabetical order for your convenience. If we missed you or you would like to have envelopes, please contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

THE 2018 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to order flowers for Sunday worship, please use the chart to sign-up for your choice of date. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Oncoming deacons are invited to attend the December meeting.

BELL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. If you would like more information on the bell choir, please see Vicky Westley, director.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR will resume rehearsals this Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cantata rehearsal will follow choir at 7:45 p.m. If you enjoy singing and are interested in sharing your gift, there is always room in the choir. For more information, please see Cindy Borbonus, director.

THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA will be presented to the congregation Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during morning worship. "Invitation to a Miracle" is the title of this year's cantata. We hope you will plan to come and listen to the sounds of the season!

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group gathers for fellowship and to work on personal projects. Anyone interested is welcome to join them.

JOIN IN the fun and come to the Blairsville Monday Music Club Christmas Concert at Saint Simon and Jude Catholic Church December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to sing in the community choir please practice with the club December 4 at 7:00 p.m. at SS Simon and Jude. All are welcome!

#### **REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:**

<b>Sunday</b>	9:45 a.m.	New Member Orientation
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Officer Training
	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
<b>Monday</b>	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Bank distributes groceries
	6:00 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Unit Meeting
<b>Friday</b>	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
<b>Saturday</b>		Middle School Youth Group
<b>Sunday</b>	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship & New Members Unite
		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>