



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

APRIL 2016

As I write, it's Monday morning, the day after Easter. It's been a long, yet meaningful Lenten journey filled with focused devotions, new found acts of service, community gatherings for worship and fellowship. Holy Week has been especially emotional moving from the shouts of "Hosanna" to shouts of "Crucify him", from the expectation of deliverance to the stench of death on the cross. And then there is the darkness from Friday afternoon as all hope seems to have been abandoned and the world is covered with a sense of defeat. It was all so long ago and far away, yet so real as we linger beneath the cross. While spending time there is painful, it is important to return to that grounding that convicts us of the consequence of our sin. That ugliness was of our making, and let to our own devices, that is where humanity would still be.

But we celebrate the good news that God does not leave us where our choices have led. God allows the suffering of the cross, the humiliation of himself, the grip of death, the descent into Hell. He allows it knowing the limits of power and the limitlessness of his. God knows the authority of his Word in the ear of life and death. And when he says, "Rise" there is nothing that can hold his own down or back. Resurrection is the key to freedom from this world and for this world.

To limit Easter to one day is to sell God short. The fact of the matter is that every Sunday, or as we refer to it "Lord's Day", is like a little Easter. That is why we refer to them as the Sundays in Lent, not the Sundays of Lent. The power of resurrection not only fills the day, it becomes the way of life for all days to come. As Christ is raised, so have we been and that makes all the difference in the world.

In Colossians 3, Paul instructs us about the practical implications of resurrection. "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above...set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Using the image of baptism (which was central to worship on Easter Day) he reminds us that being found in Christ we have died to our old selves and been raised to new life, just as one being baptized goes under the water (as going into the grave) and is lifted out of the water into new life. In the early church, one being baptized would remove their old clothing before entering the waters, a mark of leaving their old way of life behind. After being baptized they would leave the waters being draped in a new white robe, a symbol of their new life in Christ.

Recalling that imagery, Paul's words are quite clear and vivid: As those who die to self, we put to death those earthly things in us: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed. We get rid of such things as anger, wrath, malice, slander and abusive language. In our baptism, we "strip off the old self with its practices."

Being raised with Christ we are clothed with a new self, (a new set of spiritual attire). "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience..." (Col. 3:12). Such behavior befits those who have been set free to exhibit the ways of heaven on earth...to be a "foretaste of glory divine."

Scripture tells us that we will be known by the fruit we bear. Anyone can talk the talk of resurrection, the question is will we walk the talk? Has Christ's rising from the dead set you free from the grip of sin and death? Being found in the risen Lord has your way of life been changed? Is Easter Day a day like any other, or is it a defining moment as to who you have become and are becoming?

Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away—behold the new has come." As one recreated in the risen Lord may your witness be received with a resounding "Alleluia" now and forever.....

In Christ's Love,





Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, April 3

Revelation 1:4-8
Acts 5:27-32

Sunday, April 10

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
John 21:1-19

Sunday, April 17

Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Sunday, April 24

Revelation 21:1-6
Acts 11:1-18

Sunday, May 1

Revelation 21:10, 22-25
John 14:23-29

Worship Assistants

April 3

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone
Flowers: Tom & Janet Smith
Ushers: Bob & Charlotte Cosharek
Joan & Kayla Moran
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

April 10

Ushers: Ed & Becky Bence
Sunday School Kids
Flowers: Linda George
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Tyler Moran

April 17

Liturgist: Gene Artman
Ushers: Patti, Sean, Harrison Gilligan
and Dennis Gould
Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

April 24

Liturgist: Barb Brown
Flowers: Ron & Kim McKinney
Ushers: Adam, Dana, Brady Doak
and Nancy Campbell
Projector: Jonathan Clayton
Audio: Alex Baker

Offering Counters

Elaine Jellison and Jim Neal

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes continue Sunday afternoons to give young people a chance to explore their faith and consider what it means to be a part of the church. **Students will unite with the church during worship on Pentecost, May 15.** If you have any questions about the classes, please contact Pastor Monroe or Deb Lint.

Dining with Diabetes

Dining with Diabetes is a program for adults with diabetes and their families. Classes are offered weekly for four weeks with a three-month follow-up class. Preregistration is required due to space limitations. Participants will learn how to prepare meals that are healthy, simple, and taste good. Recipes will be demonstrated and participants will have the opportunity to taste each one. Participants will also learn up-to-date information on nutrition, meal planning, and exercise as well as how to understand common, diabetes-related medical tests. Recipes and handouts will be given to each participant. Diabetes is a very serious and costly disease, but research has shown that those who learn to manage their blood glucose (sugar) levels, eat healthy, and exercise regularly can lower their risk of complications and lead a healthier and more productive life. Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, April 18th from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM that also meets April 25th, May 2nd, May 9th and July 25th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Registration for this program can be made by calling 724-837-1402, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM or by accessing our web site at extension.psu.edu/diabetes and clicking on "Upcoming Classes."

Dining with Diabetes is sponsored by Penn State Extension.

3rd Annual Blairsville Mission Partnership

The 3rd Annual Blairsville Mission Partnership will be held Saturday, May 14th from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We begin with sign-in and worship at the pavilion in the community park. Teams are sent to different sites in the area to work. At noon, we return to the pavilion for lunch. Then return to finish up the work. At 4:00 p.m., we again meet at the pavilion for a closing. Child care and lunch will be provided. Consider volunteering your time working for neighbors in the area. A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the sanctuary. Applications are also available for those who would like to have work done at their homes. For more information, contact the church office or Pastor Monroe. The Mission Partnership is sponsored by the Blairsville Area Ministerium.



April News from Christian Ed



“IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH”



“A SPRING THING...IT’S GOD’S WORLD”

May 7, 2016 from 12:00—2:00 p.m.

(Ages 3 years through grade 5, under age 3 must have a parent)

Let’s remember how God created our beautiful world and see how we can help keep it this way. Let us help make our Church beautiful by planting flowers in the Hanna Garden.

*We will have our lunch outside under the large tree.

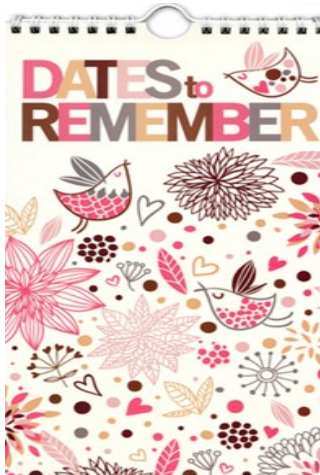
Bring your favorite sandwich—fruit, snack and drink will be provided.

*Hear about how God created our world

*Play outside games

*Plant flowers in the Hanna Garden

Please use the form below to register your child.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

⇒ Confirmation Classes continue from April 3—May 1

(No class Mother’s day, May 8—unite May 15)

⇒ May 12, 6:00 pm—Christian Ed Committee meeting

⇒ May 7, noon—2:00 pm— “A Spring Thing...It’s God’s World”

⇒ May 15, Pentecost Sunday—Confirmation Class unites with the congregation

⇒ May 22, Last day of Sunday School & Teacher Appreciation

Coming in June

⇒ **Vacation Bible School... “Cave Quest”... June 20-24**

(*All volunteers must have their clearances to work with our children—church policy)

“A SPRING THING...IT’S GOD’S WORLD”

May 7, 2016—noon until 2:00 p.m.

Name (s) _____

Parent (s) _____ Phone # _____

Email Address _____ Favorite Fruit _____

Questions or comments: Contact Deb Lint in church, call the office or by email churchlady1120@aol.com.



Pastor Tim has been nominated by the Health and Human Services Subcommittee (HHSS) of the Indiana County Community Emergency Planning Committee for Male Civic Leader of the Year – as part of the Leader Circle Awards. The Leader's Circle of Indiana County will be celebrating 21 nominees on April 20th at the Kovalchick Center. HHSS nominated Tim for his work as Co-Chair of the Faith Team, which is a part of HHSS and as the County's pastoral liaison for community emergencies.

CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK!

Newsletter

Articles for the May edition of the UPLIFT newsletter should be to the office by Sunday, April 17.