



The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

JUNE-JULY 2016

Luke, in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and Paul in his letters to a variety of congregations give us a picture of the diverse life of the early church. While an understanding of the Gospel varied, all believers held in common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. With that core belief in Jesus, the various congregations worked together in sharing the good news of God's gift of salvation. In Acts 15, we read about the council in Jerusalem where representatives from many of the individual congregations gathered to pray, study and discuss differences of understanding and worked under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to come to an agreement in discerning God's will for his church. Ever since those days, Christians have met with the purpose of becoming evermore faithful to the call we share.

On June 18—25, representatives from the 171 presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will gather in Portland, Oregon as the 222nd General Assembly. The first General Assembly met in Philadelphia in 1789 and assemblies have met annually until 2004 when meetings began to be held on even numbered years. Each time it gathers, it seeks: to set priorities for the work of the church in keeping with the church's mission under Christ; to establish and administer national and worldwide ministries of witness, service, growth and development; and to consider concerns raised from within the denomination by considering overtures sent to it by the various presbyteries. All this work is done in the context of prayer, Bible study, worship and discussion. Does everyone agree at the end of the day? I've yet to see full agreement on everything. But we continue our dialogue in the Spirit of Christ, under the bonds of peace, grace and most important, love. The theme of this year's assembly is based on Ephesians 1:18, "The Hope in Our Calling."

Each assembly is different from all the assemblies that have preceded it. Typically a person is ever only elected once in their lifetime to serve as a commissioner. Presbyteries are free to elect whomever they feel called to send—and those sent are to vote their conscience, not the "party-line" of their presbytery. You can only imagine the diversity. Our presbytery, Kiskiminetas, is allowed to send two commissioners—Elder Sandy Gandolfi of the Plumville congregation and the Rev. Dana Wilmot, pastor of the Grace, Kittanning congregation. We will also be sending a non-voting Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Michael Kohle of the Calvary, Indiana congregation. The larger the Presbytery the more commissioners they can send, but there is always an equal balance of elders (ruling elders) and pastors (teaching elders).

As an assembly convenes they elect from their midst a moderator or co-moderators to run the meeting. This year there are two teams of co-moderators seeking that position. The Revs. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston form one team, and the Rev. Adan Mairena and Elder David Parker (an attorney) are the other team. The co-moderatorial team elected will not only direct the meeting for the next two years, they will also interpret the work of the assembly and its deliberations around the nation and world.

This year we will also be electing a new Stated Clerk. The person filling that position will serve as the denomination's top ecclesiastical officer, responsible for serving as ecumenical leader in our relationship with other faith communities, organizing meetings of the General Assembly, and interpreting the Book of Order, part of our church's constitution. Over a dozen candidates for this position were considered by the Search Committee. They will be putting forth the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson as their candidate. The Rev. David Baker will be challenging the nomination. The Assembly will elect one or the other, who will begin their work after the retirement of the current Stated Clerk.

The issues to be discussed are many, some trivial administration policies, some matter of deep theological significance. To learn more, check into the denomination's website—www.pcusa.org. On the homepage you will see a green logo "GA Portland 222". If you click it, it will take you to PC B12 where you can find details about the issues. You will also find a "vimeo" screen where you can watch the plenary sessions of the Assembly meeting as a whole. A schedule of those sessions is included in this newsletter.

Please be praying for the commissioners as they meet in a couple weeks. Pray that they have prepared for their work responsibly, that they are sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit, that they are true to the truth of the Gospel, the standards of Scripture, and that what they do and say will bring glory to God.....

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jim

Scripture Texts for Worship

The scripture texts for June and July are given for your study in preparation for Worship.

Sunday, June 5

I Kings 17:8-16 (17-24)
Luke 7:11-17

Sunday, June 12

Luke 7:36-8:3
Galatians 2:15-21

Sunday, June 19

Luke 8:26-39
I Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15

Sunday, June 26

II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Luke 9:51-62

Sunday, July 3

Galatians 6:1-6 (7-16)
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 10

Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 17

Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 24

Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, July 31

Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 7

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Emergency Bible Numbers

Upset—John 14
Weak—Psalm 18:1-29
Lonely—Psalm 23
Sinned—Psalm 51
Worried—Matthew 8:19-31
Anxious—Philippians 4:4-9
Unhappy—Colossians 3:12-17
In Danger—Psalm 91
Depressed—Psalm 27

Worship Assistants

June 5

Liturgist: Heather Hartmann
Music: Abbi Stipcak
Flowers: Ed & Becky Bence
Ushers: Jim & Mary Piper, Ken Doak, Joanne Torrance

Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Tyler Moran

June 12

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone
Music: Cindy & Marilyn duet
Flowers: Phyllis Streams
Ushers: Naomi Sigafoes, Emma Rigg, Judy Trimble, Paul Soltesz

Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

June 19

Music: Bell Choir
Flowers: Kay Barnhart
Ushers: Nancy Campbell, Mary Anzelone, Tony & Collin Yackuboskey

Projector: Jonathan Clayton
Audio: Alex Baker

June 26—VBS Sunday

Flowers: Mary Anzelone
Ushers: Patrick & Janeen Swope, VBS students

Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

Offering Counters

Charlotte Cosharek and Janeen Swope

July 3

Music: The Nightengals
Flowers: Dave Semsick
Ushers: Bobbi Monroe, Janeen Swope, Ron & Kim McKinney

Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Tyler Moran

July 10—Communion

Flowers: Bonni Dunlap
Ushers: Judy Trimble, Paul Soltesz, Peg Lockard,

Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

July 17

Flowers: Naomi Sigafoes
Ushers: Ken Doak, Joanne Torrance,

Projector: Jonathan Clayton
Audio: Alex Baker

July 24

Flowers: Ron & Kim McKinney
Ushers: Bonni Dunlap, Mary Anzelone, Kevin & Lori Smith

Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

July 31

Music: Dani Cyphert
Flowers: Patrick & Janeen Swope
Flowers: Sue Harvey & family
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Tyler Moran

Offering Counters

Charlotte Cosharek and Janeen Swope

Summer Schedule

Beginning Sunday, June 5th our worship hour will be from 10:00—11:00 a.m. Sunday School classes and choir will be in recess until September. Special music will be scheduled during the Summer months.

Newsletter

Articles for the August edition of the UPLIFT newsletter should be to the office by Friday, July 15th.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

The 2016 Confirmation Class was received on May 15, 2016. Eight young people joined our church family. We'll introduce four of them in this edition and four of them in the next.

Andrew Baker has completed 6th grade at the Blairsville Jr. High School. He is the son of Darrin and Tricia Baker and has two brothers, Alex and Austin. Andrew enjoys baseball, basketball, hunting, fishing, riding bikes and school. He attends Sunday School and church with his family regularly.

Abigail Bruner is the daughter of Clark and Connie Bruner. She has a brother, John Clark and a sister, Elizabeth. Abigail is homeschooled and has completed the 8th grade. She enjoys sign language, horseback riding, sewing and 4-H. She has participated in worship by signing to songs. Abigail attends Sunday School and church regularly with her family. She would like to be involved in a church youth group.

Elizabeth Bruner is homeschooled and has completed 6th grade. She is the daughter of Clark and Connie Bruner and has a brother, John Clark and a sister, Abigail. Elizabeth enjoys horseback riding, playing with her goats, singing, sewing and 4-H. She attends Sunday School and church regularly with her family and plays the bells. She would like to be part of a youth group, volunteer to help with VBS and learn to run the AV equipment during worship.

Alex Kirkland has completed the 7th grade at Blairsville Middle School. He is the son of Jeff and Kathie Kirkland. Alex enjoys baseball, hunting, fishing, bow shooting, reading and all outdoor activities. He loves going to Sunday School. Alex would like to volunteer to run the projector during worship.

Upcoming Community Events

*The Susquehanna Chorale, one of the outstanding choral ensembles in America, will present a concert, *Sing Me to Heaven*, in Indiana on Saturday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Calvary Presbyterian Church, 7th and Church Streets. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering will be received. For more information call 724-463-9197.

*The Blairsville Historical Society will host a Meatloaf Dinner Wednesday, June 29 from 4:00—6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Meals are \$10 for adults and children under 12 are \$7. For tickets, call 724-459-0580.

Six Adult members were received as new members on May 15, 2016 and include the following:

Robert (Bob) Doty is married to Vicky and they have one son, one daughter and one grandchild. He is a tri axle driver for Taylors Services Inc. Bob enjoys camp, gardening, and spending time with family which includes his yellow lab "Lex".

Vicky Doty is married to Bob and has a son, a daughter and a grandchild. She is a receptionist at the Community Guidance Center. Vicky enjoys crocheting, camping, visiting her children and family, and spending time with Lex the family pet.

John Hileman is a retired security supervisor. He and his wife Mary have one daughter and a grandchild. John comes to us from Ebenezer Presbyterian Church where he was a member for over 45 years. John enjoys reading, going to the gym, playing with his grandson, watching his grandson play hockey, and working jigsaw puzzles with his wife.

Mary Hileman is married to John and is a retired reading specialist. She was also a member of Ebenezer PC for over 50 years. Mary enjoys walking, going to the gym, cooking, spending time with her grandson, learning the game of hockey so she understands it when her grandson plays, and working jigsaw puzzles with John.

Gary Stuchal is married to Barri and they have a son and two grandchildren. He is retired from the 12th Congressional Region Equipment Co. Inc. in Blairsville. Gary enjoys following his grandchildren's activities, music concerts and visiting parks.

Barri Stuchal is a retired R.N. from Excelsa. She is married to Gary and they have a son and two grandchildren. Barri enjoys following the grandchildren's activities and attending concerts.

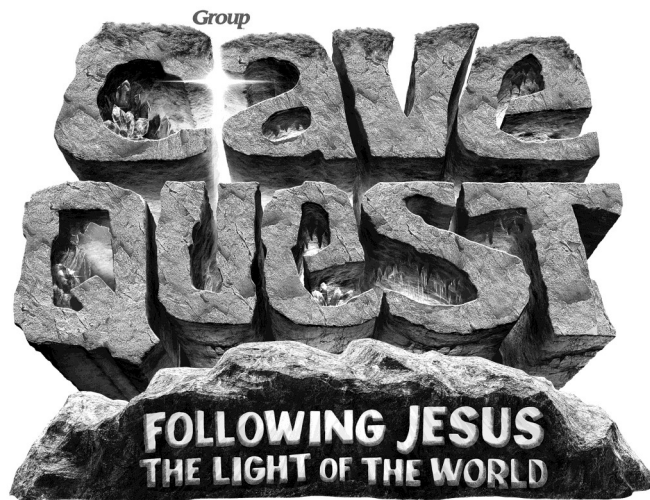
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS



On Sunday, May 22, 2016, we celebrated Teacher Appreciation where the Sunday school teachers of 2015/2016 were presented to the congregation and received a gift. This year's teachers were: Heidi Weimer, Jamie McKinney, Cindy Borbonus, Sheila Borbonus, Kim McKinney, Bill Lint, Dave Semsick, Tricia Baker, Marilyn Neal and Deb Lint, chairman of Christian Education.

Deb thanked the congregation for their encouragement and support of our teachers and Christian Education.

Sunday school is in recess until September 11, 2016. More information about the beginning of Sunday school in the August UPLIFT.



This year's VBS is "CAVE QUEST" to be held June 20 – 24 from 6:00 to 8:30 with a light dinner at 5:30. Children ages 3 (but must be potty trained to attend) to Grade 5 are invited.

Hear a Bible story, sing songs, make a craft, play outside and make new friends.
Best of all, learn about Jesus!

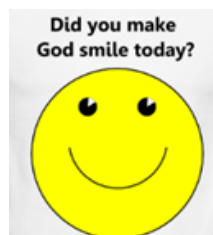
Your child or children will love their time spent here at The United Presbyterian Church during VBS.

On Sunday, June 26, a VBS presentation will be shared at 10:00 AM. Following, there will be a Festival in the side yard where everything is FREE!

Please plan on attending and see what the children experienced and learned at VBS.

For more information or to register, call the church office at 724-459-7991.

(All of our Leaders have their Child Care clearances)



**HAVE A WONDERFUL
SUMMER!**

2016 Graduates

On June 5, we will recognize those who have graduated from high school and schools of higher education. We congratulate them on their hard work and achievements. The high school graduates include:

Taylor Koches is the daughter of Dan and Heidi and sister to Dakota and Josh. Taylor graduated from Blairsville High School where she was very active in sports. She was in track for 4 years, cross country for 3 years, and basketball for 8 years. Taylor was also involved in "Remembering Adam." Her future plans are to travel and spend time with her grandparents in Florida before attending Westmoreland County Community College in the fall where she'll major in nursing. Family Game Night is one of her favorite memories from church. When asked who she looks up to, she said, "My mom because she is always there for me, has always supported me with advice. She has taught my brothers and me to always do right and have respect for others." Taylor's life verse is Ephesians 6:13, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

Collin Yackuboskey is the son of Tony and Amy and brother to Austin and the grandson to Bill and Vicky Westley. Collin graduated from Indiana High School where he was active in the men's chorus, rifle club, and Civil Air Patrol in which he made the rank of Tech Sergeant and was awarded the Air Force Association Medal. He was also in the Young Eagles for two years. His plans after graduation are to receive EMT training and attend Pittsburgh Technical Institute to major in nursing or criminal justice. Collin's favorite memory of church was when he became a member. The people Collin looks up to is his family "because they are always there for me." His life verse is Matthew 7:1-2, "Do not judge so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get."

Quintin Little is the son of Brad and Yvonne and brother to Abbey and grandson to Ron and Ann Little. Quintin graduated from Kiski Prep.

Austin Buterbaugh is the son of Trent Buterbaugh and Jackie Cribbs and the brother of Isaac and Maiya. Austin graduated from Derry Area High School.

Daniel Marx is the son of Olaf and Nancy and the brother of Viviane. Daniel graduated from Blairsville High School.

Those graduating from schools of higher education include:

Jaison McKinney son of Ron and Kim McKinney, wife of Jamie, dad of Shakira, and brother of Reneah McKinney Mudge. Jason graduated from Westmoreland County Community College with a double major. He received an Associate of Applied Science degree in the areas of Computer Networking and Telecommunications. Jaison will work as the System Administrator at Pace Industries.

Colin Keller is the son of Larry and Jonna and brother to Cory and Morgan Keller Uncapher. Colin received his Bachelor's Degree in Safety, Health and Environmental Applied Sciences from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Katie Monsour is the daughter of David and Ronna Aikins, granddaughter of Ron and Ann Little and wife of Geoff. Katie received her Doctorate of Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Curriculum and Instruction. She will continue to work at UPJ as the Coordinator of Secondary and Middle English Education and continue some teaching at IUP.

Ebenezer Festival & Bazaar

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church will hold their Festival & Bazaar Saturday, June 11 from 4:00—7:00 p.m. The day will include a used book sale, basket raffle, homemade baked goods, sandwiches, potato salad & baked beans, ice cream & strawberries, and the famous Special—Angel food cake, ice cream & strawberries.

Citizens' Ambulance Service

As a special service to the church, if someone needs EMS and use an ambulance while attending weekly church services they are billed at member pricing. Citizens' also offer: non-emergency ambulance service, non-emergency transport van services with walk on and wheel chair capabilities, and community education and safety programs.

Congregational Fellowship Committee Activities



July 31, 2016
Following Worship

Baseball, hotdogs and "Apple Pie Contest"

Yes, that's right, an Apple Pie Contest!!

So dig out your favorite Apple Pie recipe, whip it up, and see what our judges will discover as the Best Apple Pie!

You can win 1 of 3 places which includes a Special Prize.

There will be games and activities for the children.

You don't want to miss out on the fun and activities.

Return to October 13, 1960 and
watch "Maz" win it all *again!*

Fill out the form below so we can plan and let us know if
you are bringing an Apple Pie, (any kind, as long as it is
Apple) to be judged or just for dessert.

Church Picnic
Hot Dogs, Baseball & Apple Pie
July 31, 2016

Name _____

How many adults _____ children _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Bringing an Apple Pie to be judged _____

Just for dessert _____

Tree Removal

The large maple tree in the church yard has been examined by two arborists. Both recommended it be taken down due to an extensive cavity and decay in it's trunk.

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that little things can be special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and know there is a God I could always talk to and learn to trust in.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up. When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking." Little eyes see a lot.

-written by a former child

Church

I learned that there are 4 color sheets to go on the table on different days. RED is for Pentecost, WHITE is for Christmas and Easter, PURPLE is for Advent (time before Christmas) and Lent (time before Easter), and Green is usually on the table. The windows have the colors Red, Green, Purple and White too. The dove is on the 4th window down and means the Holy Spirit is here! I can't wait until Pastor Tim teaches me more about the pictures on the stain glass windows.

By: Brennan Borbonus

WyoTech 50th Anniversary

On Saturday, June 11th from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., WyoTech will hold an Open House Event. The day will include a car cruise, music, food, campus tours, live demos, activities for the kids, and local vendors. Along with the Open House, they will host a Blood Drive for the Central Blood Bank. The Blood Drive will be held from 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in the Administration Building/Hot Rod Shop. To schedule an appointment, please call 1-866-366-6771 or visit centralbloodbank.org and enter group code TS010064.

Minute for Mission

Presbyterians Deliver Comfort in Response to a Night of Terror

The piercing sound of sirens filled the night sky that was bright with an eerie orange glow. Hot embers cooled and turned to ash as they floated through the air, covering the ground like snowflakes—a strange sight for mid-August 2015 in the town of Kamiah, Idaho, where a wildfire was encroaching on area homes. Responding to a frantic knock at the door, a pastor greeted a young couple with their two small boys and two large dogs in tow, a look of terror and worry etched on their faces. They had been ordered to evacuate their home. Wind gusts were spreading the fire, which had resulted from lightning strikes several days earlier. The couple did not know where to go or what to do, so they went to their church. Within minutes other church members began arriving with similar stories. Kamiah was surrounded by fire. All roads in and out were closed except one. Luann Howard, longtime pastor of the Kamiah and Kooskia Presbyterian Churches, decided to get the dozen refugees to the church in the nearby town, setting it up as an emergency evacuation center. Daylight brought news of unimaginable devastation and loss for the community. In all, 73 primary homes and 150 outbuildings were destroyed. Within a matter of hours, with fires still raging and the air heavy with smoke, the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest responded with donations of food, water and supplies personally delivered by the executive presbyter and others with the good news that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance representatives were on their way. What a comfort to have such prompt, wonderful and ongoing support!

Rev. Luann Howard, Kamiah and Kooskia Presbyterian Churches