



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

MAY 2016

Everybody loves a holiday—time off, special meals, a gathering of family and friends. Before we filled the calendar with man-made celebrations, all holidays were holy days. In that days when commoners could not read, the church marked the religious seasons and special celebrations with colored clothes on the communion table. We call them paraments. Advent and Lent are marked with purple, Christmas and Easter are marked with white. Pentecost is marked with red. Seeing the color reminds us of the season of the church year, and therein the season of our spiritual journey through it.

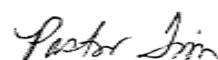
But along the way, there is one holiday, whose holiness we overlook. It is Ascension Day, which is celebrated on May 5th this year. The Scriptures tell us that after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to and walked with the disciples for a period of 40 days. At that point, Luke tells us at the very end of his gospel and at the beginning of the Book of Acts how Jesus gathered the believers, promising them the gift of the Holy Spirit and charging them to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. And then, before their eyes, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. As Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels assured them that just as he went up, he would one day return. (Acts 1)

We know well the story of Jesus' birth, passion, death and resurrection, but his ascension is just as important a part of his ministry to us and for us. Our Roman Catholic and Orthodox brothers and sisters are good about celebrating the holiday, but us Protestants, not so much—with exception of the Amish. You would think that the "plain people" would not make much ado about the day, but for them it is a day of worship, rest and fellowship—a Thursday Sabbath if you will. I think the Amish understand the day best, because at the center of their faith is the knowledge that this world is not their home. They have not conformed to the images around us. They understand that what we have here and now is temporary. There is no need to get too comfortable or to hold on too tightly because life in this world isn't what its all about.

For Jesus, it was a matter of going home. Like a soldier who faithfully completes a tour of duty, Jesus just wanted to return to the Father's side, where he had always been and where he would be forever. But his return to heaven has a grand significance for us. Jesus says, "I go to prepare a place for you.....that where I am, you shall be also." That's a promise that gives me the hope I need to face the frustrations of this earthly walk. As Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, there he intercedes for us. As the Holy Spirit brings our prayers to God's ear, Jesus prays for us and adds the powerful "Amen" to them. He is our Advocate in the presence of his Father in heaven bearing witness to our faith. Because we abide in Christ and Christ abides in us and Christ abides in the Father, so we abide in the Father. Because Jesus ascended into heaven, a part of us abides there. "Oh what a foretaste of glory divine." That image fills many a hymn writers' soul. Finally, Jesus' ascension into heaven leads to the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the breath that gives life to the church, the breath that fills us with God.

Luke tells us that as they returned to Jerusalem the disciples were filled with great joy. At the thought of Jesus in heaven bringing your name, the fullness of who you are, before the Father, may you be lifted up. At the news that one day, Jesus will return to bring God's people home, may you find hope. And at the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, knowing that wherever and however you are—God is with you, may you find peace.

In Christ's Love,



Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, May 1

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

Sunday, May 8

Revelation 22:12-21
John 17:20-26

Sunday, May 15

Genesis 11:1-9
Acts 2:1-21

Sunday, May 22

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Romans 5:1-5

Sunday, May 29

Galatians 1:1-12
I Kings 18:20-39

Sunday, June 5

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



Pictorial Church Directory Coming Soon

Plans are being made to have a new church directory published. Picture dates are scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, June 16, 17 and 18. You will have the chance to sign-up for your choice of date and time soon. Also, volunteers will be needed as greeters for these days. Please consider helping as a volunteer. Mark your calendars and watch future bulletins and newsletters for more details.

Worship Assistants

May 1

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone
Flowers: Bill & Deb Lint
Ushers: Velma Crawford, Elaine Jellison, Carl & Georgia Long
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

May 8—Mother's Day

Flowers: Joanne Torrance
Ushers: Doug & Andrea Clayton
Sunday School Kids
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Tyler Moran

May 15—Pentecost Sunday

Liturgist: Dennis Gould
Ushers: Rick & Willa Shoemaker
DeWayne & Nikki Reeves
Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

May 22

Flowers: None
Ushers: Jamie & Shakira McKinney
Tom & Lisa Hainaut
Projector: Jonathan Clayton
Audio: Alex Baker

May 29

Flowers: Dr. & Mrs. Petersen
Ushers: Lewis Family & Linda George
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

Offering Counters

Emma Riggi & Irv Lindsey



Sunday, May 8, 2016

Schedule Change

May 22..... Last day of Sunday School
May 29..... Worship at 11:00 am
Choir's last Sunday until fall

Summer Schedule Begins

June 5..... Worship at 10:00 am

*Sunday School and choir will be in recess and begin again in the fall.

Guest Musicians

During the summer months, guest musicians are invited to come and share their gifts with us. If you or someone you know would like to come and share with us, please contact Cindy Borbonus or the church office. We would love to have you!

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who sent a card to help me celebrate my 90th birthday. I have received 40 cards! It was such a nice surprise to receive all of your greetings. I don't feel 90, but they tell me I am. Thank you all so much for making my birthday a special day!

Ruie Gressley

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.

*Family & Friends are Cordially Invited to attend a
Baccalaureate Service For the Class of 2016*

Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 pm

Hosted by SS Simon & Jude Roman Catholic Church

This special graduation service is sponsored by the Blairsville Area Ministerium and

Presented by The Class of 2016

This is a cap & gown event

Refreshments will follow in Marian Hall



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

“CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS”

May 15, 2016

Andrew Baker, Abigail Bruner, Elizabeth Bruner, Harrison Gilligan, Alex Kirkland, Daniel Kukula, Shakira McKinney, and Cole Stuchal will be confirmed during services.

A time of fellowship will be enjoyed following worship to congratulate these youth.

Please plan to attend.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR AN EXCELLENT YEAR!

MAY 22, 2016

TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY and

THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE YEAR

SENIOR RECOGNITION

June 5, 2016

A time of fellowship for our graduates will follow worship

*Please plan to attend to congratulate them on their
accomplishments.*

Sponsored by the Deacons



I devoted myself to
study and to explore...
all that is done
under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:13



CAVE QUEST VBS~~~~JUNE 20 ~ 24

6:00 to 8:30 PM

Story~~ Music~~Crafts~~Games~~Light Dinner

Registration begins~~~ May 15, 2016

Look for more information and registration in your Sunday bulletins

Join in the activities following Sunday's VBS program, June 26, 2016

Hot Dogs, hamburgers, beverages, pop corn,
a STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL and more.

Relay for Life

It's been a year since I was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma—hard to believe, right? I thank God every day for his blessings to me—for helping me through my treatments, for my great doctors, family, church family, co-workers, and friends who prayed and cared for me! There were even people who I didn't know praying for me. Talk about the power of prayer!

The weekend of May 13 & 14 I will be participating in the Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. I will be on the team named "Big Believers" - one of my friends has put this team together. It's time for someone to come up with a cure for this disease that is so common. As I talk to people in our congregation I am learning that more people right here have been affected by it. If you are interested in making a donation to the American Cancer Society, I will be glad to accept it and turn it in at the Relay for Life. We appreciate any donations.

Thank you for all your prayers...I can't wait to walk that "victory lap!"

Marilyn Neal

Trinity Youth Conference 2016

TYC is a week long event for high school youth (who are at least 15 years of age and have completed 9th grade by July 24, 2016) and college age young adults. TYC focuses on spiritual and leadership development, discipleship, and evangelism through daily worship, small group activities, and various workshops with topics based on the theme, "Lost & Found." TYC is funded in part by individuals, congregations & Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The 2016 conference will be held Sunday, July 24 through Saturday, July 30th at Living Waters Camp and Conference Center in Schellsburg, PA. The cost is \$335.00 (early registration discounts are available). A deposit of \$100 is due with the registration. Scholarships are also available. If you are interested in more information, please contact the church office or check out the website at: trinityyouthconference.org.

Piano Anyone...

The Worship Committee is making available a piano to anyone who may be interested in becoming the new owner. Please contact the church office or see Elaine Jellison for more information.

Minute for Mission—Church World Service

Blanket Offering May 8th, Mother's Day

When the weather outside is cold and deep with snow, we burrow under warm blankets every night to stay warm as we fall fast asleep. Now imagine a man on a cold bench or a family standing outside of their home, looking at the devastation caused by a natural disaster... How will they find warmth? For many, a simple blanket given when they most need it is a loving way to offer warmth, to offer hope. Many people without homes have a daily challenge of fighting the bitter cold. Around the world, disasters force people from their homes, sending them to shelters and refugee camps where a blanket can make a big difference. For declining neighborhoods outside of major cities in the U.S., families struggle to make ends meet. The CWS Blanket program provides warmth, hope, and care during cold and trying times. A gift of just \$10 provides a sturdy, comforting blanket to children, men and women who are struggling against the cold. This Mother's Day is a perfect time to give thanks for the warmth in our homes, our churches and our hearts by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. Let's blanket the world with love this Mother's Day, May 8th as we will receive the Blanket Offering during worship.

CONGREGATION FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:
A SUMMER OF FUN

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FUN WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY?

*Then you don't want to miss what is happening,
mark your calendars for these events*

June 26

VBS Fellowship following services

Includes: Food, activities for the kids, Strawberry Festival and a lot of fun

July 31

~~~Church Picnic~~~

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 discover as the BEST APPLE PIE. You could win 1 of 3 places which includes a SPECIAL PRIZE. You don't want to miss out on the fun and activities. Return to October 13, 1960 and watch "Maz" win it all again!

August 20

"OUT OF SYNC"



Do you SING in the shower?

When driving down the road, do you BELT OUT the words to the songs on the radio?

Or are you one who can't carry a tune in a bucket but instead just makes a JOYFUL NOISE?

If your answer is yes, then we would like to invite you to a fun-filled evening of performances by some of your favorite artists includingyou guessed it.....**YOU!!!**

On August 20, 2016 the Fellowship Committee plans to host an **"OUT OF SYNC"** lip syncing evening. If you can't remember the words to the song.....who cares? If you don't have your own band...not a problem. Just come as your favorite singer(s) and have some fun.

Not someone who wants to perform but wants to share in the excitement?

..... mark your calendar and plan to spend the evening with us.

(This activity is subject to congregational interest. Please let a committee member know if you would like to perform or plan to attend. Committee members include: Bill and Deb Lint, Gene Artman, Nancy Hartmann, Becky Bence, Erica Ash, Diane Hanna.)



2016 PARK MINISTRY SITES

BALD EAGLE STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

Chaplain Rich Wallace

Sponsor: Bald Eagle Area Churches

BLACK MOSHANNON STATE PARK—10:00 a.m.

Chaplain Kevin Brady

Sponsor: Volunteers

CANOE CREEK STATE PARK—8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Amy Webster

CHAPMAN STATE PARK—10:00 a.m.

BUCKALOONS CAMPGROUNDS—8:30 a.m.

Chaplain David Johnson

Sponsor: Warren County Ministerium

CODORUS STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

Chaplain Jason Lyons

Sponsor: Southern Pa District, Church of the Brethren

COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

DOGWOOD ACRES CAMPGROUND—11:00 a.m.

Chaplain Neal McCulloch

Sponsors: Big Spring Inter-Church Council & Dogwood Acres Campground

COOK FOREST STATE PARK—9:00 a.m.

CLEAR CREEK STATE PARK—11:00 a.m.

Chaplain Jim Porter

Sponsor: Kiskiminetas Presbytery, PC(USA)

COWANS GAP STATE PARK—10:00 a.m.

GRIST MILL CAMPGROUND—8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Bruce Carriker

Sponsor: Penn Ctrl Conference, United Church of Christ

FRENCH CREEK STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

Sponsor: Volunteers, High Point Baptist Church

GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

Chaplain Douglas Kennedy

Sponsor: Southern Pa District, Church of the Brethren

HICKORY RUN STATE PARK—10:00 a.m.

Chaplain Roger Legg

Sponsor: Pocono Area Lutheran Ministry

KEYSTONE STATE PARK—8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Art Day, Jr.

Sponsor: Blairsville, Derry & Latrobe Ministerium

LAUREL HILL STATE PARK, PIONEER CAMPGROUND, KOOSER STATE PARK

Sponsor: Western Pa District, Church of the Brethren
(No Services in 2015)

LOCUST LAKE STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

ROSEMOUNT CAMPING RESORT—11:00 a.m.

Chaplain Donald Lyons

Sponsor: Pa SE Conference, United Church of Christ

PARKER DAM STATE PARK—10:00 a.m.

Chaplain Rick Kaizer & Tammy Meholick

Sponsor: DuBois Ministerium

POE VALLEY STATE PARK

HEMLOCK ACRES CAMPGROUND

(No Services in 2015)

PRINCE GALLITZIN STATE PARK—9:00 a.m.

Chaplain David Flumerfelt

Sponsor: Middle Pa District, Church of the Brethren

PROMISED LAND STATE PARK—9:00 a.m.

Chaplains Team of Lay Speakers

Sponsor: NE Pa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church

PYMATUNING (JAMESTOWN) STATE PARK—9:30 a.m.

Chaplain Gus Redick

Sponsor: Shenango Presbytery, PC (USA)

LAKE RAYSTOWN RESORT—8:30 a.m.

PLEASANT HILL CAMPGROUND—10:00 a.m.

SEVEN POINTS AMPHITHEATER—11:30 a.m.

Chaplain Laurie Stiles

Sponsor: Local Area Churches

R.B. WINTER STATE PARK—10:30 a.m.

PINE VALLEY CAMPGROUND—9:00 a.m.

Chaplain Marc Snyder

Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference, UMC

RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK—10:00 a.m.

Chaplain – volunteers

Sponsor: Christians United in Beaver County

SHAWNEE STATE PARK—8:45 a.m.

CHOICE CAMPGROUND—10:00 a.m.

HILLEGASS CAMPGROUND—11:15 a.m.

Chaplain Brenda Scheffer

Sponsor: Allegheny Synod, Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America and Bedford County Area Churches

SHENANGO RIVER LAKE CAMPGROUND—9:30 a.m.

Sponsor: Christian Associates of the Shenango Valley

TIONESTA LAKE CAMPGROUND—9:30 a.m.

Chaplain Cindy Mealey

Sponsor: Local committee

WORLD'S END STATE PARK—9:00 a.m.

RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK—11:00 a.m.

Chaplain Beccy Brown

Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference, UMC