



# UPLIFT Newsletter

The United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Blairsville, PA

NOVEMBER 2016

It was Saturday afternoon, and little Johnny was just getting home from a friend's birthday party. As he came into the kitchen, his mother asked, "Did you have a good time?" "It was a wonderful party," he replied. "Did you thank Mrs. Jones?" "Well," Johnny said, "I was going to, but the girl ahead of me said 'Thank you' and Mrs. Jones said 'Don't mention it,' so I didn't."

How many times, there is gratitude in our hearts, but we choose not to mention it. Maybe we feel we're owed good things because of who we are. Maybe we're so used to being blessed, we take it for granted. Maybe we feel the good things we enjoy are of our own making, the fruit of our labor—therefore there is no need to thank anyone. All the above contribute to society's mindset and our centeredness on self.

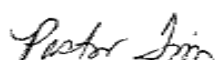
A catechism is a method of teaching in a question/answer format. The Heidelberg Catechism teaches us the foundational principles of the faith we often affirm during our worship services. The first question is used quite frequently. "What is your only comfort, in life and in death?" "That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ....." The second question asks, "How many things must you know that you may live and die in the blessedness of this comfort?" The response is, "Three, First, the greatness of my sin and wretchedness. Second, how I am freed from all my sins and their wretched consequences. Third, what gratitude I owe to God for such redemption." It is on these basic truths that we build our lives. First, in and of myself I am a failure. I have fallen short of what God expects of me. I have not been the person he created me to be. In my sin I have missed the mark. Second, God has seen the mess I have made. He could have left me to try to deal with it myself, but he knew I couldn't begin to fix what I've broken. So God chose to come to me in Jesus Christ, and through Jesus grace and mercy, he made me a new person, recreated me, offered me new life by allowing me to be born again. Third, as a new being in Christ, I find that meaning and purpose come only in responding to what Christ has done for me and seeks to do with me. My life becomes one continuous response to the blessing of my salvation. In essence everything I do is done as an expression of thanks for what God has done and is doing for and with me.

The hymn asks, "How can I give thanks for the things you have done for me? Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me; the voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude. All that I am, and ever hope to be: I owe it all to thee. To God be the glory....." We can never repay God what we owe him. God knows that. God gives not with the expectation of repayment, but rather out of his disposition of love. He loves us with the hope that we will return his love—to him and to others. He forgives us with the hope that in our restoration we will in turn be willing to forgive others. He chooses to bless us so that we, having been filled, will live lives that overflow in blessing others.

Our salvation was given for a purpose, so that we would be set free to live our lives to God's glory, in a way to point to God in everything we do. It may sound cliché, but thanksgiving is expressed in thanks-living. And so, the questions are ever before us: How can I live in such a way that others can see that Christ lives in me? How can I use what God has entrusted to my care to help those around me? How can I love others with the same purity that God has loved me? How can I show my gratitude to God by the way I treat others?

Psalm 105 declares, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done....."

In Christ's love,



## Scripture Texts for Worship

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

### Sunday, November 6

Haggai 1:15-2:9  
II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

### Sunday, November 13

Isaiah 65:17-25  
II Thessalonians 3:6-13

### Sunday, November 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Colossians 1:11-20

### Sunday, November 27

Guest Minister  
Rev. Ron Libengood

### Sunday, December 4

Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

## Change Your Clocks!

Don't forget to set your clocks back...Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6th. Mark your calendar!

## Family Promise

We will host Family Promise beginning October 30th through November 6th. Family Promise is a ministry to homeless families. Participating churches in Indiana County rotate weeks in hosting the families. We provide a safe place to sleep, an evening meal and fellowship. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please see Gene Artman or Pastor Monroe.

## December Newsletter

Articles are due to the church office by Tuesday, November 15th.

## Worship Assistants

### November 6

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone  
Acolyte: Willow Weimer  
Flowers: Kevin & Lori Smith  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

### November 13

Liturgist: Gene Artman  
Acolyte: Olivia Eckenrode  
Flowers: Irving & Beverly Lindsey  
Projector: Jonathan Clayton  
Audio: Alex Baker

### November 20—Communion

Liturgist: Thanksgiving Team  
Acolyte: John Clark Bruner  
Flowers: Cindy Borbonus  
Projector: Shakira McKinney  
Audio: Jaison McKinney

### November 27—1st of Advent

Guest  
Speaker: Rev. Ron Libengood  
Flowers: Naomi Sigafoes  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

### Offering Counters

Elaine Jellison & Jim Neal

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Once again the Deacons will assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for families in the community. We ask that you consider donating food items or giving a monetary contribution. Articles of food can include: canned fruit or vegetables, boxed baked goods, pie fillings, Jello, boxes of stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, just to name a few. Boxes will be available at the back of the church for the collection of food donations. Please check expiration dates on items before donating them. If any member of the congregation is aware of a family who may need a Thanksgiving basket please contact Pastor Tim or Mary Anzelone. Thank you for your generous help in the past, and we look forward to sharing another happy holiday with those in our community!

## Middle School Youth Group

Coming in January...Youth Group for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Keep watching your Sunday bulletins for more information.

## Choir News

Christmas is just around the corner so...plans are in place for this year's Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:45 p.m. following choir rehearsal. Those who would like to participate are invited to come together for practice. The cantata will be presented during the worship hour Sunday, December 18th. Contact Cindy for more information.

## Bell Choir Notes

Bell Choir rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in the Bell Choir and would like to join as a ringer or would like more information, contact Vicky Westley.

## Pathway Shelter Donations

Throughout the year, we collect items for the Pathway Homeless Shelter in Black Lick based on their specific needs at that time. This shelter serves all of Indiana County. Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting: paper towels, disinfectant spray and/or wipes, and all purpose cleaners. They can be placed in the designated container in the vestibule. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the "Board of Deacons." If you have any questions, please contact the Deacons.

## Community Concert

The Blairsville Community Concert Band, under the direction of Dave Brozeski and Lou Iezzi, will present its annual Veteran's Day Concert at the Center for the Performing Arts located at Blairsville High School Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free but voluntary donations for the support of the band are appreciated.

## International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day

Join with fellow loss survivors in your community Saturday, November 19th at The Summit Church, 2707 West Pike Road, Indiana. On this day survivors from around the world gather at local events to share stories, gain insight, and find comfort in the knowledge that they are not alone. For more information or to register, contact Cindy Vrana or Brandy Rummel at 724-463-8200 x21.

## Coats-for-Kids Coat Drive

The 2nd Annual Coats-for-Kids Coat Drive is now underway. This year we are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific size coats. If you would like to contribute to the coat drive, please mark your donation clearly for "Coats". If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith.

## CPR Training

CPR training is being coordinated by the Deacons. If you are interested in attending a CPR training event, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 or see Susie Cotti. The date for training will be set according to the availability of those interested in attending.

## Compassion International News

Dear Friends,  
Greetings to you. I wish you peace of God. How are you? I and my family are fine and thankful to God. My studies are going well. I thank you for your prayers. We are in rainy season and our crops are growing well. I am studying in primary six, I was the 8th in class with 60% marks. I request you to keep praying for me. May God keep protecting you. I enjoyed hearing from you and thank you. I love you.

Samuel Mutabazi, Rwanda  
Translated by Caroline



## 9th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 20, 2016

Immediately following worship  
in Fellowship Hall

Come join our church family for a great  
Thanksgiving meal and fellowship!

Please fill out and return the form in the offering  
plate –

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

How many attending, including yourself? \_\_\_\_

Maybe you would like to share your favorite –

Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

Casserole \_\_\_\_\_

Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to help prepare on Saturday,  
November 19 @ 10:00 AM by peeling potatoes  
and setting tables?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Would you like to help prepare on  
Sunday morning during worship?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Thank you to all who help to make this dinner  
an enjoyable event each year!

Please contact a committee member  
for more information.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all!**



## **Congratulations**

We express our congratulations to Jonathan Clayton for achieving the Eagle Scout Award. Jonathan is the son of Doug and Andrea Clayton.

## **Christmas Performance**

Contemporary Christian group, Mercy Me will perform at the Kovalchick Complex Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available from the Kovalchick Complex. For more information, contact [k.m.kaltreider@iup.edu](mailto:k.m.kaltreider@iup.edu) or the website [www.kovalchickcomplex.com](http://www.kovalchickcomplex.com).

## **Ringers Needed**

Our Bell Choir has openings for two ringers. No experience necessary, we will train you. The choir is two ringers short of being a three octave choir. If you are interested in more information about the choir or about learning to ring, contact Vicky Westley.

## **Advent Devotionals**

The Season of Advent will soon be upon us. "Hope-Full Living" is the title of this year's Advent devotional booklet. It includes daily devotions for living life to the fullest. These devotions have been written by other older adults who hope and pray that this Advent will be a new and exciting ADVENTure for you and yours. Look for new ways to celebrate Christ's coming. Watch for new people whom the Lord puts into your daily ADVENTure with him. Be ready to share your joy and hope in the newborn King, who is born in Bethlehem for you and for me.

## **QPR Training**

The Suicide Task Force of Indiana County will host a free Community Wide Training on QPR—Question, Persuade, Refer. QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer—three simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. QPR can be learned in a Gatekeeper course in an hour to an hour and a half (depending on statistics and questions). Training will be held Monday, November 7th at 5:30 p.m. at the Blairsville Middle School Auditorium. Please contact Brandy Rummel at 724-463-8200 ext. 4221 for more information or to register.

## **Craft Show**

SS Simon and Jude will host a Craft Show Saturday, November 12th from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Many craft tables will be set up in addition to good food, a bake sale and basket raffle. Door prizes will be awarded every half hour.

## **Christmas Assistance Programs**

- Angel Wings Program will be taking applications through November 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at ICCAP. For more information, contact 724-465-2657.
- Treasures for Children sign-ups will be held November 7th from 4:00—7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army. For more information, call 724-465-2530.

## **Email Addresses**

The church office is collecting email addresses of those who would like to receive updates on important information such as member deaths, cancellations due to weather, etc. Please submit your email or update your email address by placing it in the offering plate Sunday or email the office at:

[upchurch@r-church.com](mailto:upchurch@r-church.com).

## Medicare Help

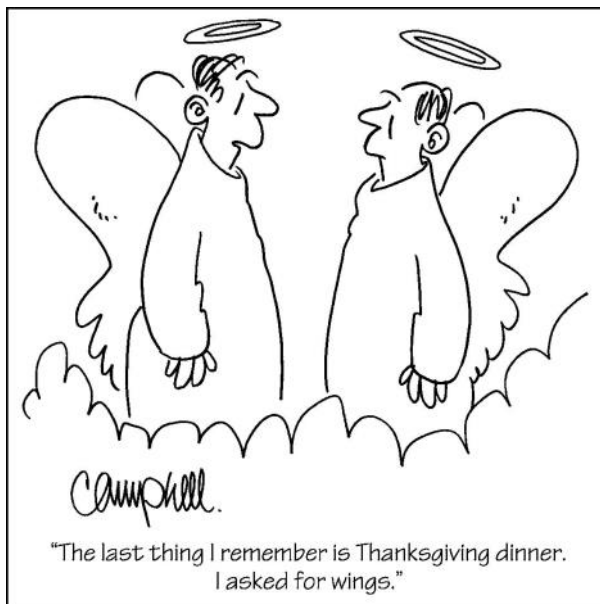
Do you need help with Medicare? The Indiana County Department of Aging APPRISE Program can help. Apprise is a free health insurance counseling program designed to help all Pennsylvanians with Medicare. Counselors are specially trained staff and volunteers who can answer your questions about Medicare and provide you with objective, easy-to-understand information about Medicare. Open enrollment is October 15th thru December 7th. For more information, call 1-800-442-8016 or Aging Services at 724-349-4500.

## 5K Planned

The 4th Annual Pancreatic Cancer Awareness 5K is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m. The race will be held on the Indiana County Hoodlebug Trail at Divine Destiny Church parking lot. Registration fee is \$20 and can be paid on race day. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

## Worship Assistants

- ♦ The Worship Committee is looking for volunteers to be liturgists during morning worship. If you are interested in more information or to volunteer, please contact Elaine Jellison.
- ♦ The deacons are looking for volunteers to usher Sunday mornings during worship. A sign-up sheet is located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to volunteer to usher, please sign the sheet or see a deacon.



## Special Music Events Series

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church is hosting a Special Music Events Series which includes a special music concert. Following is the schedule of performances.

- Saturday, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. a Christmas Concert will be performed by The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, director, Susan Medley and organist, David Billings. The evening will include classic holiday tunes, traditional Christmas carols, and popular favorites.
- Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. FCAHS Choirs Christmas Concert.
- Saturday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. Backpacks for Hunger Mission Concert.
- Saturday, March 4th at 7:30 p.m. Choral Concert, The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale and Orchestra.
- Sunday, April 2nd at 4:00 p.m. the 34th Annual Sponsorship Concert Fox Chapel Festival Chorus and the Academy Chamber Orchestra.
- Friday, May 12th at 7:30 p.m. Pops Concert: Big Band, The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale.

For more information, contact the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church at 412-963-8243 or [www.fcpc.us](http://www.fcpc.us).

*We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, November 20th during worship.  
Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.*

## Moment for Mission

### *Taking a Critical Look at Ministry Can Help Us Avoid Being “Copycats”*

Recently, I was invited to share my thoughts on the “big picture” view of my church. I had the honor of sharing in a panel with a group of Presbyterian pastors from the Middle East. As Christians they were the minority in their national culture. As Presbyterians they were the minority among their Christian brothers and sisters. As such, they had to be intentional about nurturing faith in their youth, cultivating character in their families, and making disciples who could be the salt and light in their communities. And though I have no firsthand experience of the lives they live, I was struck by the beauty and challenges they faced in their journey of faith. As I prepared to answer the same questions they answered, the strangest image popped into my mind. It was the image of a flier. You see, when I was a kid, if you wanted to get a group of people together, you would make a flier. Then you would stick it up on a wall for something like a school pep rally or weekend party in hope of spreading the word and inviting others. But since that was before digital social media, it would always take a little creative work to make the fliers. You would have to get your most artistic friend to draw a picture, then you would add the pertinent details with your best hand lettering, and then you would have to charm your way into the high-school office so you could make the photocopies that you intended to plaster over every wall and pole. After all that, if you needed a few more copies, you would pull down the best-looking flier and head back to the copier to make more. But a strange thing would always happen when you made copies of a copy on those old machines. The images would get more obscure with each replication. The photographs would lose their detail and the drawings would become indecipherable so that eventually the once-stunning flier was no longer stunning and the invitation was hard to make out. As I considered this, I wondered if this was how some of our churches looked today. In contrast to our siblings in the Middle East, we have been part of the dominant culture for so long that maybe the communities we inhabit are having trouble making out our original invitation. And maybe we are having trouble making out the invitation because we have forgotten the need to explain our rich theological history, tradition, and faith and instead have relied on making copies of a copy of a copy to try to invite them. Just as those copied fliers I had once used in my youth lost their detail, so too our “copied” faith loses its power when we don’t go back to the original Author and Creator. This is both a challenge and opportunity for us to rediscover why we meet in our local churches. Why do we do what we do? Why do we proclaim the name of Jesus? Why are we invited to follow him? These are questions that can challenge us because culturally we’ve not had to answer them for quite a while. But at the same time, they are exciting questions to ask because they invite us to find new ways to tell an old story . . . new ways to get back to the original so that we can see the beautiful detail of the Artist . . . and new ways to be intentional in our own journey of faith so that we’re no longer making copies of copies, but purposefully inviting others to come know the One who will give them rest.

*Rev. Ayana Teter, Pittsburgh Presbytery Associate Minister for Outreach, Contact for South and West Branch Congregations, and a Leader of the Unglued Church Project*

