

OCTOBER 2015



UPLIFT Newsletter

There is that part of us that likes to live life by comparison. I may not be perfect, but at least I'm not as bad as she is. I may be overweight, but at least I haven't let myself go like he has. Our home may not be a show place, but at least it doesn't look like the place down the street. Whenever we judge our behavior in comparison to someone else's, we'll always come out on top. The problem is, while we're comparing ourselves to others, someone else is comparing themselves to us—and they're feeling pretty good about the outcome.

As Christians, the standards to which we aspire are not those we observe in others. The standard we seek to meet is that set by God. We can try to meet everyone's expectation of us, but if we do not please God, our lives have missed their purpose. As the catechism teaches, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." That is our aim, but we miss the mark. The word used in the Bible for sin, "hamartia" means literally missing the bullseye. Its root is in archery, its spiritual implication is personal.

A basic tenet of our faith is expressed clearly in Romans 3:23, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Before we can enter the relationship into which God invites us, we must come to terms with who we are, and how we are. There is not one of us who is worthy, on our own merits, to approach the Almighty. There is not one of us who is so good, so righteous that we can come face to face with God. Sure, we may not be as consumed by sin as the next guy, but we are tainted just the same. We like to play this spiritual game that says one sin is far worse than another sin. But no where in the Bible do we find a list of what and who is worse. Sin is sin. Whether you've missed the mark by an inch or by a mile—the fact is that you've missed the mark. If you tell your child to be home by 11:00—are they anymore guilty of disobedience coming home at 11:15 than at 2:00 a.m.? Is the little white lie told for convenience any less a lie than one told to cover a heinous crime? Is flirting with temptation anything less than cheating on God?

God calls us into a relationship, to be his and his alone. And anytime we violate his trust, anytime we allow our hearts to stray from a pure devotion to him, we have fallen short. He knows where we've stepped out on him. He knows where our hearts have wandered. He knows our sin even when we don't recognize our sin—yet somehow he still wants us. Because of our disobedience, God owes us nothing. But because of his amazing love, he longs to welcome us back. Psalm 51:6 says, "You, Lord, desire truth in the inward being." Before we can be restored in the relationship we must be upfront about where we've gone astray. Before the breach is mended, we must be open about our sin. That's why as we gather for worship, we are intentional about confessing our sin. If we pretend it's not there, we take God for a fool. If we can't discern it, then we cannot see God because of the blindness of our hearts.

One of the basic tenets of our faith is the bad news that we are sinners, and we all have fallen short of the glory of God. But the good news is that it's not the end of the story, for God does not leave us alone in the messes we have made. Next month, we see what God does about our miserable state...

In Christ's love,



Worship Assistants

October 4—11:00 am-Communion

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone
Acolyte: Austin Baker
Ushers: Nancy Boone, Kim, Ron,
and Shakira McKinney
Flowers: Kevin & Lori Smith
Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Mitchell Tonkin

October 11—11:00 am

Acolyte: Willow Weimer
Ushers: SS Kids and
Gene & Chery Artman
Flowers: Phyllis Streams
Projector: Jonathan Clayton
Audio: Alex Baker

October 18—11:00 am

Acolyte: Brylea Borbonus
Ushers: Patti & Sean Gilligan, Ellen
Williams & Erica Ash
Flowers: Cindy Borbonus
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

October 25—11:00 am

Acolyte: Chase Stuchal
Flowers: Naomi Sigafos
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Tyler Moran

October Treasurer's Helpers

Deb Lint & Gene Artman

Scripture Texts for October

- 4 Job 1:1, 2:1-10
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
- 11 Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31
- 18 Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45
- 25 Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

November

- 1 Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

Newsletter Deadline

Please have articles to be published in the November issue of the UPLIFT Newsletter to the church office by Sunday, October 18. Thank you.

GA Overture

There was a group of 10 elders and pastors from our Presbytery who composed an overture to General Assembly proposing a return to the traditional definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman (5 of the 10 were from our congregation). At its September 8th meeting, the Presbytery endorsed the proposal and has sent it to the other 170 presbyteries in the hope that at least one other will concur with it. Should another presbytery concur, the overture will be considered by the General Assembly when it meets in Portland, OR in June 2016.

Family Promise Program

We will host families in the Family Promise Program the week of October 18-25. Many hands are needed to complete the tasks that go along with being a host church. We need meals prepared each evening, a male and female host that will spend the night sleeping on an air mattress, set-up and clean-up crews, and more. If you would like to become involved with this ministry, please see Gene Artman or Pastor Monroe.

Update on Training Event

On September 17, we hosted a training to make people aware of child abuse issues. Those who attended were educated in how to recognize signs of abuse or exploitation. Mandated reporters were instructed on the how to go about reporting suspected abuse. About 50 attended the workshop. If you ever have any concerns about a child's safety, you can call Childline at 1-800-932-0313, or submit a report electronically via the Child Welfare Portal at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis.

An Evening with Missionaries

Four from our congregation travelled to Sandy Lake Presbyterian Church in Mercer County to spend an evening with Steve and Brenda Stelle who are serving as missionaries in Ethiopia. They shared stories of the way God is at work in the hearts and lives of the young people they teach there. We support the ministry of Steve and Brenda and they express their gratitude and need for our prayers.

Soup Luncheon

Fall is here and the Soup is on. Christian Fellowship is sponsoring a "Soup, Bread and Dessert Luncheon" Sunday, October 25th following worship. Come join in this time of fellowship around our tables. To be sure we prepare for enough, we ask that you RSVP to the church office my Wednesday, October 21st at 724-459-7991 or complete an insert from your Sunday bulletin. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, contact Nancy Hartmann, Erica Ash or Deb Lint.

Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome. If you are interested in more information about the choir, please contact Cindy Borbonus, director or any choir member.

Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals October 7th at 6:00 p.m. The choir and director would love to have more members become ringers. No experience is necessary, you will be trained. If you are interested and would like more information about our bell choir, please contact Vicky Westley, director or any choir member.

A Little Blairsville History

On Wednesday, October 7th the Historical Society will host Blairsville historian, Jim Burd as their guest speaker at the monthly meeting. Jim's presentation will focus on the Packsaddle Gap. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The public is welcome to come and hear Jim's presentation. (Jim is the brother-in-law of Peg Lockard.)

Meatloaf Dinner Fundraiser

The Blairsville American Legion Post 0407 will host a fundraising dinner Saturday, October 24th from 4:00—7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The dinner will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, drinks and dessert. The Legion is asking for a donation of \$10 per person received at the door. Take outs will be available.

Did You Know?

The ICCAP Food Bank serves over 5,000 individuals monthly and distributes 3/4 million pounds of food annually. The Food Bank's participants:

34% are age 0-17

36% are age 18-59

30% are age 60+

(2015 statistics)

Don't Forget...

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1st.
Mark your calendars and remember to change your clocks!

Fall Fest in Blairsville

On Saturday, October 17th the day will begin with a 5K River Run/Walk at 10:00 a.m. The fee is \$20 and includes a t-shirt for all preregistered participants. Race day registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at WyoTech Park. For more information, check out the BCDA website at Blairsville-pa.net.

Founders Gallery and Gifts first Fall Festival will showcase local artists on October 17th. It will be held on the portion of North Liberty Street which is adjacent to the shop. If you are an arts or crafts person interested in participating, call 724-675-8574.

The Blairsville Cemetery will host the famed "Twilight Tour" beginning at 4:30 p.m. on October 17th. To reserve a time call 724-459-5779. The tour times have limited spaces.

Prescription Drug Take-Back Program

Why use the Prescription Drug Take-Back Program?

-It provides individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances.

-It prevents misuse and abuse of these substances while being environmentally friendly.

-Unused prescription medications can be dangerous. After the expiration date, medicines start to lose their effectiveness.

-Unused medicine is a danger to children. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reported that half of all poisoning exposure in 2011 involved children under age 6.

-Having multiple prescriptions, especially pain killers, may attract crime or family/friends dealing with addiction.

A permanent disposal box is located at the Blairsville Borough Police Dept. at 203 E. Market Street, 724-459-7555. Hours are 24 hours/7 days a week. Please remove labels.

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 October, we will be collecting:

Personal care items

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." Also at any time, the shelter will take donations of any gently used or new household items. Anything that a person might need to set up a house from small appliances to furniture. Pathway stores these items and then when a family has the opportunity to move into housing, they are able to help furnish them with items. If you have any questions, please contact the Deacons.

Family Promise Donations

The Deacons would like your support in collecting items for the Family Promise Program at our church. Items being collected are: bath towels, wash cloths, and trial size soaps & hand creams. All items can be placed in the container at the back of the sanctuary.

2016 Budget

The Finance Committee asks that all committee chairs look at their budget figures for 2016. If you need financial information for your committee, please contact the church office. We ask that you submit your committee budget to the office by Thursday, October 15th so a preliminary budget can be prepared for the Session meeting.



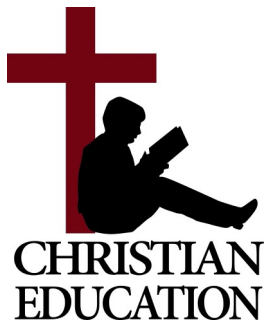
New Leadership

At our September 27th Congregational Meeting, the following were nominated and elected to three year terms: to the office of ruling elder, Class of 2018- Rose Lewis, Bob Cosharek, Doug Clayton, Kim McKinney; to the office of deacon, Class of 2017 – Andrea Clayton; Class of 2018—Erica Ash, Susie Cotti, Patti Gilligan and Jean Heberling. We look forward to the service and leadership they will offer. We thank the Nominating Committee for their work.

8th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Our 8th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be served Sunday, November 22nd immediately following worship. Plan now to join our church family for a great Thanksgiving meal and fellowship. Sign up to bring your favorite dish, to help in the kitchen or help Saturday with preparations. You will find more information in the weekly bulletin. Thanks to everyone who makes this dinner an enjoyable event each year! Please contact a committee member for more information.





*Jesus said,
"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them;
for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14*



**KIDS DAY OUT
Saturday December 12th
from 11 to 3**



October 10th from 4 to 6 PM
Pumpkin decorating, Games, Story, Crafts
and Pizza, fresh veggies and fruit
Still time to register
"Bring a friend"

CHILDREN TO CHILDREN COAT COLLECTION

September 27 through October 25

NEW AND VERY GENTLY USED COATS (Gloves, Hats and Scarves)

**They will be collected on Mondays 9 to noon and Fridays 12 to 3
or on Sundays before Church.**

For monetary donations, mark it "COATS" and they will be purchased.

The children Thank You and those who will benefit from this project.

Questions or concerns please see Deb Lint, Kim McKinney or call the church office.



All our Volunteers have their Child Care clearances and follow the Child Protection Policy set by the Church.

Watch for more Christian Education and Children's Programming information
in the Church Bulletins and the Church's Web Page (r-church.com).

Questions or concerns... Contact Deb Lint or the church office.

