



THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

*"a community of believers, called by God, led by the Holy Spirit
 to know Christ and to make Christ known"*

Rev. Timothy R. Monroe

137 N. Walnut Street - Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

January 31, 2016 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Dennis Gould, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Marilyn Neal, Organist

Lighting of the Candles

Olivia Eckenroad, Acolyte

Introit #78

"God of the Ages, History's Maker"

***God of the ages, history's Maker,
 Planning our pathway, holding us fast,
 Shaping in mercy all that concerns us:
 Father, we praise you, Lord of the past.***

Call to Worship (*Psalm 1*)

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice
 of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread,
 or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**People: but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and on His law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water,
 which yield their fruit in its season

**People: and their leaves do not wither.
 In all that they do, they prosper.**

All: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

*Hymn #443

"Trust and Obey"

*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in
 thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what
 we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole
 heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors
 as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us
 amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may
 delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your
 holy name.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

- *Gloria Patri
- *Sharing of the Peace
- *Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson I Corinthians 13:1-13 (pg. 175 of NT)
Anthem “Psalm 103”

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson Luke 4:21-30 (pg. 61 of NT)

Sermon “Jesus’ Visit to Nazareth Is An Epiphany”

Rev. Ron Libengood

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

- ### *Affirmation of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving His life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating His sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

- *Hymn #483 *“Take Time to Be Holy”*

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer ("...debts...and debtors")

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

- *Doxology

- *Prayer of Dedication

- *Hymn #504 *“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”*

- *Benediction

- *Choral Response

- ## *Postlude

(*All who are able, please stand.)

PLEASE JOIN us in the ritual of friendship by signing the attendance pads that are at one end of each of the pews. If you are here for the first time, we would appreciate it if you would give us your local telephone number. Please help yourself to a church brochure, a *Welcome Packet* or a copy of our newsletter, *Uplift*. These are available at the back of the church. We thank you for joining your voice to ours in sacred worship.

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Dennis Gould; Acolyte, Olivia Eckenroad; Ushers, Elaine Jellison, Naomi Sigafoes, Connie & Chick Stewart; Projector, Jonathan Clayton; Sound, Alex Baker; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING OFFERING will be received next Sunday, February 7th during worship. All gifts will be sent to ICCAP in support of the Food Bank.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH following worship, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be provided. The work of the church during 2015 will be reviewed. The 2016 Nominating Committee will be elected. We hope you will plan to stay.

THE GRANNIES are always very busy working on projects for others. They fund their endeavors by making available some of their projects to purchase. The most recent project is a quilt, on display at the back of the sanctuary. They are taking bids through the end of January for the quilt as a silent auction. If you are interested, please take time to place your offer in the container today. The proceeds will benefit future projects of the group.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday, February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

THE PRAYER CHAIN is coordinated by the Adult Sunday School Class. If you have a prayer request or know of someone's need for prayer, please contact Shirley McLaughlin.

OUR BELL CHOIR will rehearse Wednesday, February 3rd. We would love to have new members join us. No experience necessary, we'll train you. If you have questions or are interested in ringing, please see Vicky Westley, director or a bell choir member.

THE CHOIR will rehearse Wednesday, February 3rd. New voices are always appreciated. For more information, please see Cindy Borbonus or come to rehearsals Wednesdays. You're always welcome.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, year-end reports for the Annual Ecclesiastical/Corporate Meeting should be to the church office today. The meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, February 7th immediately following worship.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet in the parlor at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 4th.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday, February 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m.

THE INDIANA COUNTY JAIL is asking for gently used clothing – pants, shirts, shoes, jackets, sweatshirts, etc. for both their male and female inmates to wear upon their release from the jail. You may call Ashley at 724-471-7500 x240 for more information and to arrange pick-up or drop-off of items.

FAMILY PROMISE is sponsoring a Valentine Dinner at Grace United Methodist Church in Indiana on Sunday, February 14th. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:00 p.m. with the *7 Mile Run* concert to follow at 6:30 p.m. Ticket cost for your meal and the concert is \$25 per person. Dinner includes choice of stuffed chicken, stuffed pork chop or ham, salad, red potatoes, dessert, beverage. Tickets can be obtained by calling the Family Promise Office at 724-464-5220. Join us for a relaxing evening with fantastic food and great music from local musicians.

WE WILL GATHER FOR WORSHIP at 7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. There will be the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them and the Lord's Supper will be celebrated. This service of worship will be your first step into the Lenten season.

COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHESES will begin Ash Wednesday, February 10th. A service will be held at 12:00 noon followed by a light lunch. The worship schedule is as follows:

Feb 10.....	Rev. Cory Braatz.....	Free Methodist Church
Feb 17.....	Rev. Harold Hicks.....	C&MA Church
Feb 24.....	Rev. Scott Shaffer	United Presbyterian Church
Mar 2.....	Rev. Brett Dinger	Hebron Lutheran Church
Mar 9.....	Rev. Timothy Monroe.....	First United Methodist Church
Mar 16.....	Father Steve Bugay	Hopewell Methodist Church
Mar 23.....	Rev. Rusty McClurg	SS Simon & Jude Church
Mar 25.....	Rev. Jim Kendall.....	Connect Church
		Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Rev. Ron Libengood
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Food Bank
	6:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Scout Sunday
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch & Congregational Meeting

Jesus' Visit to Nazareth Is an Epiphany

1. Following Jesus' baptism and temptation He began to teach and preach and His reputation began to spread. He returned to His hometown, went to the synagogue, read the scripture and said, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The people were amazed.
2. Jesus knew their thoughts. They wanted Him to do miracles there. Jesus said, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown." And He used examples of Elijah and Elisha.
3. Jesus' loyalty was to God, to follow God's lead that God's Word and grace might be extended to all people.
4. His statements seem to be presumptuous if not blasphemous to the people and they chased Him hoping to hurl Him off a cliff.
5. Jesus passed through the midst of them and went on His way.
6. Jesus held to His convictions, guided by and expressed the will of God for all people. He could not allow anything to dissuade Him or coax Him to veer from His mission.
7. The stage is set for Jesus' crucifixion as Jesus' ministry is misunderstood, experienced as threatening to the status quo and seen to be arrogant or blasphemous.
8. Jesus manifests Himself to be the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem the world, knowing that to follow this mission will cost Him everything, even His life. He realized that His allegiance to God would demand His all. Yet Jesus stayed true to God!
9. Would anything less than our Lord's resolute conviction to follow God's will, suffice?
10. Knowing that Jesus did follow God's will for His life, even to the cross for our redemption, can our response be anything less than to follow Him in faith and trust?
11. Pray that God's Spirit gives us the courage to live our lives as witnesses to the redeeming grace that Jesus reveals to us.