



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

December 11, 2016 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Jean Heberling, 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

Eli Borbonus, Acolyte

Introit # 385

"Search Me, O God"

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;

Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.

See if there be some wicked way in me;

Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

Call to Worship (*Luke 1*)

Leader: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**People: For he has looked with favor
on the lowliness of his servant.**

Leader: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**People: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

Leader: He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**People: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry
with good things.**

Leader: He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

**People: According to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

*Hymn # 359

"Give Thanks"

*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We praise
the high and mighty and look down upon the lowly. We have great
faith in human efforts and little patience for your way. Forgive us;
deliver us; strengthen our hearts by your Spirit, so that we may be
ready to greet the Savior you send, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Gould Family

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.

A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow

As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson James 5:7-10 (pg. 231 of NT)

Anthem "An Invitation for Advent"

Chancel Choir, Director, Cindy Borbonus

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10 (pg. 663 of OT)

Sermon Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith (A Brief Statement 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 # 153 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 534 "When the King Shall Come Again"

*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, Jean Heberling; Acolyte, Eli Borbonus; Advent Readers, the Gould family; Ushers, Elaine Jellison, Jamie McKinney, and Brent & Tammy Ritchie; Projector, Shakira McKinney; Audio, Jaison McKinney; Organist, Marilyn Neal and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Chick and Connie Stewart.

OFFICER TRAINING will be held today immediately following worship. We will eat lunch together followed by a time of conversation.

GRANNIES will meet Monday, December 12th from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in more information, please see Vicky Westley, director.

CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. Christmas cantata rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in the special music is invited to attend rehearsals. For more information, contact Cindy Borbonus.

OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA entitled, "Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah" will be presented next Sunday, December 18th during the worship hour. All are invited to come and share in the sounds of the season!

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 Nancy Campbell or the church office. Requests are kept in confidence.

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

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m. in the parlor.

THE DEACONS will check blood pressures following worship next Sunday. Please see Susie Cotti if you would like to have your numbers checked.

“HOPE-FULL LIVING” is the title of this year's Advent devotional booklet. Please help yourself to a copy located at the back of the sanctuary.

THE 2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. They have been placed in alphabetical order for your convenience. If we missed you or you would like to have envelopes, please contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

THE 2017 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to order flowers for Sunday worship, please use the chart to sign-up for your choice of date. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons.

THE MONDAY MUSIC CLUB is welcoming all singers to rehearsals for the Community Christmas Concert to be held Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. All practices and the concert will be held at the C&MA Church in Blairsville. The schedule follows.

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA will be held Friday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 18th at 3:00 p.m. at Saving Grace Church in Indiana. Homeschoolers for Christ Coop will present “The Night Shift before Christmas.” A love offering will be accepted at the door. Hope to see you there.

TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL'S Volunteer Services needs our help! They need volunteers to give time to help patients with cookie decorating and to organize patient gifts. If you can give an hour or more any weekday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to help, please call Lenore at 724-459-4464. Let's help make this a Merry Christmas for patients at Torrance State Hospital.

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Officer Training
Monday	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:45 p.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Cantata Rehearsal
	3:00-9:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
	12:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure checks
	2:00-6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved