



FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent

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

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Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 18, 2016 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Barb Brown, 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

Brylea Borbonus, Acolyte

Introit # 178

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Call to Worship (*Psalm 80*)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
that we may be saved.**

Leader: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**People: Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

**All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

*Hymn # 158

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We choose what is evil and refuse what is good. We scorn our neighbors and laugh at others' troubles. Forgive us; deliver us; let your face shine on us, so that we may be ready to meet our Emmanuel, 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 Tonkin Family

A candle is burning, a candle of love,

A candle to point us to heaven above,

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,

For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

*Sharing of the Peace

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

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah"

By Mary McDonald and Rose Aspinall

"Christmas Gloria!"

"The Gathering"

"God with Us to Dwell"

Soloist – Janet Smith

"Heavenly Peace"

Soloist – Ken Doak

"He Is Born"

"Born a Mighty King"

"There Is Room"

"Jesus! High and Holy One!"

*Benediction

*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, Barb Brown; Acolyte, Brylea Borbonus; Advent Readers, the Tonkin family; Ushers, Susie Cotti, Emily Harkleroad, and Ron & Janelle Hood; Projector, Kayla Moran; Audio, Jaison McKinney; Organist, Marilyn Neal and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory and honor of loved ones by many in the congregation. Please see the bulletin insert. A special thank you to Naomi Sigafoes and the deacons for their work in arranging to have the flowers for the Christmas celebration!

EARLY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will begin at 7:00 p.m. The service will include candlelight and the sacrament of communion. A traditional candlelight and communion service will be held at 11:00 p.m. All are welcome to worship with us.

WE WILL CELEBRATE the sacrament of Holy Communion Saturday during each worship service. Please take time this week to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP will be held at 11:00 a.m. and be a time of *Lessons and Carols*. Plan to be here as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...there will not be Sunday School classes Sunday, December 25th or Sunday, January 1st. Classes will resume January 8th at 9:45 a.m.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in more information, please see Vicky Westley, director.

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 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group gathers for fellowship and to work on personal projects. Anyone interested is welcome to join the group.

CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. For more information about the choir, contact Cindy Borbonus.

THE DEACONS will check blood pressures following worship today. If you would like to have your numbers checked, please see Susie Cotti.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. New elders are reminded that they are invited to attend this meeting. Session packets are available to pick up in the parlor.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING around town will be held Thursday, December 22nd. Beginning at the church at 6:00 p.m., we'll walk around town spreading Christmas cheer then return to the church Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate and possibly some sweet treats! Everyone is invited. For more information, please see Jen Borbonus.

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 or drop a note in the offering plate.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of your giving will be mailed to each household mid to late January. If you would like your statement earlier, contact the church office.

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. Arrangements are placed in the sanctuary during the Sunday worship service and a dedication is printed in the bulletin. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and treasurers are reminded that reports are requested for the annual Congregational Meeting. Please have your report to the church office by Sunday, January 22nd. If you have any questions or need information from the office, contact Jill during office hours at 724-459-7991 or email at upchurch@r-church.com.

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today	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
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Caroling
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Communion Candlelight Worship
	11:00 p.m.	Communion Candlelight Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship <i>Merry Christmas!</i>



CHRISTMAS CANTATA PARTICIPANTS

CHOIR MEMBERS

Sopranos

Peg Lockard
Shakira McKinney
Jamie McKinney
Bobbi Monroe
Janet Smith
Lori Smith
Janeen Swope
Joanne Torrance
Vicky Westley

Bass

Jim Neal

Altos

Mary Anzelone
Bonni Dunlap
Beverly Lindsey
Judy Trimble

Tenors

Ken Doak
Tim Monroe

Baritones

Dave Hiltabidle
Paul Soltesz

DIRECTOR

Cindy Borbonus

ACCOMPANIST

Marilyn Neal

NARRATORS

Sheila Borbonus and Dennis Gould

AUDIO

Jaison McKinney