

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

September 11, 2016 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Bonni Dunlap, 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

Austin Baker, Acolyte

Introit # 78 vs. 4 *"God of the Ages, History's Maker"*

Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning,

Lord of the future, help us, we pray:

Teach us to trust you, love and obey you,

Crown you each moment, Lord of today.

Call to Worship (*Psalm 14*)

Leader: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.

**People: The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.**

Leader: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse.
There they shall be in great terror.

People: For God is with the company of the righteous.

Leader: You would confound the plans of the poor,
but the Lord is their refuge.

**People: When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.**

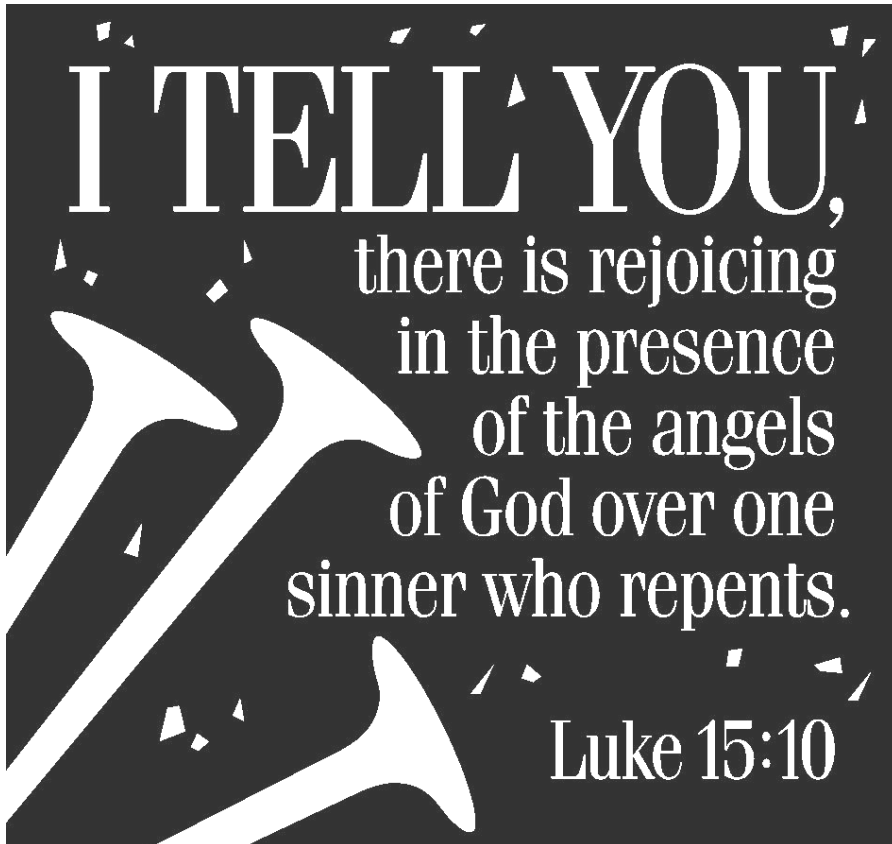
*Hymn # 82 *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

*Prayer of Confession

**Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin.
You search for us, like lost sheep, but we pretend not to hear your
voice. You treasure us, like lost coins, but we spend our lives in
foolish ways. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to repent and
return to you, so that we may join the joyful feast of redemption
and restoration; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri



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

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

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson	I Timothy 1:12-17 (pg. 208 of NT)
Anthem	<i>“In Memorium”</i>
In memory of those who died on September 11, 2001	
Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director	
Gospel Lesson	Luke 15:1-10 (pg. 78 of NT)
Sermon	Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Apostles' Creed)

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication**

*Hymn # 440 *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(Please hold the bread until all have received, we will partake together)

(Please hold the cup until all have received, we will partake together)

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn # 422 “Amazing Grace”

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

(*All who are able, please stand.)

This morning we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is invited to receive and share the sacrament.

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, Bonni Dunlap; Acolyte, Austin Baker; Ushers, Charlotte & Bob Cosharek, Linda George and Elaine Jellison; Projector, Jonathan Clayton; Audio, Alex Baker; 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 Joanne Torrance.

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

BOY SCOUTS will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 12th in Fellowship Hall.

A PRESBYTERY MEETING is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church. Bob Cosharek will attend as our commissioner with Pastor Monroe.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE will meet Wednesday, September 14th
at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m. The choir will return to worship today. Anyone interested in joining the choir is invited to attend rehearsals. For more information, see Cindy Borbonus or a choir member.

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 or the church office. Requests are kept in confidence.

WE HAVE become aware of the need to update our member military Honor Roll located at the back of the sanctuary. If you served in the military, please check the Honor Roll to see if you have been included. If we missed you, please contact the church office at 724-459-7991 or upchurch@r-church.com.

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

OUR RWANDA PARTNERSHIP is turning 10 years old. An anniversary celebration will be held Saturday, September 17th at Calvary Presbyterian Church. Meet and greet will begin at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will follow at 5:00 p.m. Then Mrs. Kay Day, missionary to Rwanda and our returning mission team will speak. Dinner is \$12 per person and includes soup, salad, lasagna, vegetable, beverage and dessert. RSVP's can be made to Calvary Church, 695 School St., Indiana, PA 15701 along with meal payment.

THE DECISION AMERICA TOUR will reach the Pennsylvania State Capital Building in Harrisburg Thursday, September 15th. A prayer rally will be held at 12:00 noon led by Franklin Graham. The goal of this tour is to reach all 50 states and pray for the nation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. The 29th Annual Care & Share Day Food Drive will be taking place in September. Look for a paper bag in the September 19th edition of the Indiana Gazette. Place your food donations in this bag, or any bag will do, and drop it off at the church Saturday, September 24th between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The donations support the ICCAP Food Bank.

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School Kick-Off Breakfast
	11:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
Monday	9:00-12:00 p.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Presbytery Meeting at St. Benedict Church
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	3:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Friday	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary reserved
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Sanctuary reserved
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School classes begin
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

MISSION MOMENT- *A Ruling Elder Reflects on the Power of Prayer*

A common religious conceit is that people turn to prayer only in times of difficulty and despair. In my time as a hospice chaplain, I have found that idea to be untrue. Often pain and grief seem to stifle one's ability to connect with God in prayer. Prayer can seem both insufficient and overwhelming when trauma has pierced the soul. I am often called in to assist people in these times of spiritual disconnect. As a new chaplain, I was daunted by the request to pray at a hospice bedside. I was afraid that my feeble attempts at prayer would not rise to the occasion and properly honor the life-changing circumstances. While I grew up in a nondenominational tradition that valued spontaneous and fervent prayer, my PC(USA) seminary experiences privileged a more scripted and measured approach to prayer. Most of the prayers I saw delivered in chapel services and convocations were beautifully prepared; carefully written out prior to the occasion. My prayers at the bedside did not sound like the well-crafted ones of my professors and colleagues. I couldn't recall the structure and poetic movements of the prayers and liturgies I learned in my courses. I only knew how to request God's wisdom and grace in these heartbreaking situations. As I continued in my chaplain role, I began to understand that my prayers did not need to be beautiful. In fact, I realized that it was dangerous and hypocritical to think in those terms.

Those prayers were not about me at all. Our prayers are about God and God's work in the world; work that often happens through our connection with one another. But it was not until I had my own health crisis that I understood the true power of these bedside, unscripted prayers. As I lay in my own hospital bed, I couldn't gather my own thoughts enough to pray for myself. My own fears and anxieties rendered me unable to articulate my prayers to God. My soul thirsted for God, but I had lost trust in my own ability to cry out. And then a member of my congregation came to visit. Armed with anointing oil, she held her steady hand on my head, anointed my head, and then prayed for me. I don't remember the words she prayed, but I remember that her words opened up sacred space for me. Her prayer helped give me the language to reconnect to God in an intimate way. The silent prayers of those in my faith community were essential to my physical recovery, yet it was her spoken prayer, while holding my hand, that sparked a spiritual recovery. We ruling elders take ordination vows that commit us to prayer for one another. The relatively recent change in the ordination vows explicitly asks, "Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?" This is a call to prayer and also an invitation to move from a sincere but vague "You are in our prayers" to a more active posture of "Would you like for me to pray with you right now?" This can cause a powerful denominational culture shift. We can move our collective prayers from worship services and church meetings into our intimate spaces. Our homes, hospital rooms, and telephone lines become holy spaces when we come together and pray. As we pray with another, remember that our prayer is not performance, but it is connection. It is a humbling but ultimately freeing opportunity to connect with God and one another with our hearts and deeds.