



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

September 18, 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

Introit # 9 *"Come, Let Us Praise the Lord"*

*Come, let us praise the Lord, with joy our God acclaim,
His greatness tell abroad and bless his saving name.*

Lift high your songs, before his throne

To whom alone all praise belongs.

Call to Worship (*Psalm 79*)

Leader: O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple.

**People: We have become a taunt to our neighbors,
mocked and derided by those around us.**

Leader: Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;

**People: Deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake.**

Leader: Then we, your people, the flock of your pasture
will give thanks to you forever.

**People: From generation to generation
we will recount your praise.**

*Hymn # 111 *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*

*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.**

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.

ON BEHALF of your Bell Choir, I want to thank the congregation for supporting our bell choir program. We work hard to learn the art of ringing, but have so much fun at our rehearsals, too. Beginning in October, we will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor classroom located on the right at the end of the hall. Currently, we have at least one position open in our 3-octave choir and would like to fill it ASAP. If you are not already one of our ringers, prayerfully consider helping to fill in our sound. I ask anyone interested in ringing with us to contact me. I have heard that there is some interest in forming a children or youth bell choir? Why should the adults have all the fun, right? I ask parents with interested children or youth to also contact me. Thank you for the opportunity to instruct, lead and direct this bell choir. It is a true blessing!

Vicky Westley, Director

CHRISTMAS CANTATA rehearsals will begin Wednesday, October 5th at 7:45 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in the special music is invited to attend rehearsals. The cantata will be presented Sunday, December 18th. For more information, contact Cindy Borbonus.

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH has scheduled a Special Music Events Series. On Sunday, September 25th at 4:00 p.m. an "Organ Plus" concert will be held. David Billings, organ, Lucy Scandrett, harp, and Jack Scandrett, horn will perform a mainly French program featuring works of Franck, Grandjany and Hakim plus the premiere of "Christmas Carol Trilogy" for harp and organ. Admission is free and a reception will follow. Tickets are available at the door, www.PCCsing.org and 412-635-7654. More musical opportunities will be available in October and December.

MISSION MOMENT - *Church Wraps Up Hurricane Sandy Relief*

In the nearly four years since Hurricane Sandy struck the U.S., volunteer work teams from across the country have traveled to the hard-hit regions, particularly NJ and NY, to help people recover and return to their homes. But after months of hosting recovery teams, one church believes the time has come to close the doors on its Sandy relief efforts. Morning Star Presbyterian Church of Bayville, NJ, quickly joined other churches and organizations to help restore life to communities that were heavily damaged by the 2012 storm. "Right after the storm, PDA came to us and began talking about the potential of hosting a volunteer village here," said Rev. Dr. Myrlene Hamilton Hess, pastor. With grant assistance, the church hosted more than 1,500 volunteers who worked 82,000 hours over 609 days, according to Hamilton Hess. "There were a lot of grassroots organizations that were at work doing a variety of things from mucking out to rebuilding in the first year," she said. "During the second year, the teams did more substantial construction work, along with a lot of demo work. By the third and fourth years, we were doing a lot of basic construction—tons of sheetrock, floors, rebuilding the interior of homes as well as roof and exterior work." Hamilton Hess says the church was built as a multipurpose facility in 2007. Since it didn't have a traditional sanctuary, the visitors could eat there, sleep downstairs, and mingle with church members. The church has always had a sense of mission about it, hosting a food pantry as well as AA meetings. But when the Sandy work began, she says, the congregation developed a sense of community it had not seen before. "The teams have always said we've given them a great thing by opening doors, but what our team always saw was the sacrifice of those who came," she said. Hamilton Hess said it also had an impact on the work teams. "They kept saying what a warm welcome they got here and how they felt at home. I think we gave them that sense of home, a sense of being safe," she said. While recovery and rebuilding work continues, the demand for work teams and projects in Morning Star's region has changed. It is harder to find projects to assign teams to, and the congregation felt it could no longer maintain the village without being able to deliver on work projects. In addition, Hamilton Hess is retiring and the church is preparing to seek new leadership. The village officially closed at the end of July. "More than anything we have ever done in our church's life, we felt so clearly that this was a call from God to do this work," Hamilton Hess said. "Now we feel God is saying it is time to close it. But I'm sad about it. It's been incredible for me, and I've personally loved being involved with this."

REGULAR WORSHIP CALENDAR

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| Today | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School Classes |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| Monday | 6:30 p.m. | Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. | Session Meeting |
| Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday | 9:00-3:00 p.m. | WIC |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary reserved |
| Saturday | 1:30 p.m. | Sanctuary reserved |
| Sunday | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School Classes |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Congregational Meeting |