



The United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Blairsville, PA

# UPLIFT Newsletter

JUNE/JULY 2018

In the closing verse of the Book of Judges, we read, “all the people did what was right in their own eyes.” What a sad state of affairs that must have been. Imagine driving a car on streets that had no speed limits or stop signs. Imagine doing your banking where one bank says  $2 + 2 = 4$  and another says no,  $2 + 2 = 5$ . Imagine making sense of a world in which what is right is defined by what feels good at the moment and what does the most for me. Maybe it doesn't take that much imagination to live in such a world.

Accountability is a word often forgotten in the social and political realm. But it is central to the Christian life. Paul writes, “So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12) Ultimately, we have to answer to the One who created us, because we are his. Just as there is that vertical dimension between creator and creature, so too there is a horizontal dimension between us as brothers and sisters in Christ. Because we share faith in Christ, we are connected to one another, “called to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.” Because as the church we are the body of Christ, we are accountable in the life and work we share. “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up.” (I Thessalonians 5:11)

John Wesley one of the founders of the Methodist Church gives us a gift through a series of questions every Christian should be considering about their discipleship. They get to the crux of what it means to be faithful to God, to our oneness in Christ, and to our personal spiritual integrity. How do you answer these questions in truth? Where do you experience Christ's grace? What is it within you that needs to change?

- ◆ Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
- ◆ Am I honest in all my acts and words or do I exaggerate?
- ◆ Do I confidentially pass on to others what has been said to me in confidence?
- ◆ Can I be trusted?
- ◆ Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
- ◆ Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
- ◆ Did the Bible live in me today?
- ◆ Do I give the Bible time to speak to me every day?
- ◆ Am I enjoying prayer?
- ◆ When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?
- ◆ Do I pray about the money I spend?
- ◆ Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
- ◆ Do I disobey God in anything?
- ◆ Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
- ◆ Am I defeated in any part of my life?
- ◆ Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
- ◆ How do I spend my spare time?
- ◆ Am I proud?
- ◆ Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
- ◆ Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
- ◆ Do I grumble or complain constantly?
- ◆ Is Christ real to me?

In Christ's Love, *Pastor Jim*



## Scripture Texts for Worship

The scripture texts for June and July are given for your study in preparation for Worship.

### Sunday, June 3

Mark 2:23-3:6  
II Corinthians 4:5-12

### Sunday, June 10

II Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
I Samuel 8:4-20

### Sunday, June 17

II Corinthians 5:6-17  
I Samuel 15:34-16:13

### Sunday, June 24

Mark 4:35-41  
I Samuel 17:32-49

### Sunday, July 1

II Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43

### Sunday, July 8

II Corinthians 12:2-10  
II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

### Sunday, July 15

Ephesians 1:3-14  
II Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19

### Sunday, July 22

Ephesians 2:11-22  
II Samuel 7:1-14

### Sunday, July 29

Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

### Sunday, August 5

Ephesians 4:1-16  
II Samuel 11:26-12:13

## August Newsletter

Articles to be published in the August edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Sunday, July 15th. Please have all information to the church office by this date. If you have questions or concerns, contact the church office at 724-459-7991 or email [upchurch@r-church.com](mailto:upchurch@r-church.com).

## Worship Assistants

### June 3

Flowers: Joe & Elaine Jellison  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

### June 10

Flowers: Naomi Sigafos  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

### June 17—Father's Day

Flowers: Kay Barnhart  
Projector: Shakira McKinney  
Audio: Jaison McKinney

### June 24

Flowers: Mary Anzelone  
Projector: Alex Kirkland  
Audio: Andrew Baker

### June-July Offering Counters

Bob & Charlotte Cosharek

### July 1

Flowers: The Reeves Family  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

### July 8

Flowers: Pat & Janeen Swope  
Projector: Blake Tonkin  
Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

### July 15

Flowers: Joy Fairbanks  
Projector: Shakira McKinney  
Audio: Jaison McKinney

### July 22

Flowers: Ed & Becky Bence  
Projector: Alex Kirkland  
Audio: Andrew Baker

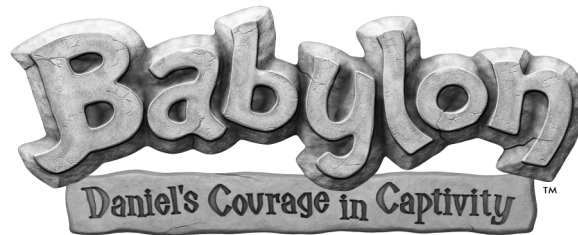
### July 29

Flowers: Sue Harvey & family  
Projector: Kayla Moran  
Audio: Tyler Moran

## Our Summer Schedule Begins

### Sunday, June 3.....Worship—10:00 AM

Sunday school classes and Chancel Choir will be in recess for the summer and will resume again in the Fall. Our Summer church schedule runs from the first Sunday after Memorial Day in June until the Sunday after Labor Day in September.



## Vacation Bible School

"Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity" VBS will be held the week of June 11-15. Each evening will begin with registration and an optional light meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by the opening at 6:00 p.m. Kids will enjoy Bible stories, cool crafts, fun games and lots more! The evening will end at 8:15 p.m. Kids ages 3 years (potty trained) through 5th grade this year are invited to attend. Please use the registration form insert to register your children, grandchildren or friends. If you have questions, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 or email [upchurch@r-church.com](mailto:upchurch@r-church.com).



## Food Bank Update

Starting in June, the food bank is moving to the **second Tuesday** of each month. Food items will continue to be distributed between the hours of 12:00 and 1:00. Proof of residence is needed when signing-up for the first time. The food bank is sponsored by ICCAP.

## WyoTech...One More Time

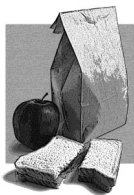
After May, we looked at the calendar and thought, "we can fit one more luncheon in before they close the doors at WyoTech." Our final luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5th at 11:00 a.m. This will be the last of many meals provided for the students at WyoTech. A BIG thanks to all who have helped with this ministry through the years!

## Blanket Offering Update

The Blanket Offering was received Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> during worship. Gifts were sent to Church World Service to supply blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10, but can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. We received a total of \$924.00 this year. Thank you to all who supported the offering.

## Lunches for Kids

The Summer Feeding Program provides lunches for those 18 years and younger. Lunch will be served at the Blairsville Community Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. We will be looking for volunteers to help serve the meals. Lunches will be served at the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office 724-459-7991.



## Thanks

We give a special "thank you" to the Grannies for making a new set of "story time robes" for the Vacation Bible School. When the students gather to hear the daily Bible story, they wear the brightly colored robes as they are transported to the past in their imaginations.

## Volunteers Needed

Since it has begun in Indiana County, we have been a part of the Family Promise Program, offering homeless families a safe place to stay for four weeks of the year. We make sure they are transported to and from the Day Center in Indiana, they have a well balanced meal each evening and they have comfortable accommodations to get a restful sleep. We are only able to provide these resources because of the volunteers from our congregation. While folks are quick to step forward for transportation and meals, we have had difficulty finding people who are willing to spend the night. Ideally we have two volunteers stay being available to address any emergency that may arise. To date we've never had a problem that needs to be addressed, but we err on the side of caution. While we plan to host two more times this year, (August 12-19 and October 21-28), we are hesitant to commit to hosting families during 2019 unless we have enough people willing to stay overnight. It involves arriving at the church by 7:00 p.m. and then leaving after our guests leave at 8:00 a.m. We only ask that you commit to one night through the week. Please consider taking your turn after all, how often are you encouraged to sleep in church. Let Janet Smith or the church office, 724-459-7991 know of your willingness to help.

## Thank You

*I would like to thank the ringers in our handbell choir for another wonderful year of music and fun. You are very special to me and I appreciate the opportunity to teach and lead you. Thank you for sharing your musical talents with the congregation each time we assist with worship. We pray that our music inspired the congregation and that our lives will be "Joyous Jubilee!"*

*Vicky Westley, Director*

Bell Choir Members this year: Cindy Borbonus, Connie Bruner, Elizabeth Bruner, Bob Cosharek, Bonni Dunlap, Kristi Eckenroad, Beverly Lindsey, Bobbi & Tim Monroe, Bill Westley & Amy Yackuboskey.

## General Assembly 2018

June 16-23, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will convene in St. Louis. This is the 223rd General Assembly. Five hundred thirty eight voting commissioners (an equal number of elders and ministers) and 200 advisory delegates (young adult, missionaries, and seminary students) will gather to consider issues facing the larger church. These representatives come from all over the United States and Puerto Rico. The mix of theological and social issues will be discussed through 13 committees. Each committee makes its report to the entire assembly. Before each vote, the advisory delegates are polled as to their stance on each issue. The Assembly commissioners (elders and ministers) then vote on the issues. If they vote “no,” the issue goes no further. They can also vote to send the issue back to the committee for further study. If the Assembly votes “yes,” the proposed goes to the various presbyteries seeking their ratification or rejection. Just because a General Assembly votes to endorse a certain action does not mean that it will become policy of the denomination. You can find a schedule of the week’s activities by going to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). All plenary sessions are streamed live.

## General Assembly Participation

Each presbytery elects the commissioners they send to the General Assembly. This guarantees a variety of perspectives. The size of a presbytery dictates how many representatives they can send. Because our presbytery has less than 8,000 members, we can send only two commissioners, one elder and one minister. This year, the Rev. Stephanie Weaver of the Sligo Church and Elder David Murphy will be attending and voting. Those who serve as commissioners are not required to vote as they think their presbytery would vote, rather they are to vote their conscience. Their vote should be the result of prayer, scripture study and discussion with brothers and sisters in Christ.

## A Bit of History from Past Assemblies

Pastor Monroe was a Young Adult Delegate in 1975 when the Assembly met in Cincinnati. He also attended as a voting commissioner when the Assembly met in Syracuse, NY. His wife’s family has three generations of commissioners. Bobbi’s grandfather, the Rev. Homer Becker was a commissioner when it met in Denver, CO in the 1960’s. Her father was an elder commissioner in 1975 when it met in Cincinnati. It turns out he was seated two people away from his future son-in-law (Pastor Tim) and they were so busy they never spoke. Bobbi was an elder commissioner when the Assembly met in San Jose, CA. And this year, Bobbi’s mother will be an elder commissioner from Tampa Bay Presbytery as they gather in St. Louis. Please pray for the 538 elected commissioner, that their discussion would be a true reflection of God’s will for His church.



## Save Your Coupons

Coupons for veterans are being collected. Please save manufacturer’s coupons only. The program allows up to one month expired. Please cut coupons and separate into food and non-food bundles. There is a box at the back of the sanctuary to place the coupons in marked Coupons for Veterans. If you have any questions, please see Erica Ash or Ellen Williams.

## Statistical Report

The 2017 Annual Statistical Report for Kiskiminetas Presbytery reflects that we currently have 6,636 active members (which includes 4 Asian, 9 African-American, 9 Hispanic and 13 others). Total Church School enrollment is 1,595. There were 53 baptisms of children and 9 baptisms of adults. Total 2017 receipts for our 79 congregations was \$8,386,974.



## Rwanda Churches

As you have read earlier, in March of this year, the Rwandan government began closing churches across the country. Some of the closings were out of safety concern because of the structural conditions of buildings. Some of the closings were of a political nature because the government was concerned that large gatherings of people opens the door to political dissent. Gitarama Presbytery, with whom we have a partnership, has 93 worship areas (39 parishes and 54 chapels). Ten of the parishes and 26 of the chapels have completely closed, while 29 parishes and 28 chapels have been required to undertake some renovations. Between now and the end of 2019, our presbytery hopes to raise \$50,000 to assist our partner churches to bring their facilities up to code.

## Chevy Chase Community Center Soup Kitchen in Blairsville

The 2nd Baptist Church, 241 E. Campbell Street in Blairsville has been host to the Chevy Chase Community Center Soup Kitchen. Meals are served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Dates for 2018 are listed:

June 12 & 26  
July 10 & 24  
August 14 & 21  
September 11 & 18  
October 9 & 23  
November 20  
December 18

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chevy Chase Community Center, 724-463-0674 or the 2nd Baptist Church, 724-459-9503.

## Meatloaf Dinner

The Historical Society of the Blairsville Area will sponsor a Meatloaf Dinner Fundraiser Wednesday, June 27, 2018 in Fellowship Hall. Two seatings are available, 4:00-5:30 p.m. and 5:00-6:30 p.m. Meals will be served to those with tickets only, please no walk-ins. Ticket costs are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 10 years of age. Tickets will be available for take-out between 4:00-6:00 p.m. Tickets available at the HSBA office.

### MENU

Meatloaf & Gravy  
Mashed Potatoes  
Salad  
Green Beans  
Bread & Butter  
Desserts & Beverages

## Our Stained Glass Windows

In recent weeks you've seen a lot of activity going on with the church's stained glass windows. Because of a special memorial gift, we have been able to contract the services of Williams Stained Glass Company of Pittsburgh. Each window has been examined for any damage, fixed and cleaned. The frames have all been repaired and painted. New plexiglass coverings are being installed and the windows have been sealed. With the restoration and cleaning, the beauty of the windows has been enhanced. With the sealing, we have improved the insulation of the sanctuary. We are grateful for the foresight and generosity that makes this project possible.

## A Bend in the Road

Sometimes we come to life's crossroads  
And we view what we think is the end.  
But God has a much wider vision  
And He knows that it's only a bend—  
The road will go on and get smoother  
And after we've stopped for a rest,  
The path that lies hidden beyond us  
Is often the path that is best,  
So rest and relax and grow stronger,  
Let go and let God share your load  
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow.  
You've just come to a bend in the road.

## Church Camp

The four presbyteries of NW PA (Lake Erie, Beaver-Butler, Shenango and Kiskiminetas) have owned and operated two church camps for decades. Camp Lambec is on the shore of Lake Erie. Westminster Highlands is outside Emlenton. Because of increasing expenses in maintaining our camps and a decrease in attendance (many young people do not want to spend a week in a rustic setting), the Camp Board has made the decision to close Westminster Highlands. Only eight campers signed up to attend this year. Details about the disposition of the property are still in discussion.

Camping opportunities are still available at:

Camp Lambec—[www.camplambec.net](http://www.camplambec.net)

Pine Springs Camp—[www.pinesprings.org](http://www.pinesprings.org)

Crestfield Camp & Conference Center—[www.crestfieldcc.org](http://www.crestfieldcc.org)



## **Be Kind Every Day**

Commit to generosity! Here are some things to consider.

- \* Go for a walk with a group of friends at a local park and pick up litter along the way.
- \* Compliment three different friends on social media, telling them what great people they are.
- \* Share your skills! If you're a good artist, show a little one how to draw something. Tech savvy? Help someone figure out his or her computer or phone.
- \* Leave your phone in your pocket or purse when you're talking to other people face-to-face. Give them all your attention.

One day when I was walking by a neighbor's flower garden, I saw this note left by a passerby:

"Your flowers are beautiful! Thank you for bringing a bit more cheer to the world."

*\*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office. We would like to include all of our church family on the birthday and anniversary lists.*