



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

OCTOBER 2018

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?
Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’,
and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?
So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:14-17)*

Through these recent weeks, the lectionary has challenged us with James’ letter to the church. While Paul’s letters respond to issues in particular congregations and people’s lives, the letters of James, Peter, Jude and John are addressed to the larger church. Just as the words God gave him to share were relevant to those early Christians, they are to us as well. James, one of Jesus’ younger brothers, was nicknamed “The Just”. He saw things for what they were, he had a vision for how they should be, and he spoke plainly and directly as to how we can be faithful in caring for those around us.

As I read the story of our congregation’s nearly 200 year history, I find mission to be a current theme and vibrant thread in the fabric of who we are. One of the attributes that nudged me to discern a call to serve this church was your commitment to making a difference in the quality of life of this community. We feed the hungry, nourish the grieving, warm the chilled, help the wanting. Our doors are open to provide space for ministry to those of all ages. To be sure, we are faithful stewards of the blessings we’ve been shown.

But just as times change, so do our opportunities to serve. With the closing of WyoTech, we conclude our luncheons that were offered to students for years. Over that time, thousands of meals were lovingly prepared and served to young men and women who were far away from home. Many commented that what they received was the only home cooked meals they enjoyed each month. In welcoming the stranger and sojourner we honored the command to show hospitality to those God brought into our midst.

With recent losses through death and health conditions, and our inability to find volunteers to spend the night at the church, we have had to discontinue our role as a host congregation for the Family Promise program. There are a number of congregations in the county who have had to do the same.

These two changes do not mean doors have been closed to those in need. They do mean that we find ourselves at a crossroad of new opportunity. A question central to ministry is; What is God calling us to be and do at this time in this place? The verbs “be” and “do” are important. Our “being” is the essence of who we are in the depth of our soul, at the center of our heart. Our “doing” is how we express our “being”. James says, the two are inseparable. You can’t consider one without the other. Our lives are given meaning and purpose by that constant dialog between faith and works.

As we seek a new vision and understanding of how and where God seeks to use us, James challenges us to remove the blinders that have limited us. We have been faithful in welcoming others in to receive, but how far have we reached out, ventured outside our comfort zone to share? In the concern about hunger—who are there in our community who are hungry, yet not receiving food? What are we doing about meeting basic human needs of those outside our community? What hungers are there that food cannot satisfy? What hurts are not physical yet still seek to be healed? Where can we work in partnership to meet those needs too big for us to address alone? Jesus calls us “to go into all the world.....” That is not merely a metaphor. He means it quite literally. With open arms we welcome in, but so too we reach out.

As we make plans for the coming year, the mission committee needs to hear your ideas. Joan Moran and Bobbi Monroe have been spear heading this work. What needs have we not recognized and should be addressed? What cries for help have we not heard? Where is it, near or far, that the love of Jesus longs to be known and shown? Help us to understand how we can be even more faithful to our call.....

In Christ’s love,



Scripture Texts for Worship

The scripture texts for October are given for your study in preparation for Worship.

Sunday, October 7

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Sunday, October 14

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, October 21

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

Hebrews 5:1-10

Sunday, October 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Hebrews 7:23-28

Sunday, November 4

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

Food Bank

The food bank distributes groceries the **second Tuesday** of each month 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 (Indiana County Community Action Program).

November Newsletter

Articles to be published in the November edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Monday, October 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.

Family Promise

We will host families in the Family Promise Program beginning Sunday, October 21st through Sunday, October 28th. Family Promise is a ministry to families who find themselves homeless. An evening meal and housing is provided by area churches and positive training is given to adults during the day at the Family Promise House. The goal is to help families in homeless situations, find stable employment and safe housing. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Worship Assistants

October 7—11:00 AM Communion

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone

Flowers: Joy Fairbanks

Projector: Shakira McKinney

Audio: Jaison McKinney

October 14—11:00 AM

Liturgist: Lon Ferguson

Flowers: Tim & Ginny Norberg

Projector: Alex Kirkland

Audio: Andrew Baker

October 21—11:00 AM

Liturgist: Rick Shoemaker

Flowers: Cindy Borbonus

Projector: Kayla Moran

October 28—11:00 AM

Flowers: Gary & Barri Stuchal

Flowers: Joe & Elaine Jellison

Projector: Blake Tonkin

Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

October Offering Counters

Jean Heberling and Gene Artman

Budget Planning Begins

The Finance Committee will soon begin to review information for the 2019 budget. Committee chairs are asked to begin looking at your plans for next year and consider your financial needs for the New Year. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome. We will begin rehearsing our Christmas Cantata Wednesday, October 3rd at 8:00 p.m. If you would like to sing with the choir on a regular basis or for the Christmas season, please talk with Cindy Borbonus, director.

Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. The choir and director would love to have more members become ringers. No experience is necessary; training is free. If you are interested and would like more information about our bell choir, please see Vicky Westley, director.

Thanksgiving Baskets

The Deacons will assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for families in the community. We ask that you consider donating food items or giving a monetary contribution. Articles of food can include: canned fruit or vegetables, boxed baked goods, pie fillings, Jello, boxes of stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, just to name a few. Boxes will be available at the back of the church for the collection of food donations. Please check expiration dates on items before donating them.

If any member of the congregation is aware of a family who may need a Thanksgiving Basket, please contact Marilyn Neal or Pastor Monroe by Monday, November 12th. Thank you for your generous help in the past, and we look forward to sharing another happy holiday with those in our community!

World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of *Presbyterian Outlook*: Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied, "The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world.

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, October 7th during worship. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament. If you are not able to come to Sunday morning worship and would like to receive communion in your home, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 and arrangements can be made for the sacrament to be shared with you.



11th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 18, 2018

In Fellowship Hall

immediately following worship

Come join our church family for a great
Thanksgiving meal and fellowship!

Please fill out & return the form in the offering
plate—

NAME: _____

How many are attending? _____

Maybe you would like to share your favorite:

Vegetable _____

Casserole _____

Salad _____

Dessert _____

Would you like to help prepare on Saturday,
November 17 @ 10:00 AM by peeling potatoes

and setting tables? _____Yes

_____No

Would you like to help prepare on
Sunday morning during worship?

_____Yes _____No

Thank you to all who help to make this dinner
an enjoyable event each year!

Please contact a committee member for more
information.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



Hunger with a Twist!



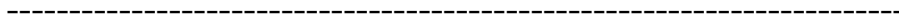
You are cordially invited to a dinner
to learn about
HUNGER ISSUES IN 2018
Sunday, October 21st (after worship)

The Youth Sunday School Class and friends will present the event with committees of the church. There will be no charge for the dinner.



To plan, we need to know if you can attend. Please RSVP by October 14, 2018 by placing the lower portion of this announcement in the offering plate or contacting the church office.

WE HOPE THAT WE WILL SEE YOU OCTOBER 21ST!



HUNGER WITH A TWIST DINNER
I/we will be joining you October 21st

Name _____

Number Attending _____