



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

JUNE-JULY 2019

Allison Harrell is an artist who uses words to express the realities so many face in this world. Of her own experience she writes:

“I am lost in blindness
And I refuse to believe that
I can see
One has to accept a life of darkness
Years from now I can only tell my children not to believe that
Simple grace triumphs over utter darkness
I was born in sin and I was conceived in sin
It doesn't matter to God that
I live every day of my life in hopelessness
No longer can it be said that
There is a god who hears the cry of his people
My whole life testifies to this one truth
Blindness has robbed me of every good thing
And it is no longer true that
God saves those who are crushed in spirit
Now I do not know much but I know one thing for sure
I was born blind with no hope and no future”

It is in such a darkness, such a blindness, such a hopelessness that many dwell. The words are descriptive of the groove into which we are pressed or baited. Yes, Allison is a perceptive artist—but even more she is a Christian, so she adds another line to her poem. It reads,

“But then I met Jesus and he turned everything in my life upside down.”

It is that punchline that is the grand reversal we call resurrection. Take the words with which she ended and see them as a new beginning.

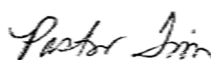
“I was born blind with no hope and no future
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One has to accept a life of darkness
I can see
And I refuse to believe that
I am lost in blindness.”

(Continued next page)

“We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people that we would declare the wonderful deeds of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light—for once we were not a people but now we are God’s people. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received it.” (I Peter 2:9-10) Our identity is not defined by who we were, but rather it is transformed by who we are becoming. Ours is not a descent into darkness, but rather an ascent into the brightness of God’s glory.

Together we have journeyed through the season of Lent. Together we watched as Jesus endured the passion of the cross and the seeming abandonment of the grave. Together we have greeted the Risen Lord and been offered the power of resurrection. Together we have rejoiced in his homecoming as he was welcomed to the right hand of the Father. And together we find hope in the blessed assurance that there he has prepared a place for us—forever...

In Christ’s redeeming love,



Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, June 2

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21
Acts 16:16-34

Sunday, June 9

Romans 8:14-17
Acts 2:1-21

Sunday, June 16

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
John 16:12-15

Sunday, June 23

Luke 8:26-39
I Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a

Sunday, June 30

II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Luke 9:51-62

Sunday, July 7

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16

Sunday, July 14

Amos 7:7-17
Colossians 1:1-14

Sunday, July 21

Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 28

Luke 11:1-13
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)

Sunday, August 4

Hosea 11:1-11
Colossians 3:1-11

Worship Assistants

June 2

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone
Flowers: Ed & Becky Bence
Special Music: Amy Kukula
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Olivia Eckenroad

June 9—Communion

Liturgist: Terry Brown
Flowers: Joe & Elaine Jellison
Special Music: Betsy Holby
Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

June 16—Father’s Day

Flowers: Richard & Nancy Campbell
Special Music: Bell Choir
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

June 23—VBS Sunday

Flowers: Kay Barnhart (Brown’s)
Projector: Alex Kirkland
Audio: Andrew Baker

June 30

Liturgist: Dennis Gould
Flowers: Mary Anzelone
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Olivia Eckenroad

Offering Counters

Pat & Janeen Swope

July 7

Special Music: Angela Lyons
Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

July 14

Special Music: Nightengals
Flowers: Linda George
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

July 21

Flowers: Bonni Dunlap
Projector: Alex Kirkland
Audio: Andrew Baker

July 28

Flowers: Sue Harvey
Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Olivia Eckenroad

Offering Counters

Becky Bence & Elaine Jellison

Guest Musicians

Our Chancel Choir is in recess for the summer months. Beginning in June, we will host guest musicians and have Special Music during worship. If you or someone you know would like to share a musical talent during worship, please see Cindy Borbonus or contact the church office.



Can you...find thirty (30) books of the Bible in the paragraph below?

Actually there are thirty-one (31) Bible names, one is a variant of an Old Testament prophet.

"This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that the books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless."

(Solution will be in the August UPLIFT. Good Luck!)

Communion

We will share the sacrament of holy communion on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament. If you are unable to be here for worship and would like to receive communion in your home, please contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

Property & Maintenance News

If you notice something that needs repaired around our church facility, please refer the matter to the Property & Maintenance Committee through the church office. The secretary will forward the concern to the chair of the committee. Please be very specific as to what the problem is, so that the issue can be handled.

August Newsletter

Articles to be published in the August edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Monday, July 15th. .

Prayer Chain

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.

Help Starts Here

If you have a concern or a need and live in Indiana County,
dial 2-1-1
or email info@pa211sw.org and you will be connected to an organization that can help. This is a free resource and is available 24 hours 7 days a week.