

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

MAY 2019



UPLIFT Newsletter

It was the day after Easter. Bobbi and I ran into a friend at Rite Aid. “So, you’re out getting your medicine?” he asked. “No” I replied, “I’m out getting my discounted chocolate candy.” To some, Easter is about receiving the power of God that renews us and makes us whole. To others, its about getting a cheap sugar high. To some its about resounding the Alleluias. To others its about an eyeful of pastel colors and a nose-full of fragrant blooms. But whatever it is, it sadly seems to eventually fade. There were those four glorious years of my childhood (before my sister was born) that I had the delight of being the only grandchild. Grandma doted on her “honey boy” and Pappy Moe spoiled me rotten. Each Easter, he would buy a dozen or so little chicks that had been dyed pink and yellow and blue and green. I would giggle and bounce as they ran around me. But within a couple days all the chicks would die (probably from the coloring that had been put on their feathers) and all I was left with was a memory.

One place we get it wrong is when we think of Easter as a one day celebration—God’s victory neatly packed into a twenty-four hour box. According to our liturgical calendar, Easter is a season fifty days long in which we celebrate the forty days Jesus spent time with the disciples, then ascended into heaven and the faithful waited patiently for the coming of the Spirit. You’ll notice that the cloth on the communion table and the belt on the acolyte will be white for the Season. But even more, Easter is a constant year long rejoicing about the power of God to raise us from death to life. In fact, we refer to each Sunday of the calendar as a “little Easter.” That’s why Sundays are not counted as part of the forty dates of Lent.

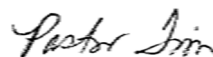
In the Heidelberg Catechism the question is asked, “What benefit do we receive from ‘the resurrection of Christ?’” The response, “First, by his resurrection he has overcome death that he might make us share in the righteousness which he has obtained for us through his death.” That means that he has paid the price for our sins, paid for us a debt we could not pay, paid a debt he did not owe—but graciously redeemed us from that which weighed heavy on our souls. He made right our wrongs and as he rose from the dead we are assured that everything has been covered and we need not fear what was.

“Second, we too are now raised by his power to a new life.” My personal life verse is Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.” That means all those things within me that were dead and rotting away at my soul are gone. While I cannot change the past, there is a future of newness afforded to me by virtue of the fact that because He lives, I live also.

“Thirdly, the resurrection of Christ is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.” Therein is our assurance of hope about the future. As Jesus rose from the dead, he opened the door to heaven for all who believe. He has prepared a place for us and being raised with him means that we will be welcomed into the everlasting arms of God.

Considering all this, getting my candy at 50% off isn’t such a big deal. May the good news that He is risen give you the courage to face all things here and now, for you are not alone. May you have peace in the knowledge that the ultimate battle has already been won and you can celebrate in the fruits of the victory. And may you have hope in the assurance that what will be far outshines what is or ever was.

In Christ’s love,



Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, May 5

Revelation 5:11-14
Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

Sunday, May 12

Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 19

John 13:31-35
Acts 11:1-18

Sunday, May 26

Acts 16:9-15
John 5:1-9

Sunday, June 2

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

Communion

We will share the sacrament of holy communion on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. 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.

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.

June-July Newsletter

Articles to be published in the combined June-July edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Wednesday, May 15th. Please call the office with any questions or concerns.

Worship Assistants

May 5

Liturgist: Dennis Gould
Flowers: Bill & Deb Lint
Ushers: Kristi & Hannah Eckenroad

Projector: Kayla Moran
Audio: Olivia Eckenroad

May 12—Mother's Day

Liturgist: Connie Bruner
Flowers: The Moran Family
Ushers: Bill & Deb Lint
Projector: Blake Tonkin
Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

May 19

Liturgist: Jean Heberling
Flowers: Barb Kocsis
Projector: Shakira McKinney
Audio: Jaison McKinney

May 26

Projector: Alex Kirkland
Audio: Andrew Baker

Offering Counters

Linda George & Marilyn Neal

OGHS Update

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was received during Palm Sunday worship, April 14th. To date, we received a total of \$2,055.20 to be sent to assist Presbyterian Hunger Programs, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Self-Development of People. Thank you to all who gave gifts to support the offering.

Blanket Offering

The Blanket Offering will be received Mother's Day, May 12th during worship. The Blanket Offering gifts are sent to Church World Service to supply blankets to those in need. Blankets protect from the cold, comfort after a disaster and remind families that they're not alone. Each one costs only \$10 but can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. Please prayerfully consider your gift.



Summer Schedule

As summer approaches, our Sunday School year comes to a close. The last day of classes will be:

Sunday, May 19th

Our time of worship will continue at 11:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 26th. Our Summer Schedule will begin and our worship time will move to 10:00 a.m.:

Sunday, June 2nd

Our Regular Schedule will return in the fall.

Guest Musicians

Our Chancel Choir will take a break 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. Our choir will resume rehearsals in the fall.

Graduate Recognition

The Christian Ed Committee is looking for the names of upcoming graduates from high school or schools of higher learning. It has been our tradition to recognize the accomplishments of our young people during worship. Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Please submit names of graduates to the church office or see Joan Moran.

Teacher Appreciation

A BIG Thank You to all the Sunday School teachers for another great year! Teacher Appreciation Sunday will be held May 19th. We will recognize our teachers with a gift during 11:00 a.m. worship. The last day of Sunday School classes is also Sunday, May 19th. We will break for the summer and then resume classes in the fall.



Vacation Bible School 2019

VBS is only a month away! The fun is scheduled for the week of June 17-21 for students ages 3 years (& potty trained) through 5th grade (just completed). Our curriculum is from Group Publishing and is entitled, "Athens, Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth." If you love to have fun, work with kids & learn new and exciting things, we want you!

Volunteers are needed in many areas. All those interested in helping this year are asked to contact the church office or see Cindy Borbonus or complete the bottom of this form and drop it in the offering plate. No experience is necessary, however...

The Child Protection Policy of our church states that those 18 years of age and older working with children are required to have a current copy of their clearances on file in the church office. For more information, contact the church office.

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS

Name _____

Phone # _____

Please circle your area of interest.

Teaching Crafts Games

Opening Closing Music

Kitchen/Snacks Registration

Security A/V Tech

Other: _____

VBS REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone #'s: Home _____

Cell _____

Age _____ Date of birth _____

Last school grade completed _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contacts:

Name _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Phone _____

****Dismissal Information: Names of persons who may pick up this child from VBS**

Name _____

Relationship _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

Phone _____

****CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED ONLY TO THOSE DESIGNATED****

COMMENTS:

2019 PARK MINISTRY SITES

All site information updated May 24, 2018

BEAVER COUNTY

Raccoon Creek State Park

3000 State Route 18, Hookstown, PA 15050-1605

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Volunteers

Sponsor: Christians United in Beaver County

BEDFORD COUNTY

Choice Campground

209 Choice Campground Rd, Manns Choice, PA 15550

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Sandy McKee

Sponsors: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bedford County Area Churches

Hillegass Campground

734 Hillegass Road, Schellsburg, PA 15559

Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Chaplain: Sandy McKee

Sponsors: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bedford County Area Churches

Shawnee State Park

132 State Park Road, Schellsburg, PA 15559-7300

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

Chaplain: Sandy McKee

Sponsors: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bedford County Area Churches

BLAIR COUNTY

Canoe Creek State Park

205 Canoe Creek Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-9519

Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Chaplain: Amy Webster

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Prince Gallitzin State Park

966 Marina Road, Patton, PA 16668-6317

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain: David Flumerfelt

Sponsor: Middle Pennsylvania District, Church of the Brethren

CARBON COUNTY

Hickory Run State Park

3613 State Route 534, White Haven, PA 18661-9713

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Bob Collumb

Sponsor: Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

CENTRE COUNTY

Bald Eagle State Park

149 Main Park Road, Howard, PA 16841-3508

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: No services in 2018

Black Moshannon State Park

4216 Beaver Road, Philipsburg, PA 16866-9519

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Kevin Brady

Sponsor: Volunteers

CHESTER COUNTY

French Creek State Park

843 Park Road, Elverson, PA 19520-9523

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Volunteers, High Point Baptist Church

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Parker Dam State Park

28 Fairview Road, Penfield, PA 15849-9799

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Tammy Meholick

Sponsor: Local Area Churches

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Ricketts Glen State Park

695 State Route 487, Benton, PA 17814

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Beccy Brown

Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference, UMC

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Colonel Denning State Park

1599 Doubling Gap Rd, Newville, PA 17241-9756

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Neal McCulloch

Sponsors: Big Spring Inter-Church Council, First United Presbyterian Church, Newville Area Chaplains Committee & Dogwood Acres Campground

Dogwood Acres Campground

4500 Enola Road, Newville, PA 17241

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Neal McCulloch

Sponsors: Big Spring Inter-Church Council, First United Presbyterian Church, Newville Area Chaplains Committee & Dogwood Acres Campground

FOREST COUNTY

Tionesta Lake Campground

P O Box 539, Tionesta, PA 16353-0539

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Cindy Mealey

Sponsor: Tionesta Summer Park Ministries

FULTON COUNTY

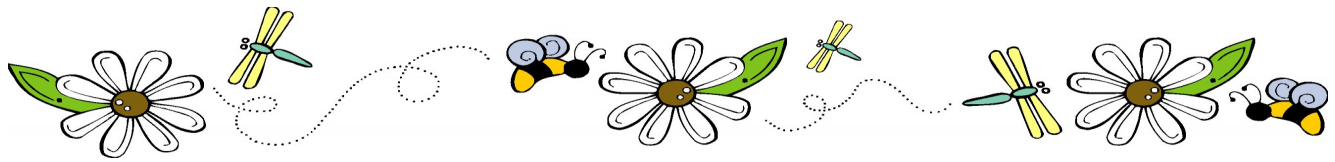
Cowans Gap State Park

6235 Aughwick Rd, Fort Loudon, PA 17224-9801

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Bruce Carriker

Sponsor: Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ



Grist Mill Campground

P O Box 65, 582 Grist Mill Rd, Burnt Cabins, PA 17215

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Bruce Carriker

Sponsor: Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Raystown Lake Resort

3101 Chipmunk Xing, Entriken, PA 16638

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Jayme Piper

Sponsor: Local Area Churches

Seven Points Amphitheater

6993 Seven Points Road, Hesston, PA 16647

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Jayme Piper

Sponsor: Local Area Churches

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Cook Forest State Park

113 River Rd, P O Box 120, Cooksburg, PA 16217-0120

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Jim Porter

Sponsor: Kiskiminetas Presbytery, PC (USA)

Clear Creek State Park

38 Clear Creek Park Rd, Sigel, PA 15860-6702

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Jim Porter

Sponsor: Kiskiminetas Presbytery, PC (USA)

LYCOMING COUNTY

Pine Valley Campground

P O Box 53, Slate Run, PA 17769

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Marc Snyder

Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference, UMC

MERCER COUNTY

Pymatuning State Park

2660 Williamsfield Road, Jamestown, PA 16134-3560

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Donald Sitter

PIKE COUNTY

Promised Land State Park

100 Lower Lake Road, Greentown, PA 18426-9735

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Dingmans Ferry

Sponsor: Northeastern PA Synod, ELCA

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Locust Lake State Park

220 Locust Lake Road, Barnesville, PA 18214

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Donald Lyons

Sponsor: Penn Southwest Conference, United Church of Christ

SULLIVAN COUNTY

World's End State Park

82 Cabin Bridge Rd, PO Box 62, Forksville, PA 18616

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain: Beccy Brown

Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference, UMC

UNION COUNTY

R.B. Winter State Park

17215 Buffalo Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844-9656

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Marc Snyder

Sponsor: Susquehanna Conference, UMC

WARREN COUNTY

Chapman State Park

4790 Chapman Dam Road, Clarendon, PA 16313-2830

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Chaplain: David Johnson

Sponsor: Warren County Ministerial Association

Buckaloons Campground

Route 6, Warren, PA 16365

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain: David Johnson

Sponsor: Warren County Ministerial Association

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Keystone State Park

1150 Keystone Park Road, Derry, PA 15627-3679

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Art Day, Jr.

Sponsor: Blairsville, Derry & Latrobe Ministerium

YORK COUNTY

Codorus State Park

2600 Smith Station Road, Hanover, PA 17331-8000

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Jim Gould

Sponsor: Southern PA District, Church of the Brethren

Gifford Pinchot State Park

2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339-9787

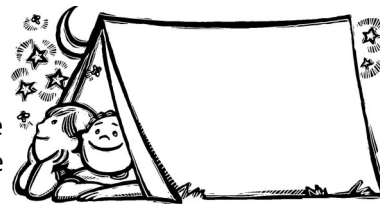
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Chaplain: Angela Fickes-Mountz

Sponsor: Southern PA District, Church of the Brethren

Summer Camping Opportunities

Summer is coming and camps are preparing for this season! Camp is described by one as, “A place to explore, grow, belong, learn God’s word and have fun.” There are three local camps supported by local presbyteries.



1—**Camp Lambec** is supported by the Camping Association of the Presbyteries of Northwestern Pennsylvania. It is located on 92 acres with beachfront access to Lake Erie. CAPNWP offers summer camp programs for all ages from late June to early August annually.

2—**Pine Springs Camp** is a ministry of the Washington (PA) and Redstone (PA) Presbyteries. With over 230 acres, campers are completely immersed in the outdoors, where they play, explore and enjoy nature. Programs are offered for all ages from early June to August annually. Pine Springs Camp is located in Jennerstown, PA.

3—**Crestfield Camp & Conference Center** is supported by the Pittsburgh Presbytery. It is a 59 acre site in Slippery Rock, PA. Programs are offered to those 4 years and older from mid-June through July.

If you are interested in more information on any of these camps, please contact the church office. Also, there is funding available to offset some of the cost for campers. Please call the office for details.

Webinar—*Into the Light: Christian Responses to Opioids*

For four consecutive Thursdays in May (9th through 30th) at 7:00 p.m., the Synod of the Trinity will host a webinar that will feature a discussion on the opioid epidemic that is a major issue in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. The conversation will revolve around a seven-session curriculum that was created by the Presbytery of Redstone’s Addiction Ministry Network. The webinars will focus on four of the sessions highlighted in the curriculum. They are:

May 9: What is a Substance Use Disorder?

May 16: Love and Enabling

May 23: Healing and Recovery

May 30: Engaging Our Congregation Within the Community

For more on what will be discussed on the webinar, visit SynTrinity.org. To be included in the webinar, email mgivler@syntrinity.org.

Synod’s Regional Meetings to Focus on Hate Groups in our Communities

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 36 hate-related groups in Pennsylvania and 41 more in Ohio and West Virginia. They are a quantifiable presence in our Synod. But beyond the groups, hate behavior is growing across the country as it finds its way into public commentary and actions. It shows itself through these organized groups as well as through individuals and even some in our pews. This year’s Synod of the Trinity Regional Connection for Partnership and Networking gatherings will focus on how we shine a light on these behaviors and raise awareness in our congregations that leads to engagement. Leaders of our presbyteries have been invited to join the conversation, which will take place at 4 sites across the region. For more info, visit SynTrinity.org.

*“Forgive them
even if
they’re not sorry”*