

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 1, 2019 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Bobbi Monroe, 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 Organ and Piano Duet

Lighting of the Candles David Kerin, Acolyte

Introit # 614 *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

Call to Worship (Psalm 122)

Leader: I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**People: Our feet are standing within your gates,
O Jerusalem.**

Leader: Jerusalem – built as a city
that is bound firmly together.

**People: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks
to the name of the Lord.**

Leader: For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

**People: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

Leader: Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers."

**People: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.**

*Hymn # 158 *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"*

*Prayer of Confession

**God who is with us, and God who is on the way, we confess
that we do not wait or watch for you. Works of darkness
encumber and distract us. Petty jealousies, hard quarrels,
ambitions rooted in selfish desires – they command our
attention. We have ceased to hope for peace and harmony**

**among the nations or for security apart from the defenses we
construct. We hear your promises, Lord, but dare not trust
them. God of power and love, awaken us to hope and fit us
for your coming, that we may watch for you with confidence
and joy.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Faulk Family

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.*

*While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5 (pg. 631 of OT)

Anthem *"Keep the Watch"*

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director
Dave Hiltabidle - Saxophone

Gospel Lesson Matthew 24:36-44 (pg. 27 of NT)

Sermon Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith *(Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 52)*

What comfort does the return of Christ "to judge the living and
the dead" give you?

**That in all affliction and persecution I may await with head held
high the very Judge from heaven who has already submitted
himself to the judgment of God for me and has removed all the
curse from me; that he will cast all his enemies and mine into
everlasting condemnation, but he shall take me, together with
all his elect, to himself into heavenly joy and glory.**

*Hymn # 318 *"Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"*

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 534 *"When the King Shall Come Again"*

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

*(*All who are able, please stand)*

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Bobbi Monroe; Acolyte, David Kerin; Advent Readers, the Faulk family; Ushers, Todd & Stacy Faulk, Linda George, Kim McKinney; Projector, Shakira McKinney; Audio, Jaison McKinney; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of mother by Patrick and Janeen Swope.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Deacons that will be coming on the board in January are invited to attend the December meeting.

BIBLE STUDY will be held Wednesday, December 4th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The book of Daniel is our focus.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will not be held this Wednesday. We are still in need of two ringers to complete our choir. If you are interested in ringing, please see Vicky Westley.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New and familiar voices are always welcomed! Please see Cindy Borbonus for more information.



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA is entitled, "Everlasting Light—The Promise of Christmas" by Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse and Larry Shackley. The cantata will be presented in worship Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings following Chancel Choir from 8:00-8:30 p.m. A final rehearsal will be held Saturday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome. If you would like more information, please see Cindy Borbonus.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday, December 5th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group gathers to work on personal projects and to fellowship. All are welcome.

A VARIETY of Advent Devotionals are available to you. These guides are meant to help you as you move through the season to the coming of the Christ Child. You can pick one up at the back of the sanctuary.

OFFICER TRAINING is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th immediately following worship. Oncoming elders and deacons are asked to please bring a bag lunch and plan to stay for a time of conversation.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE early worship has traditionally been a service for families with children. This year we would like to have our children of the church participate in the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Participation can include: speaking, singing, playing a musical instrument – just to name a few. We plan to hold rehearsals during the Sunday School hour with possibly one rehearsal close to Christmas Eve. Please consider having your child be a part of this year's worship service. For more information, please see Cindy Borbonus.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to run the sound and projector at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. If you are interested or available to help out, please contact the church office.

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.

CALLING ALL BAKERS... families in the congregation are asked to donate at least 4 dozen cookies, candies, or holiday treats (no cupcakes, cakes, or pies) for our **Annual Holiday Cookie Sale** to be held Saturday, December 14th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your fellow bakers, family, friends, co-workers, groups or organizations to participate. All baked goods may be dropped off in a disposable container on Friday, December 13th from 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Also, volunteers are needed to help with the sale on December 14th. If you have any questions or would like to help contact Joan Moran or the church office. A sign-up sheet is located in the back of the sanctuary. Please let us know what kind of cookie you will be donating so we don't have too many duplicates!

THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats at the Annual Holiday Cookie Sale for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. on Saturday, December 14th. Who has time to bake dozens of different cookies? No need, just make your best cookies and shop for the rest! Cookies are \$7.00/pound and all proceeds benefit the Pathway Homeless Shelter.

CALLING ALL SINGERS! The Blairsville Monday Music Club is sponsoring its annual Community Christmas Program, Monday, December 9, 2019 at the C&MA Church in Blairsville at 7:00 p.m. We are welcoming anyone that enjoys singing to participate in the Community Choir. We have two Christmas selections to perform and the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Practices will be as follows:
Monday, December 2..... 7:00-8:30pm.....C&MA Church
Monday, December 9..... 7:00pm Concert.....C&MA Church

POINSETTIA ORDERS are due tomorrow. Please use the bulletin insert to place your order and write your dedication for the bulletin on the back. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or dropped at the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for the New Year will soon be available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary soon. If you do not have church offering envelopes and would like a box set, please drop a note in the offering plate or contact the church office at 724-459-7991.

THE 2020 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to order flowers for Sunday worship, please use the chart to sign-up for your choice of date. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons. We hope that those ordering flowers through the deacons (signing up on the chart in the hallway) would take the arrangement following worship or pick them up at the church by the following Tuesday. Flowers that remain at the church after Tuesday will be shared with homebound members of the congregation. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:

Sunday	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m. Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m. Worship
Monday	6:30 p.m. Boys Scout Meeting
Tuesday	6:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Bible Study
	7:00 p.m. Historical Society Meeting
	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m. Stitching Group
Sunday	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m. Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m. Worship