



UPLIFT Newsletter

There is an old saying: “If you chase two rabbits, they both will escape you.” From experience, we know that is true in our personal lives, in our household relationships, and as a family of faith. Its possible being so busy doing that we lose sight of who we are—because we have lost a vision of why we are. Solomon, in his wisdom, writes, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18 KJV) While we are in many ways the product of our past, being recreated in the image of Christ we are continually becoming someone new, someone fuller, someone refashioned into who God calls us to be. Faithful discipleship requires us to seek understanding how we are no longer who we were and how we are not yet who we should be. Therein, faith is a journey, an adventure for us as individuals and collectively as the church.

The Session is comprised of those called out by God through the voice of the congregation to serve as ruling elders. “Ruling elders, are so named not because they ‘lord it over the congregation (Matthew 20:25),’ but because they are called to discern and measure the congregations fidelity (faithfulness) to the Word of God.” As such, the Session calls us to a season of visioning as together we seek to understand where we’ve been, who we are and where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Leading the process requires an objective point of view. Just as a person who defends themselves in court has a fool for a client, just as a pastor cannot effectively minister to their own family, just as a surgeon cannot operate on their own child, we need someone who is free of biases to help us in this task.

We will be using a resource developed by Healthy Congregations, Inc. (www.healthycongregations.com). The Rev. Kathy Nice of the Community Presbyterian Church in Shelocta has been trained in the program and will facilitate our use of it. While the Session will be participating, we also hope that some of you will be led to be involved as well.

There are three workshops to be completed over a period of one year or more. Each workshop is five to six hours of face to face time with group work after the workshop ends. Instead of doing the 5-6 hours in one day, we will split it between two three-hour consecutive evenings.

Workshop 1: Creating Healthy Congregations, introduces the basics of systems thinking and looks at building capabilities to accept differences while focusing on organizational strength and mission. Here we examine how the Blairsville congregation functions as a body of believers—how we interact or don’t interact—how we are the same and how we are different—where we are strong and where we need to be strengthened. The objective is to develop mission and vision guides for the congregation.

Workshop 2: Healthy Congregations Responds to Anxiety and Change, focuses on identifying and dealing with anxiety in communities, management of conflict, and developing capabilities to be flexible and creative through it all. It is not the intention to poke and prod until we can find or create problems to solve, but there is within any organization some stress and anxiety. In identifying the stressors we can begin to move past them in a healing way. We are not looking to change for the sake of change, rather we are seeking to discover any new direction to which we are being called.

Workshop 3: Leadership in Healthy Congregations works on the development of healthier processes by looking at how leaders function, rather than through programs and techniques. We will be looking at the role leaders play in providing immunity to processes that tear down the fabric of community. Here we examine our life together as a team and how we can work together more effectively.

There are three additional workshops if there is interest in exploring them, but at this point we are committed to the first three.

Any one of you would be valuable to this process, but we know that life can be very busy. If you are interested in taking part, we ask that you make it a priority and participate fully in the discussion and work. Workshop 1 will be held Wednesday and Thursday evenings, November 13 & 14 from 6:00-9:00 in Fellowship Hall. More information will be coming. Please feel free to speak with Bonni Dunlap or Pastor Monroe if you have any questions.

Whether or not you choose to be engaged in this process, we ask you to uphold all those involved in your prayers. This is a great opportunity for us to grow.....

In Christ’s Love,



Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, October 6

II Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 13

II Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 20

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 27

Joel 2:23-32

II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Sunday, November 3

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Luke 19:1-10

Communion

We will share the sacrament of holy communion Sunday, October 6th during the 11:00 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.

November Uplift

Articles to be published in the November edition of the UP-LIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Tuesday, October 15th. Please call the church office with any questions or concerns, 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.

Worship Assistants

October 6—Communion

Liturgist: Jean Heberling

Flowers: Irving & Beverly Lindsey

Projector: Shakira McKinney

Audio: Jaison McKinney

October 13

Liturgist: Barb Brown

Flowers: Scott Stuchal Family

Projector: Alex Kirkland

Audio: Andrew Baker

October 20

Liturgist: Mary Anzelone

Flowers: Cindy Borbonus

Projector: Kayla Moran

Audio: Olivia Eckenroad

October 27

Liturgist: Connie Bruner

Flowers: Joe & Elaine Jellison

Projector: John Clark Bruner

Audio: Elizabeth Bruner

Offering Counters

Linda George and Marilyn Neal

Budget Planning Begins

The Finance Committee will soon review information for the 2020 budget. Committee chairs are asked to begin looking at your plans for next year and consider your financial needs. Changes to your budget area should be into the church office by October 15th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Food Bank

The Food Bank will distribute groceries from Fellowship Hall the second Tuesday of each month from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Proof of residence within the borough is needed when signing up for the first time. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Fall Bible Study

Our Fall Bible Study has started. Last year we worked through Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Now we are looking at the Old Testament book of Daniel. Daniel teaches us what it means to be people of faith in a world that is not concerned about a relationship with God. At the same time Daniel's prophecy assures us that God has a plan and is in control. We focus on the Biblical text and ways it applies to our lives and informs our faith. We hope you will attend—Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Wanted...

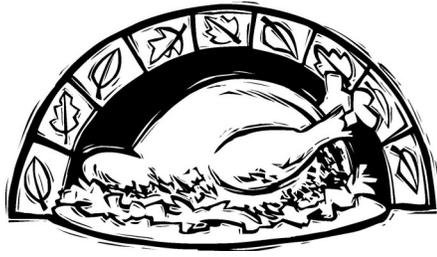
We are in need of some comfortable, gently used over stuffed chairs and a couch for the youth Sunday School room. If you are contemplating a change in decor, please keep us in mind and contact the church office.

Thanks!



Don't Forget...

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3rd. Mark your calendars and remember to change your clocks!



12th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 24, 2019

In Fellowship Hall
immediately following worship
Come join our church family for a great
Thanksgiving meal and fellowship!

Please fill out & return this 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 23 @
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!

Mission Moment—Church's heart
for mission helps homeless and even pets

Calvary Presbyterian Church has had a heart for mission ever since a group of friends gathered in 1944 seeking to have a church closer to their home — in what was then a growing suburb of southwest Wilmington, Delaware. Today, the long legacy of helping neighbors continues with partnerships with organizations like Meeting Ground, a local group addressing homelessness, and Friendship House, which offers transitional housing, a clothing bank and “empowerment centers,” providing those in need with a place to regroup, work on resumes, have a cup of coffee and connect with others. But Wilmington is a big city with lots of opportunities to help others. So, Calvary Presbyterian created what is called “Second Sunday Sharing,” in which the congregation helps one local nonprofit. “It’s a time where we learn a little about the organization,” said the Rev. Holly Clark-Porter. “We then bring forward tangible items that will help that organization during the last hymn.” On a recent Second Sunday Sharing, the items brought forward were large bags of dog food, dog biscuits and treats for felines. The items were to help feed animals at the Faithful Friends Animal Society, a privately funded no-kill shelter. “Faithful Friends does so much for Wilmington and for animals. We are so heartened by their work,” Clark-Porter said.

Donna Frischknecht Jackson, Editor, Presbyterians Today

The 5th Annual Coats-For-Kids

The 5th Annual Coats-For-Kids Drive is now underway. Again this year we are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific sized coats. Please mark your donation clearly “Coats” and place it in the offering plate.

If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith or the church office.



Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings from rainy Rwanda. September activities are different from the normal schedule, because of the schedule and because of the rains. The Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) is on a break from classes, with our theology students doing internships in their home parishes, but that is not to say that we are not busy. This is a month for visitors and conferences. We have hosted delegations from Japan and Germany and conferences on theology and ethics, on peace building, on history and on interreligious relations. This is also the beginning of the rainy season that provides anything from a light sprinkle of rain to several hours of soaking downpours each day.

In mid-September we had a delegation of 26 German students and lecturers from Bochum University come for a series of lectures at PIASS and a conference at Lake Kivu. Some of our students were invited to return to participate. We welcomed our guests, gave them a tour of the campus and escorted them to lunch at the student restaurant across from the main campus, after which we were to return to the main campus for a public lecture by one of the visiting professors at 3 p.m. But as frequently happens on African time, we were behind schedule and lunch did not begin until 2 p.m. As we were finishing lunch and encouraging folks to make their way for the lecture, the skies darkened and there was a loud clap of thunder. Several of us rushed to the lecture room before the storm broke, but most lingered to finish the last of the meal. Just as I reached the main building, the heavens opened, and the rains poured. Most of the delegation did not have umbrellas. Rwandans would just wait for the rain to stop and then move to the lecture. But our guests were not accustomed to this practice, so we sent the bus on which the guests had come to the student area to gather the guests and ride them the 200 yards in the pouring rain. All this took time. When the lecture began at 4 p.m., the speaker, Dr Wolfgang Huber, a renowned German theologian, had to raise his voice above the pounding rain on the roof, but everyone was satisfied. The lecture, *Ethics in an Emergency: The case of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, was a great success. By the time all questions were answered, the rain had stopped, and we could continue with the program of the evening. Such is life in September at PIASS.

My hope for you is that your September has been as enjoyable and that you are anticipating God's blessings in October. Please pray for our students as they return to classes this month and for the recruitment of the new students who will join us. They are the future of PIASS and the church.

Yours in love,
Kay



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 18th. Thank you for your generous help in the past, and we look forward to sharing another happy holiday with those in our community!

Sunday Flower Arrangements

We hope that those ordering flowers through the deacons (signing up for flowers on the chart in the hallway) would take the arrangement following worship or pick them up by the following Tuesday. Flowers that remain at the church after Tuesday will be shared with homebound members of the congregation. Please contact Jen Borbonus, Mary Hileman or Marilyn Neal if you have any questions or concerns.



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. We are in need of two ringers to complete our choir. If you are interested and would like more information about our bell choir, please see Vicky Westley, director.

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 soon. If you would like to sing with the choir on a regular basis or for the Christmas season, please talk with Cindy Borbonus, director.

Church Kitchen Information

The church has received from the Department of Agriculture, an Eating and Drinking License for the kitchen. This requires that no wet dish cloths or towels be left in the kitchen to dry. There is a drying rack in the table storage room for this purpose. Also, it is required that the counters and other surfaces be cleaned with a sanitizing solution after every use. The materials to make the sanitizing solution and the directions on how to make it are on the window sill in the kitchen.

Need Help....

Do you need help:

- * Feeding your family
- * Becoming a volunteer
- * Getting taxes done
- * Avoiding eviction
- * Caring for my grandmother
- * Keeping my heat on
- * Joining the workforce
- * Finding a summer camp
- * Protecting a friend

Dial 2-1-1...it's a friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, information or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first.

New Leadership

At our September 22nd Congregational Meeting, the following were nominated and elected to three year terms: to the office of ruling elder, Class of 2022– Lisa Hainaut, Bruce Highberger, Gene Artman and Rick Shoemaker; to the Class of 2020 – Jeff Lewis; to the office of deacon, Class of 2022—Elizabeth Bruner, Vicky Doty, Jamie McKinney and Vicky Westley. We look forward to the service and leadership they will offer. We thank the Nominating Committee for their work.

World Communion Sunday

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, October 6th, World Communion Sunday during worship. The cloth on the communion table and the baskets used to serve the sacrament are gifts from our partner congregation in Rwanda, the Gitarama Church. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

Greeting Card Donations

The Deacons continue to collect unused greeting cards for use by the patients at Torrance State Hospital. All occasions (except Christmas) are always in demand. You may place your cards in the marked container at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Deacon Food Pantry

The Deacon Food Pantry supports local families who are in need of food. There are no income or address restrictions. If you would like to support the pantry with food items, a container is located at the back of the sanctuary. At this time items needed are: breakfast cereal, canned fruit and canned soups. Monetary gifts can be made payable to the "Board of Deacons" and marked for the "Deacon Pantry."



Suicide Task Force of Indiana Co.

Is this you, or someone you know?

- *Sad and not enjoying the things I used to
- *Depressed and spending most of my time in bed
- *Harassed at school or work
- *Scared and barely hanging on
- *Hopeless and thinking of suicide

Don't know where to turn? Just need someone to talk to?

Help is only a call away...the Open Door Crisis Line (24 hour line)

1-877-333-2470



PASTOR *Appreciation*

12 Ways to Pray for Your Pastor

1. Pray specific scriptures over them and their family.
2. Pray for their spiritual life to flourish.
3. Pray that they will be strong in the face of opposition.
4. Pray that they will flee temptation.
5. Pray that they will be spiritually “wise” and equipped for battle (Ephesians 6)
6. Pray that they are sensitive to the leading and conviction of the Holy Spirit.
7. Pray that they have wisdom to balance ministry, family and other responsibilities.
8. Pray that they fix their eyes on the eternal reward and don’t get discouraged.
9. Pray that they humbles themselves continually before God.
10. Pray for them and their spouse: that they would be unified, give one another support and understanding and that they would fight for their marriage on their knees and with their time.
11. Pray that God would grant them breakthrough in their ministry: that they would see lives transformed.
12. Pray for their physical, mental and spiritual health.

