

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE
December 8, 2019 ~ 11:00 AM
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Mary Anzelone, 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 Brennan Borbonus, Acolyte

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

Call to Worship (*Psalm 72*)

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**People: May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**People: Blessed by the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.**

*Hymn # 176 *"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"*

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another; we neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us; deliver us; prepare the way for us, so that we may be ready to enter into your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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 Terry Brown Family

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease;
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg. 640 of OT)

Anthem *"Visit Us, Emmanuel"*

Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12 (pg. 2 of NT)

Sermon Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith (*The Westminster Confession of Faith*)

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of man, doth freely offer this salvation to all men in the gospel. In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all men should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by his Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with men to accept his gracious invitation.

*Hymn # 156 *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

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 # 191
*Benediction
*Choral Response
*Postlude

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

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

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:

Sunday *2nd Sunday of Advent*
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Roll Review Meeting

Monday 9:00 a.m. Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 12:00-1:00 p.m. Food Bank distribute groceries

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal

Thursday 2:00 p.m. Stitching Group

Friday 11:00 a.m. Blairsville Area Ministerium Meeting

Saturday 8:00-10:00 a.m. Annual Holiday Cookie Sale
5:00-9:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday *3rd Sunday of Advent*
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Officer Training
2:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved



2ND 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

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

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Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Mary Anzelone; Acolyte, Brennan Borbonus; Advent Readers, the Terry Brown family; Ushers, Elaine Jellison, Alan Lowman, Rick & Willa Shoemaker; Projector, Alex Kirkland; Audio, Andrew Baker; 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 loving memory of my husband by Alice Doak.

GRANNIES will meet in Fellowship Hall Monday, December 9th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. All are invited to join us. There are tasks for all skill levels.

BIBLE STUDY will be held Wednesday, December 11th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will begin looking at the book of Jude.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, December 11th. 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 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New and familiar voices are always welcomed! Please see Cindy Borbonus for more information.

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.

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 12th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group gathers to work on personal projects and to fellowship. All are welcome.

OFFICER TRAINING is scheduled for next 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP services are scheduled. Early worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. The service will include candlelight and the sacrament of communion. A traditional candlelight and communion service will be held at 11:00 p.m. Our choirs will take part in the traditional service. All are welcome to worship with us.

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 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 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. 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.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for the New Year are available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. 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.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and treasurers are reminded that reports are requested for the annual Congregational Meeting which will be held Sunday, January 26, 2020 following worship. Please have reports to the church office by Sunday, January 19th. If you have any questions or need information from the office, contact Jill during office hours at 724-459-7991 or email at upchurch@r-church.com.

CALLING ALL BAKERS... families in the congregation are asked to donate 4 dozen cookies, candies, or holiday treats 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 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 GRANNIES sewing group has several handmade items available for your purchase. Funds raised through the sale of these items help to support our mission of providing a blanket to each person baptized in our church, quilts distributed to fire victims and Habitat for Humanity, stuffed bunnies, bears and ducks given to the Alice Paul House and Citizen's Ambulance Service, dignity robes to the Indiana Hospital Women's Imaging Center, lap robes for those in our church, hats to be given with the Coat Drive, and dining scarves for residents of St. Andrew's Village. These are just some of the distribution points of our sewing projects. As you consider your needs for the upcoming holiday gift-giving season, look to fill your stockings or gift bags with some of our handmade items. Your generosity will help to support the sewing projects within our church and the community. A display is located in the parlor. Please contact Janeen Swope or another grannie with any questions.

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.

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 hope you will come out and enjoy the sounds of the season!

Schedule for December

December 14 Cookie Walk (cookie sale) 8:00-10:00 a.m.
December 21 Cantata Rehearsal 10:00 a.m.
December 22 Christmas Cantata
December 24 Candlelight & Communion Worship
7:00 & 11:00 p.m.
December 25 Merry Christmas!