

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

March 8, 2020 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Lon Ferguson, 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 Marilyn Neal, Organist

Lighting of the Candles Ewan Borbonus, Acolyte

Introit # 56 vs. 3 *"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"*

Call to Worship *(Psalm 121)*

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from where will my help come?

**People: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**People: The Lord will keep your going out
and your coming in from this time on
and for evermore.**

*Hymn # 84 *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

*Prayer of Confession

God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We bless what we should curse and curse what we should bless. We trust our own righteousness and forget your gift of grace. Forgive us, by your steadfast love. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

*Time with the Younger Saints

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 12:1-4a (pg. 10 of OT)

Anthem *"In His Presence"*

Chancel Choir, Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson John 3:1-17 (pg. 93 of NT)

Sermon Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith *(Scots Confession)*

By Adam and Eve's disobedience, generally known as original sin, the image of God was utterly defaced in man, and he and his children became by nature hostile to God, slaves to Satan, and servants to sin. And thus everlasting death has had, and shall have, power and dominion over all who have not been, are not, or shall not be reborn from above. This rebirth is wrought by the power of the Holy Ghost creating in the hearts of God's chosen ones an assured faith in the promise of God revealed to us in his Word; by this faith we grasp Christ Jesus with the graces and blessings promised in him.

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 257 *"What Wondrous Love Is This"*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(Please hold the bread until all have received, we will partake together)

(Please hold the cup until all have received, we will partake together)

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn # 479 *"Near the Cross"*

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

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

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:

Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Monday Music Club Meets
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Food Bank Food Distribution
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	12:00 p.m.	Community Lenten Lunch
	5:30 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
Friday	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Presbytery Meeting
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	2:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE SEASON OF LENT AND EASTER

March 18.....	We host the Lenten Lunch
April 5.....	Palm Sunday & OGHS Offering
April 9.....	Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion 7:00 p.m.
April 10.....	Good Friday Community Worship 7:00 p.m. Crossroads Church
April 12.....	Easter Day Early Worship 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Easter Day Worship 11:00 a.m.



“ NO ONE
can see the
kingdom of God
without being
born from above. ”

John 3:3, NRSV

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 morning we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is invited to receive and share the sacrament.

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Lon Ferguson; Acolyte, Ewan Borbonus; Ushers, Steve & Joan Moran and John & Mary Hileman; Projector, Kayla Moran; Audio, Olivia Eckenroad; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

GRANNIES will meet in Fellowship Hall Monday, March 9th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. There are tasks for all skill levels. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY will be held Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The New Testament book of Acts is our focus. All are welcome.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL will be held Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. We are 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, March 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New and familiar voices are always welcomed! Please see Cindy Borbonus for more information.

THE COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHEONS are held Wednesdays through Lent. This week we will gather at the Hebron Lutheran Church at 12:00 p.m. and Rev. Joe Baird will share the message. Following the service, a soup and sandwich lunch will be served.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday, March 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.

THE MINISTERIUM will meet Friday, March 13th at 11:00 a.m. at SS Simon & Jude's Marion Hall.

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.

A PRESBYTERY MEETING will be held at the Homer City Church Saturday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m. Pat Swope will attend as our commissioner with Pastor Monroe.

THIS YEAR'S LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET was written by folks from the community. All submissions were compiled into booklet form, duplicated, and distributed to area churches for use during the Lenten Season. What a wonderful way for the Christians of Blairsville to share Christ as one. Devotionals are available for you to pick up at the back of the sanctuary today.

THE COMMUNITY LENTEN worship services are held at 12:00 noon each Wednesday through the Season of Lent which began Ash Wednesday. Following the service a soup and sandwich lunch is served by the host church. Following is the 2020 schedule:

3/11	Hebron Lutheran	Joe Baird	Nicodemus
3/18	United Presbyterian	Steve Bugay	Peter
3/25	Hopewell UMC	Rusty McClurg	Pilate
4/1	First UMC	Sharon Kendall	Mary Magdalene
4/8	Sts. Simon & Jude	Susan O'Shaughnessy	Guards at tomb
4/10	Crossroads	Harold Hicks	Thieves on cross

MISSION MOMENT – *The Real “Mr. Rogers”*

Anyone with kids and a television set knows Fred Rogers. Three generations of children have grown up with “Mister Rogers” — the friendly sweater-and-sneakers-clad grownup who talks frankly about feelings and invites them to be part of his TV “neighborhood.” What is less widely known is that Fred Rogers is a Presbyterian minister, ordained in 1962 by Pittsburgh Presbytery. Early on a Monday afternoon America’s best-loved neighbor is catching up on stacks of correspondence in his office in downtown Pittsburgh, following a quick trip to Toronto. Just before a scheduled interview he squeezes in time for a carton of yogurt. Then he appears, smiling and relaxed, to ask, “What do you want to talk about?” For the next hour his comments emerge thoughtfully, deliberately, graciously — just like on TV. It is not hard to imagine this man giving up his lunch break for eight years to take Bible and theology courses. “It’s fairly unorthodox to go to seminary on your lunch hour,” he says. “Which is what I literally did.” That was back in the 1950s. Rogers had just begun working for WQED in Pittsburgh, the nation’s first community-supported public television station. He had planned to go to seminary right after college but got sidetracked by a call to work in television. A few years later seminary became a way of undergirding this call — to minister to children and their families through the media. In the early 1960s, Rogers recalls, national media staff in the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. began talking to him about developing a children’s TV program as an outreach for the denomination. But then priorities shifted and money for the project evaporated. Did the church miss a big opportunity? “It’s hard to say,” commented Gregg Hartung, executive director of Presbyterian Media Mission and a personal friend of Rogers’. “I’m not sure a ministry like Fred’s could be done within an institution.” If a church-Rogers partnership had come to fruition, the PC(USA) might be known today as a trailblazer in TV evangelism. On the other hand, the constraints of working within a church bureaucracy might have had a stifling effect on Rogers’ creativity. In 1962 Pittsburgh Presbytery ordained him with a charge to continue his work with children and families through the media. He has never served in the traditional role of pastor, but through television he brings his simple message of affirmation and acceptance to a “congregation” of millions. On TV and in person Rogers comes across as refreshingly genuine. His gracious “Mister Rogers” persona is not an act, says Hartung. “It’s really, truly Fred.” His affirmation of the goodness in people elicits powerful responses from adults as well as children. Being a good listener is a vital part of ministry, especially ministry with children, Rogers believes. He cultivates his own listening skills by

integrating silence into his life as a daily spiritual discipline. He says he has been profoundly influenced by the devotional writings of the late Roman Catholic priest Henri Nouwen, who was also a personal friend. “Silence is becoming more and more of a luxury,” he remarked. “I’d encourage everyone to have more quiet time.” Nurturing children in the Christian faith is a challenge in today’s world, Rogers acknowledged. He still is appalled by many of the things kids are exposed to in the media, such as situation comedies in which the lines spoken by child actors “are invariably smart-aleck remarks and put-downs.” Rogers bases his work with children on the maxim, “Attitudes are caught, not taught.” The best way to cultivate faith in children, he says, is to “share our own enthusiasm about what we believe.” The most important thing the church can offer children, he adds, is “a place where they know it’s OK to be a child.” This means stocking church school rooms with age-appropriate furniture and toys. It means allowing time in the worship service to “appreciate what children might have to give.” Jesus welcomed children and so should the church, Rogers believes. In fact, he says thoughtfully, flashing one of his trademark smiles, “I think Jesus delighted in the presence of children.”

Eva Stimson, Former Editor, Presbyterians Today