



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

SEPTEMBER 2021

How many Presbyterians does it take to change a lightbulb? Ten, one to actually change the bulb and nine to say how much they liked the old one better. How many Presbyterians does it take to change a lightbulb? You can't change it, my grandmother gave that lightbulb to the church. How many Presbyterians does it take to change a lightbulb? None, God predestined the bulb to burn out and God will replace it in his time. How many Presbyterians does it take to change a lightbulb? Change, change, who said change?

Change, adaptation, versatility—they've been our watchwords this past year and a half. Then again such challenges have been a way of life for a long time. Quheleth, the preacher in Ecclesiastes wrote: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to plant and a time to pluck up what has been planted...a time to break down and a time to build up...a time to seek and a time to lose...a time to keep and a time to throw away...a time to tear and a time to sew..." (Eccles. 3). In some circumstances our way of life has been inconvenienced and in others it has been changed forever.

We cannot control what transpires, but we can make conscious decisions as to how we respond to it. Daily routines are disrupted, but in resilience we can repattern our days. In the midst of change, we realize that some of the things we've lost have outlived their usefulness and in the loss we have been freed to claim new ways. Sometimes in the church as we've faced loss, we've gained a renewed appreciation for what we've had and we don't take it for granted. And sometimes in the face of loss we've mustered the courage to break out of our complacency and accept a new responsibility for what happens in our situation. That's true in our lives, as an individual, as families, as a community and as a church.

As disheartening as the realities of COVID have been, it has changed the ways we live out our lives together. As a congregation we have expanded the scope of our outreach in meeting physical and spiritual needs. Our worship services have been streamed and flow into new homes. Resources have been entrusted to our stewardship to meet tangible needs near and far. New relationships have been formed and friendships blossom in what was once barren ground. New leadership has stepped forward to fill vacuums left by those who have stepped away. A new sense of identity is being formed as we take a good hard look at what is most important to our future. While there are some things we need to reclaim, there are other things we need to release. Change is never easy, yet without it we die. Maybe that is why Paul often uses the image of childbirth, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit..." (Romans 8:22).

At the heart of Christian faith is the knowledge that new life springs forth from death. "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation—for the old has passed away, behold the new has come." As we begin our Fall Program there are new opportunities to grow: many Sunday School classes are starting up again, Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins with a focus on the Gospel of John, a task group is being formed to plan the celebration of our congregation's bicentennial, the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir are beginning to rehearse. While many needs around the community have been addressed, there are still needs we are just beginning to identify. While the pandemic has stretched some relationships there is opportunity to reconnect and restore.

I ask that you be open to recognize those things you have lost this past year and a half. Be honest about them and allow yourself to grieve. But so too be open about all you do have. Build up what has been pushed down. Replant what has been plucked up. Gather what has been scattered. Be open to discover and claim those new opportunities the Spirit has revealed to you.....

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jim

Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, September 5

James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Sunday, September 12

James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Sunday, September 19

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Sunday, September 26

James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Sunday, October 3

Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

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, 724-459-7991.

Bible Study to Begin

Each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 8th, we will gather in Fellowship Hall, and by ZOOM for Bible Study. Our study will focus on the gospel of John. As we gather, we will follow CDC guidelines. Please call the church office with any questions or concerns.

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, September 12th during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

Worship Assistants

September 5—10:00 a.m.

Liturgist: Mary Gorslene
Flowers: Joan Moran
Special Music: The Blairsville Brass
Streaming: Chase Stuchal
Proj/Audio: Austin Baker/Cole Stuchal
Ushers: Pat & Janeen Swope

September 12—Communion—11:00 a.m.

Flowers: Matt & Jen Borbonus
Streaming: Mark Borbonus
Proj/Audio: Eli/Brylea Borbonus
Ushers: Pat & Janeen Swope

September 19—11:00 a.m.

Flowers: Nancy Boone
Streaming: John Bruner
Proj/Audio: Elizabeth/Abigail Bruner
Ushers: Pat & Janeen Swope

September 26—11:00 a.m.

Flowers: Ed & Becky Bence
Streaming: Olivia Eckenroad
Proj/Audio: Kristi Eckenroad/Dennis Gould
Ushers: Pat & Janeen Swope

Offering Counters

Jean Heberling and Elaine Jellison



Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship **Sunday, September 26th** to accept the report of the Nominating Committee and the 2022 Pastoral Terms of Call.

2021 Nominating Committee

Our 2021 Nominating Committee is made up of Rick Shoemaker, chair, Gene Artman, Jean Heberling, Elaine Jellison, Terry Brown, Dennis Gould, Brent Ritchie, Alan Lowman (1st alternate) and Janeen Swope (2nd alternate). Please pray for them as they meet and discern leaders for the Class of 2024.

OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 12th
Worship & Communion 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

Sunday School Classes will resume on Sunday, September 12th at 9:45 a.m. Cindy Borbonus and Sheila Borbonus will teach the Elementary Class and Bobbi Monroe and Mary Gorslene will teach the Jr/Sr High Class. The Homebuilders Class will also meet. Following CDC and state guidelines, masks will be optional. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

Board of Deacons

After a break for the summer months, our Board of Deacons will begin gathering for monthly meetings starting in September. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 7th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Pastoral Concerns

Pastoral needs should be shared with Rev. Monroe directly. Concerns are not always relayed to him by others. He would like to attend to those with needs but may not be aware of them. Please contact the pastor at 724-459-0131 or the office at 724-459-7991.

Food Bank

The ICCAP Food Bank distribution is held the second Tuesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. When signing up for the first time, proof of residency in Blairsville borough is needed.

Ding, Ding, Ding!

UPC Handbell Choir

Following polling of the current ringers, the Handbell Choir will hold its first full choir rehearsals since the pandemic on **Wednesdays, September 8 & 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. The choir members will be socially distanced at the round tables with each ringer at their own table. Masks required for unvaccinated ringers and any who want to wear a mask for extra protection of others.

The choir is currently in need of 3 or 4 new ringers so it can ring the 3-octave music. We welcome any seasoned ringers and any new to handbell ringing.

Handbells are a rhythm instrument, so if you can keep a steady beat and count to 3, 4, 6 or 8, you can easily learn to ring. All ages are welcome: Adults and youth! Perhaps we can even begin a youth and/or children's bell choir with enough interest. Please give some thought to joining us.

Contact Vicky Westley, director, for more information.

Chancel Choir Update

It's been over a year since we've seen our Chancel Choir. Good news... the choir robes have been cleaned, the dust has been blown off the music folders and members are ready to return! Choir will begin **Wednesday rehearsals on September 8th at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome! So mark your calendar and plan to be there. If you are new and interested in singing in the choir, or you would like more information, please see Cindy Borbonus.

Ligonier Highland Games

The Ligonier Highlands Games will be held on Saturday, September 18th at beautiful Idlewild Park. Gate admission price is \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors (\$10 for youths ages 11 to 17 and those 10 and under are free). The day will include: Scottish vendors, athletic competitions, sole pipe and drum competitions, fiddling competitions, harpists competitions, Highland dancing competitions, Gaelic language exhibition, Scottish tartan information, professional Celtic entertainers perform all day, wool spinning and weaving, children's games and much more. Also, professional piping competition will be held Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Getting to Know You

In the next few months we will share information about our elders and deacons. This month, we would like to introduce you to a couple of our elders.

Doug Clayton—Class of 2021

We live on Johnson Ave. in Blairsville. I am married to my high school sweetheart (Andrea) for 27 years, together for 33. We have two kids, Jessica an accountant with an Indiana Bank and Jonathan, a soon to be Penn State grad working for a bearing company. My wife and I own Debnar's and manage the Indiana store. I am the church's representative with our sponsored Boy Scout Troop. I am heavily involved with the troop's activities, both on the boy's side with teaching, merit badges, camping, etc. and the operation side on the Troop Committee holding the treasurer position. I do enjoy it, and have stayed on even after Jonathan has aged out. I am on multiple other church committees, but the one that I'm the most visible is Worship. I co-chair with Gene Artman. I handle all of the audio / visual / online streaming equipment for the church. Every Sunday I am in the balcony directing the streaming production for online.

Lisa Hainaut—Class of 2022

I am currently an Elder of the Church and this is my third time serving. I reside in Blairsville with my husband Thomas Hainaut. I was introduced to my husband in this very church! We will be celebrating 29 years in September. We have been long time members of the Presbyterian Church and we have served as Deacon, Ushers, and Liturgist.

We do not have any children due to the fact that I had cancer. Currently, I am employed as a Wellness Coordinator and receptionist at Redstone and am working every single day of the week due to Covid! Before Covid and when I had time!- I enjoyed Golfing, Biking, and Yard work.

Visitation

Pastoral visitation has been curtailed in hospitals and care facilities. Visits are often limited to family members only. If you would like the pastor to visit, please call the study at 724-459-0131 or the church office at 724-459-7991.

Articles to be published in the October edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Wednesday, September 15th. Please call the office with any questions or concerns.



How Well Do You Know Your Bible? BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Who were Adam and Eve's three sons listed in the Bible?
2. How many brothers did Joseph have?
3. How many of Jesus' brothers are named in the Bible?
4. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
5. Which human author wrote the most books in the Bible?

Answers will be shared in the next newsletter

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS FROM AUGUST

1. True or False: The Bible is the most popular book ever written.
(by copies sold)
Answer: True, The most read book in the world is **the Bible**. Writer James Chapman created a list of the most read books in the world based on the number of copies each book sold over the last 50 years. He found that the Bible far outsold any other book, with a whopping 3.9 billion copies sold over the last 50 years.
2. How many lepers did Jesus heal?
Answer: Ten, Luke 17:11–19
3. How many books in the Old Testament?
Answer: English Bibles list **39 books** for the Old Testament because of the practice of bisecting Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles and of counting Ezra, Nehemiah, and the 12 Minor Prophets as separate books.
4. What was Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus called them to follow him?
Answer: Fishing, Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11
5. What problem did Bartimaeus have that Jesus fixed?
Answer: He was blind and Jesus restored his sight, Mark 10:46-52

Food for Family Thought—

Question: If you knew that you could become the best in the world at any one skill, but that it would take fifteen years of studying and/or practicing hard to get to that level, toward what goal would you be willing to dedicate yourself so completely?

Thought: From time to time our children will feel overwhelmed as they take on new and expanding challenges. You can help them—in word and example—to understand that while it's important to keep an eye on the end goal, the way to get there is to ask God for help and to simply do the next thing right in front of you.

Question: Different forms of art serve as great inspiration to people all over the world. What form of art do you personally find most inspiring, and why do you think it makes you feel so good inside?

Thought: My wife's spiritual director was an artist, a sculptor of some renown. His best piece of advice to her while she was in the middle of raising our two young daughters was this: Make time to do something creative every day. This is one sure way to connect with the Divine Artist, the maker of heaven and earth.