

THE LORD GOD WILL
BE THEIR LIGHT ...

REVELATION 22:5



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

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

May 22, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Rev. Timothy Monroe

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

“For I Shall See Him”

By Don Wyrzten

Introit

“On Eagle’s Wings”

#438

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust.”
And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of his hand.**

Michael Joncas - Words and Music: © 1979 New Dawn Music - CCLI License # 1214765

Call to Worship (*Psalm 67*)

Terry Brown, Liturgist

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

**People: That your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.

**People: May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

*Hymn # 59

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus, you have said that those who love you will keep your words. You have given us your Holy Spirit to remind us of all that you have said, and your will is that our hearts would be open to hear what you have to say. Yet we confess that our hearts are easily troubled by worry and anxiety, falsehood and fear. Forgive us our sins, O Lord, and cleanse our hearts. Heal our troubled minds, and renew our ailing bodies. Bathe us in the light of your countenance, and restore us to your peace, for your name's sake.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Gloria Patri**

***Sharing of the Peace**

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Anthem

“The New Jerusalem”

By Stefanovich

The Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, director

Gospel Lesson

John 14:23-29

Sermon

Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**

(The Westminster Confession of Faith)

The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls (which neither die nor sleep), having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Besides these two places for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

*Hymn # 428 “When Peace Like a River”
Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (“...debts...and debtors...”)
Choral Amen
*Hymn # 522 “Shall We Gather at the River”
*Benediction
*Choral Response
*Postlude

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

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning’s service are Liturgist, Terry Brown; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Audio/Visual and Streaming, Olivia and Kristi Eckenroad; ushers, Elaine Jellison and Alan Lowman.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of Michael and Tony by Barb Kocsis.

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE continues to plan for the celebration this year. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Additional ideas for recognizing our anniversary are welcomed. All those interested in participating with the planning are invited to attend the meeting.

BIBLE STUDY will be held in Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Our focus is on the gospel of John. Please call the church office with any questions or concerns.

THE PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE would like to accomplish some outdoor jobs before our anniversary festivities begin. They are asking for volunteers willing to help out with weeding and mulching, etc. Workers will gather Wednesday, May 25th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 26 is set as a rain date. All workers are welcome. Please bring your tools of choice. If you have any questions, please see Pat Swope, chair or contact the church office.

THE RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Baccalaureate Service will be held Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Hebron Lutheran Church. Family and friends are invited to attend this cap and gown event led by the Class of 2022.

WE WOULD like to schedule special music for summer worship services. If you or someone you know would be interested in sharing musical gifts with us on Sunday morning, please contact Cindy Borbonus or the church office.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet in the parlor Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This group works on personal projects and enjoys fellowship. All are welcome.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE will meet Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in mission or learning more about it, is invited to attend the meeting. Please see Lon Ferguson, chair or Pastor Monroe for more information.

THE SESSION approved setting up a 200th Anniversary Fund to receive donations which will be used to offset the expense of the anniversary dinner. The estimated cost for the dinner is \$3,168. To date we have received \$535. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the dinner, please mark your gifts clearly "Anniversary Dinner" and drop them in the offering plate or mail to the church.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION will be held during the 10:00 a.m. worship service Sunday, June 5th. It is our tradition each year to recognize the accomplishments of our young people.

OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE begins Sunday, June 5th. **The worship hour is at 10:00 a.m. throughout the summer months.** Our choirs and Sunday School will be in recess. Following Labor Day, our Regular Schedule will resume. Please mark your calendars.

friend of mine was bemoaning finding volunteers for a garden project. “I like to garden,” I told him, not realizing what I was stepping into. A month later, he introduced me to the Rockrose City Farm — one of several community farms throughout Baltimore that was once a rock quarry, then later a baseball field. It eventually became a community garden with individual plots and one central plot called the “Charity Garden.” The Charity Garden had been maintained by a couple who attended my friend’s church. The church inherited the garden after the couple retired to Florida. In the best of times, getting a garden off the ground would have been a challenge. But as we know, the spring of 2020 was not the best of times. After about a month straight of not leaving my house, I came to garden and was overwhelmed by what I saw: The plot was overgrown with weeds, and the hoop house was filled with garbage and random tools. Fortunately for me, the Presbytery of Baltimore has an amazing asset in The Center — an organization that exists “to inspire and equip churches and individuals to engage boldly with their neighborhoods.” The Center’s staff supplied Rockrose with volunteers in those beginning months. It was also through The Center that Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church became involved. Their associate pastor, the Rev. Michele Ward, put out a call for volunteers. One member of Ward’s church particularly found gardening to be healing. McKay Jenkins, a journalist and English professor at the University of Delaware, dedicated additional time to build raised beds, potting tables and an irrigation system. The connection to the space became intensely personal for Jenkins, who started working at the farm shortly after losing his parents, both of whom were avid gardeners. “Working with my hands helped me find some sense of grounded-ness in an otherwise very unsettled time,” he said. Jenkins’ leadership has extended beyond growing food for others. He and I have both bristled at the “charity garden” label that we inherited. We’ve challenged ourselves to move beyond charity. Jenkins has begun by inviting his students, most of whom come from affluent backgrounds, to work in the garden and learn about the food justice issues that exist in Baltimore. It has also meant inviting local students from the city to the farm. These are small steps, but we continue to dream big about ways the garden could be used for education, job training and resourcing small business. Our hope is that this space can be as healing for the community as it has been for each of us.

Derrick Weston is the co-host of the “Food and Faith” podcast at foodandfaithpodcast.org. He is a member of Ashland Presbyterian Church in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

A Little History of the Church and Blairsville

The year-end report of First Presbyterian Church was titled, "Manual". The April 1, 1905 - March 31, 1906 edition had an interesting article included. It was written by the pastor at that time, the Rev. William Barrett.

Our Italian Work.

There are about five hundred Italian people in Blairsville—very little has been done for their spiritual welfare. I have thought with many others that something ought to be done for the enlightenment and salvation of these people. As a member of the Presbytery's Committee on Synodical Missions and Sustentation I have pressed the urgent claims of this field. I am glad that this open door of duty and opportunity has been recognized and that we now have a man on the field who has entered upon the work. Mr. Michael Fardella, a member of the First Church of Johnstown, has been employed by the Committee to labor at Johnstown, Latrobe and Blairsville. His time is divided about equally between these points.

A few weeks ago he began work here and has succeeded in organizing a night school with a present enrollment of seventeen. He teaches his fellow-countrymen the English language and the Christian religion. He spends two days each week here and occasionally remains for a gospel service on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Fardella was a lieutenant in the Italian Army, is well educated and readily adapts himself to conditions. The outlook is promising and I trust that our people will give all possible encouragement to this foreign mission work at home. Remember our Italian work in your prayers and gifts.

THE PASTOR.