



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

AUGUST 2022

It was their golden anniversary as Bert and Gert sat at the head table of the packed banquet hall. Family and friends had gathered from near and far to celebrate the glorious occasion. Bert stood to make a toast. "My dear wife, after fifty years I've found you tried and true." Everyone smiled with approval. But Gert forgot her hearing aid so she said "Eh?" Again Bert raised his glass and said in a louder voice, "AFTER FIFTY YEARS I'VE FOUND YOU TRIED AND TRUE!" His wife harumphed and shot back, "Well, let me tell you something—after fifty years I'm tired of you, too!"

Long-term relationships are a blessing filled with memories—most of which are reasons to celebrate, but some we would rather forget. But regardless of the emotions we express, we move forward, trusting that it is God who holds for us a glorious future. Our two hundred years of witness in Blairsville have been filled with highs and lows, the highs far outnumbering the challenges. Through it all, the tough times have made us all the stronger to "press on toward the goal to win the prize of the higher calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14) There were the challenges of gathering believers in a newly formed community. And then there was a matter of constructing a place in which the faithful would worship. There were pastors and elders and deacons needed to serve, teachers needed to educate, musicians needed to lead in praise. God called us together for the purpose of declaring good news of hope in the face of despair, a word of assurance in the midst of the uncertainties of daily struggle. But most important, we were entrusted with the unwavering truth that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from God's loving care in Jesus Christ.

Ministers have come and gone. Buildings have been erected and razed. Fires and floods and disease have disrupted daily life. Political disagreements strained friendships. Denominational agenda has divided congregations. But through it all, the church has persevered, because while the church is in the world, it is not of this world. The church belongs to God alone, and its unity is defined by the love of Christ that we share. That unity is at the heart of what makes Blairsville who it is. With spiritual maturity we have grown beyond a mentality of competition to an understanding that regardless of our traditions, our purpose is the same. Those things that threaten to divide us are no where near as strong as the one who unites us. The witness of each congregation enhances the witness of all other congregations.

As we celebrate the first two hundred years of Presbyterianism in Blairsville, we rejoice in the ways God's kingdom has been glorified. But even more, we look forward in expectant hope to the ways the Holy Spirit will move through all Christians in this community making God's love visible. We've come a long way in our thinking. There was the time when we saw matters of faith in terms of "mine and thine." But as we move into the future of hope, we see faith as "ours." Heeding Paul's plea, we "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep." One congregation's success is a reason for all people of faith to celebrate. And one Christian's sadness calls all believers to lament.

The seeds of faith sown in this soil two centuries ago have taken root, grown and bear fruit to this day. We are who we are because of the foundation that has been laid for us. At the same time, those who gather for the three hundredth anniversary will be who they are, in part because of who we, in faith, have been. We truly are living stones, and a question we are challenged to ask, a mandate we are charged to live out is: How does my witness today enhance the ministry of Christ's church in all the tomorrows to come? We thank God for all that has been yet we look forward to who we are becoming.....

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jim

Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, August 7

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 14

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 28

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Sunday, September 4

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Luke 14:25-33



Guest Speaker

On Sunday, August 28th, we will welcome Dianna Messenger to worship. Dianna will share with us how God brought her through a time of serious illness. We hope her journey will encourage others who may be going through similar experiences. Pastor Monroe will not be in the pulpit this Sunday.

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 the Blairsville borough is needed.

Summer Worship Assistants

August 7

Liturgist: Mary Gorslone

Flowers: Sue Harvey & family

Sp Music: Gene Artman

Audio/Visual: Brylea & Eli Borbonus

August 14

Liturgist: Mel Woodring

Flowers: Shirley Monroe

Audio/Visual: Elizabeth & John Bruner

August 21

Liturgist: Barb Brown

Flowers: Gene & Chery Artman

Flowers: Lee & Bunny Ednie

Audio/Visual: Olivia & Kristi Eckenroad

August 28

Liturgist: Lon Ferguson

Speaker: Dianna Messenger

Flowers: Ed & Becky Bence

Audio/Visual: Karen & John Kerin

Offering Counters

Charlotte and Bob Cosharek

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE

August 7.....Gene Artman

August 14.....Adam Loucks

August 21.....Blairsville Brass

August 28.....Bob Klingensmith

September 4.....Kerin Family

Chancel Choir Update

Our Chancel Choir will begin Wednesday rehearsals on September 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome! If you are interested in singing in the choir, please see Cindy Borbonus.

September Newsletter

Articles to be published in the September edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Monday, August 15. Consider sharing church news through the monthly newsletter. Please call the church office with any questions or concerns.

Our Regular Schedule

begins Sunday, September 11th

The worship hour will begin at 11:00 a.m. and our Chancel Choir will be back with us. Our plans for Sunday School continue to be discussed. Please watch your weekly bulletins for updates.

Bible Study to Begin

Each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 7th, we will gather in Fellowship Hall, and by ZOOM for Bible Study. Our study will finish the gospel of John and then move on to the book of Revelation. Please call the church office with 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 6th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Communion Update

The Lord's Supper was scheduled to be shared Sunday, September 11th. It has been moved one week to Sunday, September 18th to be part of our special bicentennial worship. Our 200th Anniversary Worship Service will be a special day for our congregation and friends. All are invited to worship!

Confirmation Class

A confirmation class is being planned. Parents, if you are interested in your child taking part, please contact the church office or talk with Pastor Monroe. Watch your weekly bulletin for more information.



200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

OPEN HOUSE *(During the Community Knotweed Festival)*

Saturday, August 13 ~ 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Open House will include: a history display, Power Point of historic photographs, genealogy, collection of vintage Blairsville postcards, sanctuary tours, Grannies display, refreshments and more.

CHURCH PICNIC & MEN WITH MIXERS AUCTION

Sunday, August 14 ~ 11:00 AM

Chicken, beverage and place settings will be provided. Those attending bring a dish to share. Men with Mixers Auction will be held following the meal. Men of the church will prepare their favorite dessert/baked good items to be auctioned off. The proceeds will be sent to benefit Tackle Hunger (part of Souper Bowl of Caring). A sign-up sheet is available at the back of the sanctuary for those wishing to participate.

200TH ANNIVERSARY CATERED DINNER & PRESENTATION

Saturday, September 17 ~ 5:00 PM & 6:15 PM

A catered dinner will be served for a nominal fee followed by a presentation on our first 200 years in ministry. Dinner by reservation only.

BICENTENNIAL WORSHIP & LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 18 ~ 11:00 AM

A special bicentennial worship service will be held including communion, bagpipes, special music and the Blairsville Brass Ensemble. Following the service, a soup, sandwich and salad luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall.

200TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Wednesday, September 21 ~ 7:00 PM

A variety of musicians who have shared their talents with us in worship have been invited to be with us again at our 200th Anniversary Concert. It will be a wonderful evening of praise to our God for all he's done through the years and for what he has yet to do!

200th ANNIVERSARY CATERED DINNER

Come and join us September 17th at 5:00 PM for the 200th Anniversary Catered Dinner. Reservations will be taken

FOR OUR CONGREGATION:

MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND TILL FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH

FRIENDS FROM OUTSIDE THE CHURCH:

MONDAY, AUGUST 29TH UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

Please call Charlotte at 724-459-7991

BETWEEN 9:00 AM AND 8:00 PM.

Make your reservation together with those whom you would like to sit. Each table will have eight place settings. There will be a cost of \$5.00 per person which will confirm your reservation. Checks can be made payable to the church and mailed or dropped in the offering plate by Sunday, September 11th. The 200th Anniversary History Presentation will follow at approximately 6:15 PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome, no reservations are necessary for the presentation. We hope you will make plans to come and celebrate with your church family!

Anniversary Keepsake Ornaments

The anniversary committee has ordered custom keepsake ornaments of the church from Wendall August Forge. These will be available to purchase when they arrive. More details and cost information will be available at a later date. Watch your weekly bulletin.

“Like Living Stones”

I Peter 2:5 calls us to be “like living stones, built into a spiritual house....” That image of the church has been a watchword as we have moved closer to our 200th anniversary, and beyond. Many of you have been carrying stones in your pocket or purse as a reminder of Christ’s presence with you and purpose for you. At the same time, our celebration calls us to consider who we are together.

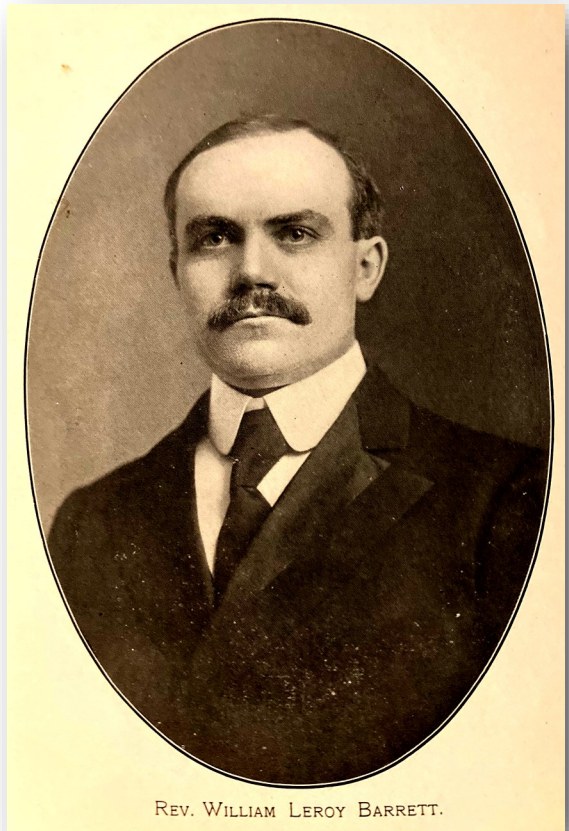
We are asking each of you to bring a stone from your home to church on Sunday, September 18th. The stone should be about three inches in diameter. Once we have collected the stones, they will be arranged artistically. Jim Antis will use his creative gifts in making an “objet d’art” (French for art object) to be placed in the prayer garden. This is symbolic of our spiritual identity as a community of living stones. We don’t know yet what it will look like—a mosaic or something three dimensional? Jim is quite artistic, so we’ll see where the Spirit leads him. Texture, shape and color don’t matter, but we do ask that the size be about three inches or less across. You can bring one from each person in your household or one to represent the whole family.

PASTOR'S LETTER.

DEAR FRIENDS:

Our second year of christian service has become history. It has been a year marked by the blessing of the Lord in the fruits of religious life and activity. God has been good to us in bestowing upon us both temporal and spiritual benefits and in placing the seal of success upon our united efforts to promote the interests of His kingdom. We have been blessed in the works of christian usefulness just in proportion to the extent of our willingness to obey His commands and to yield ourselves to the leadership of His Spirit. Attendance upon the means of grace and interest in the general work of the church have been gratifying. Some have removed from our bounds, a few have gone from the church militant to the church triumphant, and while we shall miss their familiar faces we should be grateful for the two-score souls who have joined our ranks and strengthened our forces. General interest in benevolence was perhaps never greater in the history of the church—this year totaling \$2341.65, an increase over last year of \$951.74. The total money contributed for all purposes for the year amounted to \$5883.50. Unusual interest has been manifested in the welfare of Blairsville College—55 members pledging almost \$5500.00 toward this worthy institution; should we include all members of the congregation who have pledged definite sums to this cause the amount would be almost \$7000.00. A Forward Movement campaign for Foreign Missions has been carried on with the result that the advance in missionary gifts as well as interest has been noteworthy. We now have our definite Parish Abroad—Teheran, Persia, the support of which station we share to the extent of \$500.00. Two Mission Study Classes, one for men and one for women, now meet weekly for the study of "Aliens or Americans?", while 50 subscriptions have been secured for the Assembly Herald. A Brotherhood was organized in December with a membership of 47, now 73, which is proving to be just what our church needs and has already resulted in new life and fellowship among the men. This organization is flourishing and is full of promise of blessing for the whole church. The prayer-meeting has been sustained with splendid interest, the *men* are beginning to be conspicuous by their *presence*. A Normal Class of 26 members for systematic Bible study meets each week after the Prayer-meeting, using Prof. Hurlbut's Revised Lessons as the text-book. The use of the new song books, Gospel Hymns Nos. 1-6, is putting new musical life in the Sunday School, Prayer-meeting and Endeavor Societies. All the auxiliaries of the church have done good, faithful work and your attention is called to their reports in the Year Book. You should not fail to read the Year Book from beginning to end. The Deacons have been able through the co-operation of contributors to meet all obligations promptly and the financial status of the congregation should call forth a note of thanksgiving. While the net gain in membership is small still the gain in development of the material within the church is large. The *workers* are increasing both in numbers and efficiency. There is almost no limit to the influence for good of 411 people if they be consecrated, united and persistent. The work is not all done; let us face the new ecclesiastical year with the conviction that "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." With profound gratitude to God for a successful year, let us press forward, seeking by Divine help and renewed vigor to enter in and possess the land for Christ. As your Pastor, I want to thank you heartily for your courtesy, sympathy and prayers. It is only by co-operation that we can hope to accomplish worthy results for the Master. It has been real joy to serve you and now as we enter upon our third year may it mean for us all deeper spirituality, broader sympathy and better service—to this end let us live and labor.

Sincerely yours,
W. L. BARRETT.



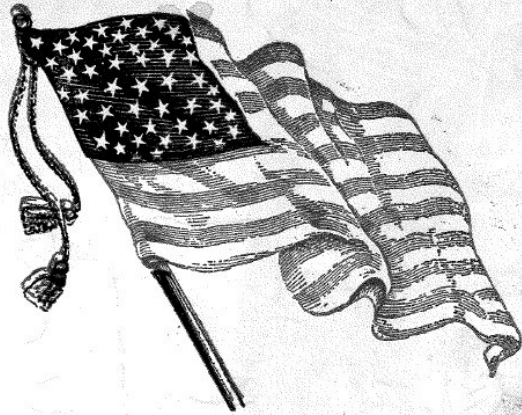
REV. WILLIAM LEROY BARRETT.

Pastor's letter and pastor from the 1907 Year Book of First Presbyterian Church



A.T. Bell
Mrs. A. T. Bell presented the service flag

Dedication of the Service Flag bulletin
World War I
Date not printed, circa 1918



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BLAIRSVILLE, PA.

MICHAEL M. MCDIVITT, B. D. MINISTER



Morning Worship

11:00 O'Clock

ORGAN PRELUDE—Italian Hymn - - - - - Gardini
DOXOLOGY
LORD'S PRAYER } (Congregation Standing)
INVOCATION }
GLORIA PATRIA }
RESPONSIVE READING—Selection 44
HYMN 157 (Congregation Seated)
SCRIPTURE READING—Exodus 14
ANTHEM—"Art Thou Weary" - - - - - Shelley
PRAYER
OFFERING AND DEDICATION—Melodie - - - - - Sullivan
HYMN 232 (Congregation Standing)
SERMON—"Victory, The Spirit of 1918". EX. 14:15.
PRAYER
HYMN 374 (Congregation Standing)
BENEDICTION
ORGAN POSTLUDE—Postlude - - - - - Watson

Service Stars

These Stars we hang in the flag today
In honor of men who have gone away;
Some bivouac in Camps neath Lily or Pine,
Some toss by night on Old Ocean's brine.

Nobly they left us and went their way
To fight for God and The Better Day.
Their motives for conflict are sublime,
The service they render is near divine.

No heaviness on their minds we lay,
But heartening words to them will say;
Our letters, confident in every line
Reveal home-fires that ne'er decline.

Before God's Altar I kneel and pray:
Father, guard these men while far away.
Restore them all to this heart of mine;
Or, if not that—then, take them to Thine.
Michael M. McDivitt.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ★
Sergt.
R. P. Duncan | ★
Sergt.
G. H. Marshall | ★
Corp.
W. L. Bowersox |
| ★
L. H. Cornell | ★
G. B. Bergman | ★
W. S. Sindorf |
| ★
Sergt.
H. C. Coy | ★
Corp.
H. D. Hollis | ★
Corp.
E. P. Iseman |
| ★
J. M. Crusan | ★
H. L. Mayhood | ★
R. J. Axe |
| ★
Corp.
J. I. Douglass | ★
Sergt.
J. W. Iseman | ★
Sergt.
W. B. Bratton |
| ★
L. J. Forsha | ★
R. W. Baker | ★
F. R. Adams |
| ★
H. T. Adams | ★
Gun M.
W. J. Walker | ★
D. S. Grumbling |
| ★
J. J. Weinell | ★
W. R. Jones | ★
H. A. McCurdy |
| | ★
A. S. Lintner | |

Evening Worship

DEDICATION OF THE SERVICE FLAG

ORGAN PRELUDE—Commemoration March - - - - - King
A PRAYER FOR THE NATION—"God Bless Our Native Land".
ANTHEM—"Thy Kingdom Come" - - - - - Shelley
PRAYER
OFFERING AND DEDICATION—The Crusaders - - - - - Volkman
HYMN 663 (Congregation Standing)
PROCESSION AND RAISING OF CHRISTIAN FLAG
SALUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN AND AMERICAN FLAGS

Congregation will rise, salute the flags in turn, and say:—"I pledge Allegiance to my flag, and to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

"I pledge Allegiance to my flag, and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice to all."

READING—"The Reveille" - - - - - Miss Nan T. Gerard
SEXTET—"The Star Spangled Banner" - - - - - Key
PROCESSIONAL MARCH
PROCESSION AND RAISING OF THE SERVICE FLAG
Small Boys representing The Allied Nations
PRESENTATION OF THE SERVICE FLAG - - - - - Mrs. A. T. Bell
DEDICATION OF SERVICE FLAG

The congregation will rise and say:—"We dedicate this flag to the honor and memory of those who have gone out from this Congregation, and to those who will go out, to serve our Nation in time of war."

SOLO—"Keep the Home Fires Burning" - - - - - Mr. Beatty
ACCEPTANCE OF THE SERVICE FLAG - - - - - The Minister
HYMN 449 (Congregation Standing)
BENEDICTION
ORGAN POSTLUDE—Triumphal Ode - - - - - Nettlet



How Well Do You Know Your Bible Bible Trivia

Answers in the next newsletter

1. How many days did God take to create the world?
2. Who baptized Jesus?
3. How many people were saved on the Ark?
4. Who was the woman judge who led Israel to victory?
5. How many requests are in the Lord's Prayer?

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS FROM MAY

1. True or False: Jesus asked the children to stay back while he was teaching important things to grown-ups. **Answer:** False, He said, 'Let the little children come to me...' (Matt. 19:13-15)
2. What is the first commandment? **Answer:** "You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3
3. What were Isaac's sons' names and who was born first? **Answer:** Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first and Jacob grabbed his heel, they were twins. Genesis 25:24-28
4. Who was to be named Zacharias, after the name of his father, until his mother intervened? **Answer:** John (the Baptist) Luke 1:59-66
5. True or False: John the Baptist wore clothes made of goat hair.
Answer: False, they were made of camel hair (Matthew 3:4)

Food for Family Thought

1. If you could stand before the U.S. Congress and try to persuade them to pass a brand-new law, what new law would you want them to consider? What reasons would you give to support the need for this new law?
****The Kingdom of God happens not only in the future, but also in the present. Those who follow Jesus are called to do what we can, as we can; to establish justice; to reduce oppression; and to promote the common good. Talk with your child about current events that illustrate how people are bringing about positive change.**
2. If you could travel back in time to live through any one year or event in American history, which year or event would you want to experience?
****Quickly make a spiritual timeline that lists the moments and events in your life that had the most impact on your spiritual beliefs. Review the highs and the lows, and list the top three most influential events. Reflect on what God was trying to tell you in these moments.**
3. If you could safely witness any special effect being filmed for a movie, which one would you want to see above all others?
****Sometimes we expect God to appear in our lives like a special effect in a blockbuster movie. But it's more likely that we'll recognize God in the ripple rather than in the wave, or hear God in the silent aftermath rather than the raging storm—if only we take time to look and to listen.**