



**"RISE AND GO YOUR WAY;  
YOUR FAITH HAS MADE YOU WELL."**

**LUKE 17:19 ESV**

**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](mailto:upchurch@r-church.com); website: [www.r-church.com](http://www.r-church.com)

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

October 9, 2022 ~ 11:00 AM

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

Words of Greeting

Rev. Timothy Monroe

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

Prelude

“He Touched Me”

By Gaither

Introit

“Awesome God”

# 658

**Our God is an awesome God,  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power and love –  
Our God is an awesome God!**

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Call to Worship (*Psalms 66*)

Jean Heberling, Liturgist

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

**People: Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.**

Leader: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power,  
your enemies cringe before you.

**People: All the earth worships you; they sing praise to you,  
sing praises to your name.”**

Leader: Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

**People: Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.**

\*Hymn # 66

“To God Be the Glory”

\*Prayer of Confession

**Compassionate Christ, you send us to cure the sick, but we blame the sick for their choices. You ask us to restore the unclean, but we separate them into high risk pools. You compel us to raise the dead, but we insist some are beyond help. In your patient and persistent mercy, forgive us, O Lord. Teach us to heal without condition and help without limitation. Enable us to love one another as you love us, that as recipients of unmerited grace, we may freely shower care upon all people.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri

\*Sharing of the Peace

## **DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

New Testament Lesson

II Timothy 2:8-15

Anthem

“There Is Strength In the Lord”

Arr. Gaither

Chancel Choir, Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Luke 17:11-19

Message

Rev. Timothy Monroe

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

\*Affirmation of Faith (*Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 86*)

Since we are redeemed from our sin and its wretched consequences by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why must we do good works?

**Because just as Christ has redeemed us with his blood he also renews us through his Holy Spirit according to his own image, so that with our whole life we may show ourselves grateful to God for his goodness and that he may be glorified through us; and further, so that we ourselves may be assured of our faith by its fruits and by our reverent behavior may win our neighbors to Christ.**

\*Hymn # 726

“We Praise You, O God”

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (“...debts...and debtors...”)

Choral Amen

\*Hymn # 60

“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response

\*Postlude

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

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PLEASE JOIN us in the ritual of friendship by signing the attendance pads that are at one end of each of the pews. If you are here for the first time, we would appreciate it if you would give us your local telephone number. Please help yourself to a church brochure or a copy of our newsletter, *Uplift*. These are available at the back of the church. We thank you for joining your voice to ours in sacred worship.

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning’s service are Liturgist, Jean Heberling; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Guest Organist, Pam Irwin; Audio/Visual, Karen and John Kerin.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship is given to the glory of God and in celebration of Emry’s birthday by the Borbonus family.

GRANNIES will meet Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. There are tasks for everyone. All are invited.

THE BLAIRSVILLE AREA MINISTERIUM will meet Monday at 11:00 a.m. at SS Simon and Jude Church.

FOOD BANK will distribute groceries from Fellowship Hall Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Those signing up for the first time should bring proof of residence within the Blairsville borough.

BIBLE STUDY will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday in Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM. We continue through the gospel of John followed by a study in Revelation. We hope you will join us.

THE HANDBELL CHOIR will gather for rehearsal Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. Anyone interested in joining with the Bell Choir is welcome. Training will be offered to those who are new to ringing. Please see Vicky Westley for more information.

CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome! If you enjoy making a joyful noise, we would love for you to join us. Please see Cindy Borbonus if you have any questions or would like more information.

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 FINANCE COMMITTEE will soon begin to review information for the 2023 church budget. Committee chairs are asked to begin planning for next year and consider your financial needs. If you have any questions or would like additional information that would help your planning process, please contact the church.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER will return. This year our meal will be served Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. Please use the bulletin insert to make your reservation by October 31<sup>st</sup> and let us know what dish you might bring to share or how you might help with the dinner. Also, we are in need of turkey bakers. If you would be willing to roast a turkey for the dinner, please see Tammy or Brent Ritchie. The birds will be provided, we just need cooks.

CUSTOM KEEPSAKE ORNAMENTS of the church from Wendall August Forge are available to purchase at a cost of \$12.00 each. Checks can be made payable to the church. Please see Linda George.

THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COATS-FOR-KIDS DRIVE is being held. We are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific size coats for kids in need. Please mark your donation clearly for “Coat Drive” and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith.

SAMARITANS PURSE Operation Christmas Child filled boxes should be brought to the church by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Information on how to pack a box and what type of items to include for a girl or a boy of a certain age group are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Labels are also available to place on your box.

A CONFIRMATION CLASS will be held this fall. Meeting dates and times have been set. We will gather in Fellowship Hall and share a meal followed by a lesson and activity. Please see the schedule below. Parents, if you are interested in your child taking part or if you would like additional information, please contact the church office or talk with Pastor Monroe.

First Gathering.....	October 23 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Second Gathering.....	October 30 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Third Gathering.....	November 6 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Fourth Gathering .....	November 13 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Fifth Gathering.....	November 27 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Sixth Gathering.....	December 4 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Seventh Gathering.....	December 11 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Unite with the Congregation.....	December 18 – 11:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to run the audio/visual equipment in the balcony each Sunday morning. Those interested will be trained and then will be scheduled on a rotating basis to operate the equipment. Please see Jean Heberling, Doug Clayton or contact the church office if you are interested.

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 Linda George or the church office.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of Blairsville (now the Women of Faith) are hosting a Harvest Festival on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Salad Bar is from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for a donation of \$10. There will also be a bake sale and a flea market. Tickets are available at the church office, from a member of the Women of Faith and at the door. Hope to see you there.

**Mission Moment** - Does faith have a place in mental health?

*Faith leaders, mental health providers share their insights and experiences during a thought-provoking webinar*

Religion can be used for healing and uplift — and to oppress, marginalize and shame people. That and other takeaways emerged from a recent webinar titled “Does faith have a place in mental health?” The Associated Press, The Conversation and Religion News Service sponsored the webinar. Dr. Natasha Mikles, assistant professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Texas State University, moderated the panel, which included Dr. Thema Bryant, president-elect of the American Psychological Association, who's an ordained minister in the AME Church, a trauma psychologist and trauma survivor; Dr. David Morris, a publisher and literary agent who wrote the book “Lost Faith and Wandering Souls”; and Rabbi Seth Winberg, the senior chaplain at Brandeis University.

Mikles asked panelists if religion could be “a double-edged sword confronting mental health issues.” Morris said faith can indeed “bring health and be the source of unhealth.” A professor of his used to tell students religion “is the one thing that repels and attracts people at the same time.” Religion is always in context, Morris said, and it depends on who's talking about it, how the terms are defined, whom it's for and whom it's excluding.

Bryant said there's both positive and negative religious coping. In the former, the person might say, “I believe God is loving and cares and wants

to help me.” But others are taught God is “harsh and mean and tries to catch me messing up.” Bryant works with survivors of sexual trauma who tell her that while the trauma may feel overwhelming, “even if I don’t get justice, this person has to answer to God, who believes me if nobody else does.” Bryant often hears aphorisms including “I’m too blessed to be stressed.” But the reality is “I can be both at the same time.” Some of her clients won’t even admit they’re depressed. “They think if they say it, it makes them depressed,” Bryant said.

Morris said people who are grieving the death of someone close to them are often “given platitudes about how their loved one is in heaven” and are advised by otherwise well-meaning people to move on. “It takes time,” he said. “People acknowledge their sorrow through lament. It’s something I think religious leaders understand. But in this world of easy faith, we can overlook those emotions.”

Winberg said it can be helpful for students to read the rabbinic back-and-forth of the Talmud, which dates back to the 6th century. “I sometimes encourage students to talk with me or anyone else in that kind of open way,” Winberg said. “A person of faith can ask questions because the Talmud has so much open speculation and dialogue. ... That seems to be something they appreciate. They don’t expect rabbis to be open to that, but that’s where rabbinic Judaism started.”

Bryant has heard preachers take to the pulpit to talk about their own grief and even about going to therapy. “Let our humanity show up,” she advised preachers. “We want people to be authentic.” Work mental health into the liturgy, she suggested. “There is depression, anxiety, violence and trauma in biblical stories,” she noted. “Pray for people struggling with addiction.”

Morris said it’s important for religious leaders “to have a well-rounded approach, not just in the Bible, but in human relations and tradition.” Like Pastor Rick Warren and others have, “it’s important for leaders to talk about mental health from the pulpit,” Morris said.

“We are embodied. We can’t serve God without a healthy body and healthy mind, and we need to reduce as much stigma [to seeking mental health services] as possible,” Winberg said, recommending free eBooks offered by



the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab. Winberg said the pandemic has brought “a kind of suspended animation” to students’ social, emotional and spiritual development. “I think students have suffered from the lack of interactions. It does something to you to be physically distant from people in extreme ways. I think young people have lost that twinkle in their eye,” he said. “It’s not so obvious what the right response is, except to be present with them and to let them express those really uncertain feelings.”

*Mike Ferguson, Editor, Presbyterian News Service*

### **REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

<b>Today</b>	11:00 a.m.	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:30 a.m.	Food Bank Distribution
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study meets in Fellowship Hall
	5:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00 a.m.	Worship