



# UPLIFT Newsletter

The United  
Presbyterian Church  
of Blairsville, PA

APRIL 2023

Some of the world's deepest truths are expressed on bumper stickers and bill boards. Our congregational truth teller, Bill Lint preaches on our "bill" boards. I particularly appreciate the message he shares this month in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. "Fasting without prayer is just dieting." What a helpful Lenten thought! How much of what we do is an end unto itself. Noting the punctuation, that's not a rhetorical question, it's a declarative statement.

The value of anything worth doing is found in its ability to open us to be drawn closer to God. I've often explained that the word, worship, comes from the Old English "worth ship." We worship that which we feel has value. As they say, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." As estates are broken up and a lifetime of accumulating is disbursed by an auctioneer you can learn a lot about a person—what they valued, where they invested their time and energy, how their work will prosper and live on after them.

A few days ago, Bobbi and I took part in an online auction for the first time in our lives. The website pictured 550 lots of "things" that a couple worked a lifetime to collect. As the clock ticked down folks from around the country focused on offering the highest bid just one second before the auction closed. The problem for us was that there were several items we wanted. The moment we thought we had won one treasure and turned our attention to the next thing on our list, someone slipped in bids of a dollar more, undoing our ill fated victory. In order to win what we valued most we had to be willing to let go of some other things that were calling our name. We were like the proverbial dog at a whistler's convention, running aimlessly until we fell exhausted.

This Lenten season has been a time of realigning our priorities, weighing what is most important in our lives. It has been a time of letting go of certain things we want so that we are free to take hold of that which is more needful in the joy of our relationship with God and with each other. It has been a time of being less intentional about what brings pleasure to our bodies and more fruitful to our souls. It has been a time to pare away what weighs us down so that we can claim that which makes us stronger. It has been a time of turning away from that which hinders our faithfulness to God's call while at the same time running to those fresh opportunities that lead to an abundant life.

The closer we move to the cross, the higher the cost of answering the call. The more seriously we take the gift given us at Calvary, the more we realize how important our response to it. The more fully we sense the power of resurrection, the more we realize our freedom to truly live the life God intends for us. Therein is our redemption—and therein we know what we have been free from and what we have been set free for. Resurrection means seeing life from a whole new perspective. No longer are we prisoners in a world that tries to make us victims. Being raised with Christ we are set free to prosper in the abundance of God's glorious grace. It no longer is what it is—rather its becoming what God always intended it to be. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus' love for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Jim*

## Scripture Texts for Worship

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

### **Palm Sunday April 2**

Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 21:1-11

### **Maundy Thursday Seder & Communion April 6**

I Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Easter Day & Communion April 9**

Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10

### **April 16**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
I Peter 1:3-9

### **April 23**

I Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35

### **April 30**

I Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

### **May 7**

I Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

## Food Bank

The Blairsville Area Food Bank is held the second Tuesday of each month. Food bags are distributed to folks from the Blairsville Borough between the hours of 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Proof of address in the Blairsville Borough is needed when signing up.

## May Newsletter

Articles to be published in the May edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Sunday, April 16th.

## Dates to Remember for the Season of Lent and Easter

### **Wednesdays**

Community Lenten Lunches, 12:00 pm

### **Sunday, April 2**

Palm Sunday Worship, 11:00 am  
Special Music by The Blairsville Brass

### **Maundy Thursday, April 6**

Seder & Communion, 6:00 pm

### **Good Friday, April 7**

Community Worship  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7:00 pm

### **Easter Day, April 9**

Early Easter Worship & Communion,  
8:00 am

Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am

Easter Day Worship & Communion,  
11:00 am

Special Music by our Choirs



*We will celebrate  
the sacrament of Holy Communion  
Maundy Thursday, April 6  
following the Seder Meal  
and Easter Day, April 9  
during both worship services.  
Please take time  
to prepare to receive  
and share the sacrament.*

## Home Communion

If you are not able to come to worship and would like to receive communion in your home, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 and arrangements can be made for the sacrament to be shared with you.

## 2023 Flower Chart

The Flower Chart is located on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office. You may sign-up for your choice of dates. Gary's Floral provides our arrangements. After worship, you may take your flowers home or we ask that you pick up by the following Tuesday. Those remaining after Tuesday will be delivered to one of our home bound members. Dedications to be printed in the bulletin can be submitted to the church office or noted on the sign-up chart. Flower arrangements are \$20 each and checks can be made payable to the "Board of Deacons."

## OGHS Offering

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering Palm Sunday, April 2nd during the worship hour. These gifts will aid with food for the hungry, aid and shelter for those overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to end poverty and oppression. To help with remembering this offering during Lent, fish banks and giving calendars were available at the back of the sanctuary. We hope you have used the resources to aid in your offering. Fish banks can be returned to the church anytime during the month of April. All fish monies will be added to the offering and will be sent to support One Great Hour of Sharing. Please remember to write your name someplace on your fish before you bring it to the church.

## Organ Fund

The Session has approved the establishment of an Organ Fund to receive donations for future repairs or replacement of our pipe organ. Gifts should be made payable to the church and clearly marked in the memo line for Organ Fund.

## “Miracle of Christmas”

### Sight and Sound Theater

Strasburg, PA (Lancaster County)

#### THE ULTIMATE GIFT

*This holiday season, travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wisemen—along with their camels! There may be no room at the inn, but God has a lowly stable prepared as the angels announce the coming of the Messiah! Experience MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS as it comes to life on stage with massive sets and live animals in this cherished holiday production.*

**Our church is offering you the opportunity to travel by bus to Sight and Sound Theater to attend the presentation “Miracle of Christmas.”**

#### DATE:

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

#### COST OF TRAVEL AND SHOW:

\$167.00 (\$85 due with reservation—  
\$82 due by November 1st)

Make checks payable to the church: UPC

Monies are non-refundable but may be transferred to another person if you are unable to attend

Please bring extra money if you want to purchase souvenirs

#### TRAVEL:

40 passenger motorcoach with driver from Quest

Cost is included above however,

donations will be received as gratuity for the driver

#### FOOD:

Please bring a bagged breakfast and snacks to eat on the bus

Extra money will be needed for your lunch meal and drink or snack at the rest stops

#### ITINERARY:

5:45 a.m. Meet at the church parking lot

6:00 a.m. Depart from the parking lot

8:00 a.m. Rest stop

10:30 a.m. Arrive at Sight and Sound Theater

11:00 a.m. Show begins

2:00 p.m. Depart Sight and Sound Theater

2:30 p.m. Lunch stop at Cracker Barrel

4:00 p.m. Depart Cracker Barrel

6:00 p.m. Rest stop

8:30 p.m. Arrive at the church parking lot

#### RESERVATIONS:

Contact Charlotte Cosharek or Linda George  
Between 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. to make your reservation



## Seder Meal

We will gather to share a Seder Meal Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A Seder is a traditional Jewish Passover meal that celebrates God’s deliverance from bondage. Each food served helps to tell the story. Please let us know if you plan to attend by completing the form below.

**Maundy Thursday, April 6**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

Following the meal we will continue as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, remembering how Christ completes the act of salvation in our lives.

Please let us know if you plan to attend.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help set-up Wednesday,  
April 5 at 6PM

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help clean-up following the  
Seder





## Meet Our Newest Members

On Sunday, December 18, 2022, eight parishioners united with the congregation and two who previously transferred their memberships were recognized. We would like to introduce you to three of our newest members in this newsletter.

**Dianna Messenger** is married to Jim. They have two sons and six grandchildren. Dianna grew up involved in several denominations including: Methodist, Baptist, and First Assembly, but Presbyterian feels like home to her now. For fun and relaxation, Dianna likes to travel, sew and paint. For twenty-five years she owned a retail store; for five years she was an admin assistant and now she spends days babysitting. As a congregation, Dianna feels we can help with her social and faith needs. She is unable to get out much due to retirement and her health. She would like to learn more of God and the scriptures. As an active part of the church ministry, Dianna is open to help in whatever way she can.

**John Kerin** is the son of Mark and Karen Kerin and the brother of David. He is in the eighth grade at Derry Area High School. John enjoys engineering and math classes at school. He likes juggling, biking, soccer and other sports. When asked how he will serve Jesus as a Christian, John responded, "I will spread his word and love."

**Ewan Borbonus** is the son of Marty and Sheila Borbonus and brother to Eli and Brennan. He attends Derry Area Middle School and enjoys his English and Art classes. Ewan likes sports, games and art in his spare time. When asked how he will serve Jesus as a Christian, Ewan responded, "I will serve Jesus by praying and treating others the way I want to be treated."

## Volunteers Needed

- \* Volunteers are needed to run the audio/visual equipment in the balcony each Sunday morning. Those interested will be trained. Please see Jean Heberling or Doug Clayton if interested.
- \* Volunteers are needed to usher. An usher sign-up sheet is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to participate in worship as an usher/greeter, please sign-up. There are dates available. Our deacons thank you.

## Ball Brothers' Concerts Scheduled

The Ball Brothers have been bearing witness to their faith in Jesus Christ in small towns and large cities around America. Their musical gifts are truly from God the Father and their message is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Now that their ministries are taking some new directions, they are engaged in their Farewell Tour. We looked at the possibility of hosting them for an evening here in Blairsville, but we didn't feel we could do that with the limits of their timeline. So we are encouraging you to attend one of two concerts of praise being offered in our area in the coming months.

Friday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in ..... Roseville Chapel  
3598 Route 322  
Brookville, PA  
(814) 849-0817

Friday, July 21 at 7:00 p.m. in ..... Memorial Baptist Church  
7154 Route 403 South  
Dilltown, PA  
(814) 446-5019

You can call each church for information about tickets. Through the years their gospel message has touched many lives. We pray God will continue to bless and use their ministries in creative and powerful ways.



## News from the Monroe's

As time moves on, change is inevitable. Bobbi and I find that because of mobility issues it is no longer practical or comfortable living in the manse. We have come to the point in our lives where, *while not yet there*, retirement is within sight. For a number of months we have been looking at available properties in Indiana, Westmoreland and Cambria Counties. There are very few to seriously consider. This is one of the worse times to be house hunting with the market the way it is. In faith we've trusted God to provide.

Recently a condo on Wolf Run Drive in Indiana became available. It was only on the market a couple days before seven offers were made on it. Our's was the one chosen by the owners. By the time you read this, the papers should be signed and the transaction completed.

***This is in no way an announcement of retirement.*** While the plan is to physically move, there is plenty of cleaning, painting, packing, moving and unpacking to be done. If you see things being carried out of the manse in daylight, you'll know why. If you see things being carried out in the middle of the night, call the police. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we go through this process.

## 2023 Community Lenten Lunches

The Blairsville Area Ministerium made the decision to resume the community Lenten services and lunches this year. Each Wednesday through the season of Lent, beginning at 12:00 noon, a Lenten service is held followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon. A schedule of remaining dates, places, and pastors are listed below.

### **Wednesday, April 5**

SS Simon & Jude Church

Pastor Harold Hicks

### **Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Pastor Collin McKnight

## Lenten Devotionals

Lenten Devotional Booklets are available at the back of the sanctuary for anyone wishing to take one. The booklets include a Daily Lenten Reflection for each day through Lent and concludes on Easter Day. It was a community effort again this year with devotions written by friends in area churches. We would like to thank those from our church who participated by writing a devotion. We hope you pick one up and use it through the season.

## 66th Annual Good Friday Breakfast

The Annual Good Friday Breakfast hosted by the YMCA of Indiana County will be held Friday, April 7th beginning at 7:00 a.m. Guest speaker this year is Travis Freeman who will share an amazing story of perseverance through adversity. Tickets are on sale now \$20 a person thru March 23 (includes breakfast) and \$25 a person March 24-April 7 (includes breakfast). For information on the speakers and tickets visit [icymca.org/GFB](http://icymca.org/GFB) or stop by the YMCA.



## Disney Dazzle— Monday Music Club

Blairsville Monday Music Club is presenting a Disney Dazzle program and is welcoming any women who would like to sing along with our members. The music consists of familiar Disney songs. We will be practicing on Monday's starting March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Come join our Music Club Mouseketeers for this program. Any questions can be directed to Cindy Borbonus.



## How Well Do You Know Your Bible

### Bible Trivia

*Answers in the next newsletter*

1. What happened after Jesus was buried in the tomb?
2. How did Jesus leave earth and go to heaven?
3. What garden did Jesus go to when he prayed after the Last Supper?
4. Who was the Roman Governor who sat over Jesus' trial?
5. Who cut off a soldier's ear when Jesus was being arrested?

### BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. What did Jesus do at the Last Supper to his disciples?  
**Answer:** Washed their feet (Matt. 26:14-39, Luke 22:24-27, John 13:1-17)
2. What did the woman pour on Jesus' feet at the home of Simon the Leper?  
**Answer:** Expensive perfume (Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8)
3. Name the disciple who betrayed Jesus.  
**Answer:** Judas Iscariot (Mark 3:19, John 18)
4. True or False: Jesus didn't know that he was going to be arrested and killed in Jerusalem.  
**Answer:** False, he did know this (Matt. 16:21-28, 17:22-23, 20:17-19)
5. Which disciple denied Jesus three times?  
**Answer:** Peter (Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22:33-71, John 18:15-40)

### Easter Word Scramble

- |           |       |            |       |
|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| snrgpi    | _____ | jaslenlyeb | _____ |
| teabks    | _____ | eaarpd     | _____ |
| andsyu    | _____ | ayncd      | _____ |
| ubnyn     | _____ | ylil       | _____ |
| ecalohcto | _____ | rswofel    | _____ |
| abml      | _____ | eatrodce   | _____ |
| gesg      | _____ | kcich      | _____ |
| ntnobe    | _____ |            |       |

