



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

NOVEMBER 2022

An older woman sold soft pretzels for fifty cents a piece on a Philadelphia street corner. Every day, a young attorney would exit his office building at lunch, and as he passed her pretzel stand, he'd leave two quarters. However, he never took a pretzel. This went on for nearly five years. Even though they never spoke, every day as he put coins on the table, they'd make eye contact, and she would nod her gratitude as he walked away without a pretzel. Finally, one day as the lawyer passed her stand and laid down his two quarters, the pretzel woman spoke to him. "Sir, I appreciate your business. You are my best customer, but you need to know something. The price of pretzels has gone up to seventy-five cents."

Not that I'm comparing God to a Philadelphia lawyer, but in his grace, he faithfully gives without demanding anything in return. He gives freely, not because of who we are, but because of who he is. That is God's nature, to give out of kindness, compassion and love. And in our human nature, we nod our gratitude and slip the coins into our apron pocket, expecting that tomorrow as in yesterday, God will keep it coming. We somehow think it's God's job to take care of all our needs. But as I've pointed out many times, God doesn't owe us anything. God without us is still God, while we without God are nothing. It is only by grace that we are blessed.

The past couple years, because of COVID concerns we have altered some of our worship practices. One noticeable change is the way we receive God's tithes and offerings. The offering plates have been by the entrances where folks can place their gifts before or after worship. But in so doing we have taken the reception of our tithes and offerings out of the context of the service of worship. We miss something when we don't physically pass the plate. It's a visual statement of the way we share our gifts in service of the kingdom. As the offerings are brought forward, our hearts and minds are tuned to an act of devotion as we respond to God's goodness. And the traditional singing of the doxology remind us where to focus our gratitude. "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creation here below, Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost." In the midst of that chorus, all creation acknowledges, not only the source, but the glory of the one we will eternally praise.

Later this month we will gather around a banquet table. In worship it will be the communion table, when we celebrate the eucharist, a Greek word meaning "thanksgiving". In fellowship we will gather downstairs as a family of faith rejoicing in all we share in Christ. In our homes, we'll join with loved ones renewing our kinship bonds. In giving thanks, we respond to all that has been, but so too that response propels us to what will be because we have a fuller sense of who we have become through our blessings.

It may sound cliché, but "thanksgiving leads to thanks-living." A thankless heart tries in vain to give life to an empty soul. But the heart that beats in gratitude to its giver thrives and overflows into the hearts of those around it. Give as you've been given. Love as you've been loved. Rooted in the joy of your salvation, grow and bear fruit that befits righteousness that all may be blessed by God's blessings to you.....

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jim

Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, November 6

Job 19:23-27

II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Sunday, November 13

Malachi 4:1-2

Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Colossians 1:11-20

Sunday, November 27

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

Sunday, December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

December Newsletter

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

Food Bank

The ICCAP Food Bank distribution is held the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. When signing up for the first time, proof of residency in the Blairsville borough is needed.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer concern or know of someone who needs prayer, please contact Linda George or the church office. Requests are kept confidential unless permission is given to share.

Worship Assistants

November 6—Daylight Saving Time ends

Liturgist: Mary Gorslene

Flowers: Cindy Borbonus

Ushers: Mel Woodring & Alan Lowman

**Other assistants to be listed in the weekly bulletin*

*November 13

Flowers: Gary & Barri Stuchal

*November 20—Communion

Flowers: Terry & Barb Brown

*November 27—First of Advent

Flowers: Mary Gorslene

Offering Counters

Bob & Charlotte Cosharek

CPR Training

The deacons are planning a CPR training class. They would like to know how many would be interested in attending before final plans are set. If you are interested in being a part of a CPR training, please contact Judy Trimble or the church office. Once we get an idea of class size, dates and times will be announced.

Budget Planning Begins

The Finance Committee will soon begin to review information for the 2023 church budget. Committee chairs are asked to have any financial needs for 2023 to the church office by Friday, November 11th. If you have any questions or would like additional information that would help your planning process, please contact the office.

Veteran's Day Concert

The Blairsville Community Concert Band will perform their Annual Veteran's Day Concert Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the River Valley High School auditorium. All are welcome.

Chancel Choir & Christmas

Our Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome. If you like to make a joyful noise, we want you! Please talk with Cindy Borbonus, director for more information.

The Chancel Choir and friends will begin rehearsing music for the Christmas season Wednesday, November 2nd from 8:00-8:30 p.m., following regular choir practice. These rehearsals will continue through the season. If you would like to sing Christmas music with the choir feel free to come to rehearsal.

Audio/Visual Techs

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.

Ushers

Ushers are being scheduled for the remaining Sundays of this year. If you are willing to greet those coming in for worship and distribute bulletins, please consider signing up for a Sunday. A schedule of dates is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Anniversary Ornaments

The Anniversary Committee ordered custom keepsake ornaments of the church from Wendall August Forge. The ornament is in a gift box and includes a card with a brief history of the church. These are available to purchase at a cost of \$12.00 each. Checks can be made payable to the church. Please see Linda George or contact the church office for more information.

Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m. in the bell room. The choir and director would love to have more of you become ringers. No experience is necessary; training is free. We are in need of ringers to complete our choir. If you are interested and would like more information about our handbell choir, please see Vicky Westley, director.



Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be served Sunday, November 20th immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We hope you made your reservation and plan to join us for a great Thanksgiving meal and fellowship! For those who signed up to help, setup will be Saturday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m. and clean up will, of course, be Sunday afternoon. Thank you to all those who will bring your favorite dishes to share and all our turkey bakers. If you have any questions or would like more information, please see Brent or Tammy Ritchie or call the church office. We are looking forward to another wonderful time together. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Egg Cartons Needed

A person in the area who raises chickens finds the hens laying a large number of eggs. She shares them with folks through our Deacon's Pantry. We have a need for clean egg cartons. If you have some available, please bring them to church and we will see she gets them.



Holiday Cookie Walk

The congregation and community are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats at the Annual Holiday Cookie Sale for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. on Saturday, December 3rd from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Who has time to bake dozens of different cookies? No need, just make your best cookies and shop for the rest! Cookies are \$8.00/pound and all proceeds will benefit "Share the Joy."

The 8th Annual Coats-For-Kids

The 8th Annual Coats-For-Kids Drive is now underway. Again this year we are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific sized coats. Please mark your donation clearly "Coats" and place it in the offering plate. If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith or the church office.

Advent Devotionals

The Season of Advent begins Sunday, November 27th. A variety of Advent Devotionals will be available for you. These guides are meant to help you as you move through the season to the coming of the Christ Child. You can pick one up at the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office and one can be mailed to you.

Election Day

Election day is Tuesday, November 8th. Voting will be held in Fellowship Hall all day. There will be a lot of traffic around the church as the Food Bank distribution will also be taking place between 10:30—12:00 noon. If you plan to visit the church, be aware of the possible congestion.

Cookie Walk Donations

Our Annual Cookie Walk will return this year. Families in the congregation are asked to donate at least 4 dozen cookies, candies, or holiday treats (please no cupcakes, cakes, or pies) for our Annual Holiday Cookie Sale to be held Saturday, December 3rd, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your fellow bakers, family, friends, co-workers, groups or organizations to participate. All baked goods may be dropped off in a disposable container on Friday, December 2nd from 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m. Also, volunteers are needed to help with the sale on December 3rd. If you have any questions or would like to help contact Joan Moran or the church office. A sign-up sheet will be available in the back of the sanctuary. Please let us know what kind of cookie you will be donating so we don't have too many duplicates!

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Please make note of the closure.

We will celebrate Communion Christ the King Sunday, November 20th during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.



How Well Do You Know Your Bible Bible Trivia

Answers in the next newsletter

1. What was the name of Abraham's nephew?
2. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar before being restored as king?
3. True or False, Peter raised a woman named Dorcas from the dead.
4. What was the name of the demon Jesus cast out in the region of the Gerasenes?
5. How many wives did Solomon have?

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. What golden image did the Israelites make at Mt. Sinai?
Answer: A golden calf (Exodus 32)
2. In what city was Jesus born?
Answer: Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-2)
3. What does Jesus say is the first and greatest commandment?
Answer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matthew 22:34-40)
4. Is Jesus's sister ever named in the Bible?
Answer: No, Jesus' brothers are named but not his sisters (Matthew 13:56 and Mark 6:3)
5. What did Solomon build for the Lord?
Answer: The temple (I Kings 6 and II Chronicles 2:1-18)

Jesus Healed 10 Lepers Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

Word Search Word List

DISEASE	FAITH
GALILEE	GLORY
HEALED	JERUSALEM
MERCY	PRIESTS
SAMARITAN	SKIN

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L H E A L E D L L A F A C I D
U N T A L I Q U A T U E R I T
L O G A L I L E E E M D I T D
N U L L A M C O N S E Q U I I
N O N S E Q M I S C I L L A S
P R S V E L E E E S K I N U E
R A O A E M O L R R S I T E A
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S I O G L O R Y U G I A M V E
T A I Q U A T I O N S E C T E
S U E D O L O R T D E L I Q U
F A I T H U F E U A A I T V U
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