

UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

OCTOBER 2022

After months of envisioning, researching and planning it's hard to believe the celebration of our bicentennial is behind us. Dozens upon dozens of people stepped forward and rolled up their sleeves to make the event such a success. The leadership from within this congregation was encouraging to say the least, a statement of what can be done when we work together. I want to thank everyone who so generously gave of themselves to the cause of making our anniversary so memorable. We truly have "a goodly heritage."

But looking back and remembering is merely nostalgia if it does not enhance who we've become today, and even more who we are becoming in the future. I'm so appreciative of opportunities I had in my youth to travel abroad and experience other cultures. I look back with fond memory of the friendships I formed and know those encounters helped to form who I am today. Knowing first hand what life is like in other places helps me appreciate where I live now, and in that appreciation I have come to understand my responsibility to live out the lessons I've learned.

Peter's image of being "living stones built in a spiritual house" has served well as a metaphor of our life together. I think of those brave settlers who left the security of their homes 200 years ago to become a part of a new adventure here in western Pennsylvania. They didn't know what they would find here, but they were open to discover what goodness awaited them. In the mystery of the new experience they came to find that the God of their youth was already here with the same faithfulness they had known. And in the strength and hope their faith afforded them, they forged a new life and persevered. Each generation finds itself facing a new frontier filled with challenges. The trials may be different but the foundation of faith holds fast anchoring us in the midst of the storm. The Psalms that brought courage to our fore parents echo in the midst of our struggles and the hymns of praise we offer bring glory to the God of the ages.

It is good to look back with a grateful heart, but so too we are called to look ahead with a focused sense of purpose. Scripture declares, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may proclaim the mighty deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received it." So the question that confronts us at the threshold of our third century of ministry is, who have we become through the experience of our yesterdays and how will this generation make the mighty deeds of God known? Because of what God has done for me in Jesus Christ, what am I being called to do? What of my faith will become a part of the living foundation on which Christ's church is being built? How is the Holy Spirit moving in our midst doing a new thing to make the kingdom of God visible?

Each of us are a part of the marvelous story of God's redeeming love for the world. It is a mystery that has no beginning because there was never a time that love never existed. And there will never be a time that love is not. We are God's own people, holy and beloved. And as God's own, we have a purpose that is meant to glorify him and him alone. While our names may fade as the years roll on, who we are and what we have done will not go unnoticed. You as well as I are tiny pieces of a picture that spans the ages and in our uniqueness we enhance the beauty of God's handiwork.

With grateful hearts be true to your calling. Celebrate your gifts as you use them to God's praise. Be open to those new things God brings into your life and appreciate your special roll in his marvelous plan.....

In Christ's love,



Scripture Texts for Worship

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

Sunday, October 2

II Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 9

II Kings 5:1-3, 7-15
Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 16

II Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 23

II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, October 30

Isaiah 1:10-18
Luke 19:1-10

Sunday, November 6

II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Job 19:23-27

November Newsletter

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

Worship Assistants

October 2—Communion

Liturgist: Mary Gorslene
Audio/Visual: Kristi & Olivia Eckenroad

October 9

Liturgist: Jean Heberling
Flowers: The Borbonus's
Audio/Visual: Karen & John Kerin

October 16

Flowers: Cindy Borbonus
Audio/Visual: Kristi & Olivia Eckenroad

October 23

Flowers: Joe & Elaine Jellison

October 30

Flowers: Jill Wolford

Offering Counters

Pat and Janeen Swope

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Classes will be held for young people interested in learning more about their faith and considering membership in the church beginning in October. Classes will be Sundays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The class will begin with a light dinner followed by a time of teaching and activity. Classes will be held on the following dates: October 23, October 30, November 6, November 13, November 27, December 4 and December 11. The class will unite with the congregation Sunday, December 18th during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please see Pastor Monroe or Bobbi for more information.

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 not shared outside the chain unless permitted.

Anniversary Keepsake Ornaments

The Anniversary Committee has 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.

Budget Planning Begins

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 office.

CPR Training

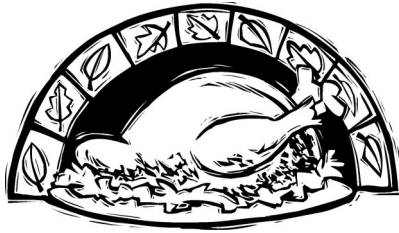
The deacons are planning a CPR training class. They would like to know how many would be interested in attending before final plans are set. If you are interested in being a part of a CPR training, please contact Judy Trimble or the church office. Once we get an idea of class size, dates and times will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



Don't Forget...

Daylight Saving Time ends
Sunday, November 6th

Mark your calendars and remember to change your clocks!



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 20, 2022

In Fellowship Hall
immediately following worship
Come join our church family for a great
Thanksgiving meal and fellowship!

Please fill out & return by October 31st or call the church office to rsvp—

NAME: _____

How many are attending? _____

Maybe you would like to share your favorite:

Vegetable _____

Casserole _____

Salad _____

Dessert _____

Would you like to help prepare on Saturday,
November 19 @ 10:00 AM by peeling potatoes and
setting tables?

_____Yes _____No

Would you be willing to stay and clean up
following the meal?

_____Yes _____No

Thank you to all who help to make this dinner
an enjoyable event each year!
Please contact a committee member
for more information.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

“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 have asked you to bring a stone from your home to the church. 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.

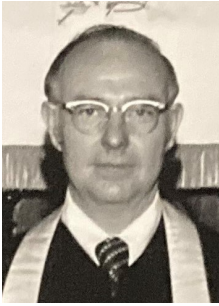
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will return. We’ve had to cancel 2 years due to Covid mandates. This year our meal will be served Sunday, November 20th immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. Please call the church office to make your reservation by October 31st 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 or call the church office. The birds will be provided, we just need cooks.

Audio/Visual Techs Needed

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 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.



Greetings from the Past

Greetings in our Risen Redeemer!

I hope you sensed God's presence in your 200 years. I pray that your future will be years of strength, joyful relationships and more blessing from our Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

I thank the Lord for you as you have shaped and enriched the lives in Blairsville. As we watch history racing toward Jesus return, may God continue to bless you with the joy of his presence.

Love,
Rev. Walter & Edna Wenhold
(pastored 1966-1973)

Operation Christmas Child

Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child is a program that provides boxes of goodies to children at Christmas. Those who wish to participate fill a shoebox with age-appropriate items and can also choose to prepare the box for a girl or a boy. For those wishing to participate, we will collect filled boxes at the church. They should be brought in by October 15th. 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. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the church office. You can also check out their website at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Need Help....

Do you need help:

- * Feeding your family
- * Becoming a volunteer
- * Getting taxes done
- * Avoiding eviction
- * Caring for my grandmother
- * Keeping my heat on
- * Joining the workforce
- * Finding a summer camp
- * Protecting a friend

Dial 2-1-1...it's a friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, information or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first.

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.

New Leadership

At our September 25th Congregational Meeting, the following were nominated and elected to three year terms: to the office of ruling elder, Class of 2025— Gene Artman, Doug Clayton, Bruce Highberger and Kim McKinney; to the office of deacon, Class of 2025—Susie Cotti, Mary Gorslene, Pam Irwin and Vicky Westley; to the Class of 2024—Brylea Borbonus. We look forward to the service and leadership they will offer. We thank the Nominating Committee for their work.

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 members 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 bell choir, please see Vicky Westley, director.

Chancel Choir

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.

Church Kitchen Information

The church has an Eating and Drinking License from the Department of Agriculture for the kitchen. This requires that no wet dish cloths or towels be left in the kitchen to dry. Also, it is required that the counters and other surfaces be cleaned with a sanitizing solution after every use. The materials to make the sanitizing solution and the directions on how to make it are available in the kitchen.

Harvest Festival

The United Methodist Women of Blairsville First United Methodist Church (now known as Women of Faith) are having a Harvest Festival on October 19, 2022. The Salad Bar is from 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. for a donation of \$10.00. There will also be a bake sale and a flea market. Tickets will be available at the door, the church office, or from a member of the Women of Faith. Hope to see you there!



How Well Do You Know Your Bible Bible Trivia

Answers in the next newsletter

1. What golden image did the Israelites make at Mt. Sinai?
2. In what city was Jesus born?
3. What does Jesus say is the first and greatest commandment?
4. Is Jesus's sister ever named in the Bible?
5. What did Solomon build for the Lord?

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Who was the first man?
Answer: Adam (Hebrew for man) (Genesis 2:20)
2. What did Moses say God commanded the Pharaoh to do?
Answer: Let my people go. (Exodus 8:1-2)
3. True or False, Jesus turned water into Pepsi? **Answer:** False, he turned water into wine (John 2:1-11)
4. With what did Samson kill 1,000 Philistines?
Answer: The jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:15-16)
5. Which books of the Bible did Solomon write? **Answer:** Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and some Psalms (Some dispute this information)

Living Stones Activity

Materials Needed:

- Stones (paperweight size), smooth and clean, any shape, 1 per person
- Paint brushes
- Shirt, smock or apron to protect clothing
- Poster, gouache or acrylic paints
- Newspaper

Directions:

1. Have the children study their rocks and find the best place to paint their names.
2. Let their creativity and imagination flow as they paint and decorate their personal "name stones."
3. Optional: glue felt to the bottom of the stone

Faith Connection:

Peter wrote about Jesus in the Bible as the "living stone" who was rejected by the people in power but approved and precious in God's eyes. We, too, are "living stones" (I Peter 2:4-5). We are God's building stones of the Church, with Jesus as the cornerstone. God wants to build Church with you and me. Let the stones with our names on them remind us of all the saints who have lived before us. We, too, should strive to become good and loving persons.