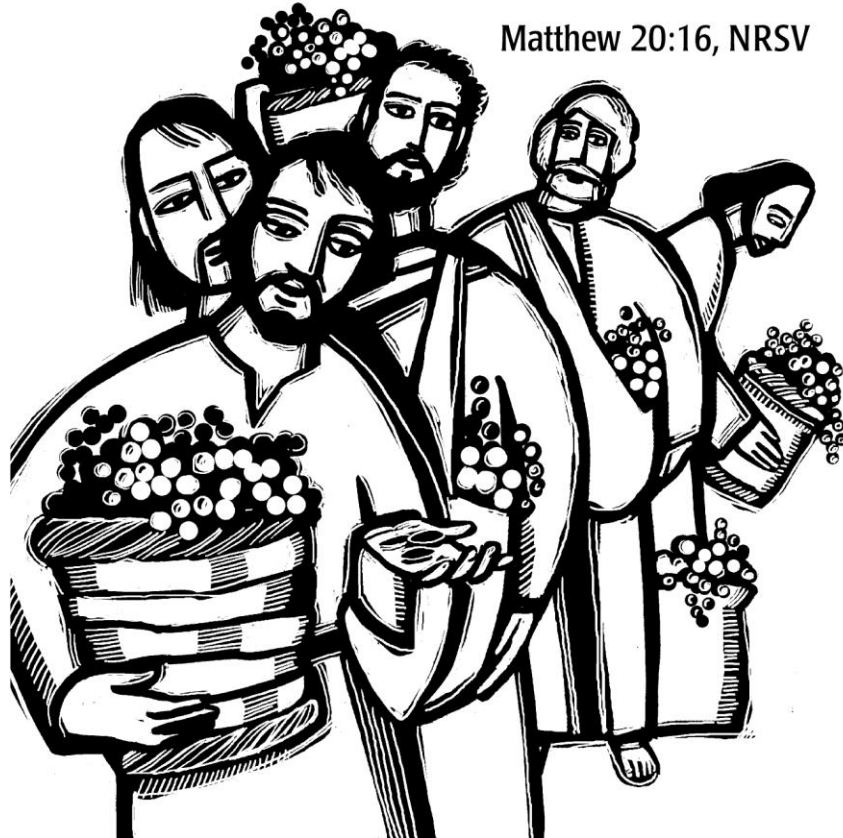


So the **last**
will be **FIRST**,
and the
first
will be **LAST.**

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



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

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

September 24, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.

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

“Remind Me, Dear Lord”

Arr. Elmo Mercer

Introit

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

371 vs. 3

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,

Compassionate, forgiving and ever caring Lord,

Grant now that our transgressing,

Our faithlessness may cease.

Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.

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Call to Worship (*Psalm 105*)

Pam Irwin, Liturgist

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,

People: Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Leader: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wonderful works.

**People: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those
who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Leader: Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually.

**People: Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered.**

*Hymn # 59

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*Prayer of Confession

God our redeemer, we confess that we remain captivated by sin. You shower your blessing upon us, yet we continue to complain. You give us more than we deserve, yet we resent your goodness to others. Forgive us; liberate us! Let us be no longer bound by sin, but released, restored, set free to worship and serve you in freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

Anthem

“People Need the Lord”

Arr. Gaither

Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

Rev. Timothy Monroe

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

(The Second Helvetic Confession)

We are justified on account of Christ. Now it is most certain that all of us are by nature sinners and godless, and before God’s judgment-seat are convicted of godlessness and are guilty of death, but that, solely by the grace of Christ and not from any merit of ours or consideration for us, we are justified, that is, absolved from sin and death by God the Judge. For what is clearer than what Paul said: “Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” *(Romans 3:23)*

*Hymn # 66

“To God Be the Glory”

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 61 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

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

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 copy of our newsletter, *Uplift* 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, Pam Irwin; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Usher, Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Kim McKinney.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of Thomas and Bea Smith by Ed and Becky Bence.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held immediately following worship today to accept the report of the Nominating Committee and the 2024 Pastoral Terms of Call.

THE GRANNIES will gather in Fellowship Hall Monday at 9:00 a.m. and will work until 12:00 noon. There are a variety of tasks for everyone. All are welcome.

BELL CHOIR rehearsal will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. We need 1 or 2 more ringers to complete our 2-octave choir and 3 or 4 more ringers to be able to play our 3-octave music. If you have ever thought of giving handbells a try, please contact Vicky Westley. We can plan a time to meet so you can “test it out” before committing to ringing with the Bell Choir.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR rehearsal will be held Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have new voices join us in song! If you are interested in singing with the choir, please see Cindy Borbonus. All are welcome!

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group works on personal projects and enjoys fellowship. You are invited to bring a project you’re working on and join the group.

WE WILL CELEBRATE the sacrament of Holy Communion next Sunday during worship. Please take time this week to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

THE CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE has planned a Soup & Sandwich Luncheon for Sunday, October 15th following worship. We will gather around tables in Fellowship Hall for a time of refreshment and fellowship. Lunch will be provided by the committee. Those attending are asked to bring a dessert. The day will also include “Men with Mixers” with proceeds supporting our Coats for Kids outreach. The men who would like to participate are asked to use the sign-up sheet located at the back of the sanctuary. Contact Joan Moran or Linda George for more information.

THE 9TH ANNUAL COATS-FOR-KIDS DRIVE has begun. 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.

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 or contact the church office for an ornament or for more information.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will soon begin to review information for the 2024 church budget. Committee chairs are asked to begin planning for next year and consider your financial needs. If you would like additional information, please contact the church office.

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. All requests are kept confidential unless permission to share is given.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE is a student led time of prayer held around the school flagpole. This year River Valley School will hold the time of prayer Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00 a.m. around the Elementary flagpole. We encourage all of our students to join the group for prayer.

IF YOU NOTICE SOMETHING around the church facility that needs fixed, please refer the matter to the Property & Maintenance Committee via the church office. Either place a note in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. The secretary will forward the concern to the chair of the committee. Please be very specific as to what the problem is, so that the issue can be addressed. Thank you.

PA 2-1-1 SOUTHWEST is a free resource and information hub that connects people with community, health, and disaster services in 11 counties through a free, 24/7 confidential phone service and website. If you have a concern or a need, dial 2 1 1 or email info@pa211sw.org and you will be connected to an organization that can help.

THE ANGELS' WINGS PROGRAM provides gifts at Christmas time to individuals and families who reside in Indiana County and who financially qualify, in addition to providing gifts to veterans as a thank you for their service to our country. The program is sponsored by Diamond Drugs, Inc. in cooperation with ICCAP. If you are interested in ways you can help, look online at <https://www.angelswingsprogram.com> or email angelswings@diamondpharmacy.com.

HOPEWELL CHURCH will host a Fall Fest Celebration Sunday, October 1st from 12:00-5:00 p.m. The day will include an inflatable obstacle course, rock wall, mechanical bull, tattoo artist, Steel City Mini Golf, balloon artist, hayrides, music, sand art/spin art, bounce house, pie auction and Patterson's Country Cookin food truck. For more information, call 724-840-7482.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Monday Music Club Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop Meeting
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:00 p.m.	Blairsville Brass Rehearsal
Friday-Saturday		Presbytery Retreat
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion Baptism
	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved