

— LET US THEN —

**APPROACH
GOD'S
THRONE
OF GRACE**

— WITH —

CONFIDENCE,

so that we may receive mercy and find
grace to help us in our time of need.

HEBREWS 4:16, NIV



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

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

November 19, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Jean Heberling, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

“Majesty”

Arr. McDonald/Shackley

Introit

“I Love You, Lord”

#85

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice

To worship you, O my soul, rejoice!

Take joy, my King, in what you hear:

May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

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Call to Worship

Call to worship, Lord, you have been our dwelling place; we come today to rest in you. You have been the voice that guides us; we come today to listen. You have been the host who feeds us; we come today to be filled. You have been our joy and crown; we come today to sing your praise!

*Hymn # 414 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

*Call to Confession

We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. But we also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So we lift our prayer of confession to you:

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We've made mistakes. We've made missteps. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in your sight, then in your sight we ask you to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here. In the strong name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Special Music

“Give Thanks”

Arr. McDonald/Shackley

Pam Irwin, Organist – Cindy Borbonus, Pianist

Message

“A Confident Trust”

Mr. Randy Degenkolb

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ
embraces the whole of our life.

**People: It is the will of God that God's purpose
for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ
and all evil be banished from creation.**

Leader: Already God's reign is present as a ferment
in the world, stirring hope in people
and preparing the world to receive
its ultimate judgment and redemption.

**People: With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.**

Leader: It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom
of God on earth, nor does it despair
in the face of disappointment and defeat.

**People: In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all
partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

*Hymn # 726 "We Praise You, O God"

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

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 14 "Now Thank We All Our God"

*Benediction

*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 Guest Speaker, Randy Degenkolb; Liturgist, Jean Heberling; 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 loved ones by Terry and Barb Brown.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER will be served today immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us for a time of wonderful food and fellowship. It's a season to be thankful to God for what was, what is and what will be.

A TIME OF RECOGNITION for the retirement of Pastor Monroe will be held during the Thanksgiving Dinner. We are grateful to him and Bobbi for their ministry alongside of us for the past 19 years. We wish them God's blessing in retirement.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Packets for the meeting are available for elders to pick up in the parlor.

OUR BELL CHOIR AND CHANCEL CHOIR will take a break from rehearsals this week for the Thanksgiving holiday. Rehearsals will resume next week.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA rehearsal will not be held this week. We will gather Wednesday, November 29th for our next rehearsal. Anyone wishing to join the Christmas Choir is welcome!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN, this year's Christmas cantata has a part for children. Any children ages 4 - 12 who would like to sing in the cantata are welcome. There will be two practices for the kids, Sunday, December 10 and Sunday, December 17 before worship. For more information, see Cindy.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS have changed. The office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, the office is closed. This week the office will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

OUR GRANNIES were able to obtain a sewing machine! Thank you to all those who gave to support them.

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.

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.

A BLANKET DRIVE is being held to receive NEW blankets or throws for children served by Indiana County Children & Youth Services. Twin size is preferred. We will receive the blankets through November 26th. Please place donations at the back of the sanctuary. If you have questions or would like more information, please see Bonni Dunlap or contact her at bdunlap1211@gmail.com.

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.

A CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONCERT will be held Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. The concert is being sponsored by the Blairsville Monday Music Club and all area church choirs, music groups and area musicians are welcome to participate. Questions may be directed to the club director, Cindy Borbonus.

THE GRANNIES have displayed a full size, hand appliqued Dresden Plate pattern quilt at the back of the sanctuary. Watch your weekly bulletins for more information.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH will host "The Sounds of the Season" Sunday, December 3rd. It is a wonderful Christmas music event which they wish to share with the community. The festivities begin at 3:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available following the performances. If you would like to participate in the evening, call their office.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Randy Degenkolb
	12:00 p.m.	Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner and Recognition of Pastor Monroe's Retirement
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Monday Music Club Rehearsal
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop Meeting
Thursday		Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship and Communion

A Brief Bio on Randy Degenkolb

Randy and Cathy Degenkolb live in northern Indiana County near their daughter, Molly Weiss and husband, Rob. Randy and Cathy are active in the community and they enjoy grandparenting their pride and joy, Charlotte and Kathryn. Randy served in the ARMY National Guard with a Combat Support Company. He excelled at Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Benning, GA and in the last few years he wrote and recorded the song titled, "Stone of a Veterans Grave". Randy is very supportive of the Veteran community. He is a graduate of IUP with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics Education and he taught high school math for 5 years before entering public service at the county level. Randy served as a County Commissioner for 8 years and has been the Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts of Indiana County since 2010. Cathy is also a graduate of IUP and taught elementary school for over 35 years in the Marion Center School District. In her retirement years she helps with their grandchildren, and every evening she can be found watching Jeopardy! Randy is one of the hosts of "In the Vineyard", a live 1-hour radio show heard every Sunday morning on WDAD from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. His hobbies include playing guitar, singing, farming, fishing, kayaking and bicycling. For over 25 years Randy has been a guest speaker in many churches across Indiana County. His encouraging messages provide practical application for Christian believers who seek to stay faithful to the one who remains faithful to us.