



Do not be anxious  
about anything, but in every  
situation, by prayer  
and petition, with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God.



PHILIPPIANS 4:6, 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”*

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

January 14, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

Words of Greeting

Mary Anzelone, 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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Arr. Bennett-Berry

Introit

“Search Me, O God”

# 385

**Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.**

Call to Worship

Leader: We come together, a community of faith.

We have gathered to talk and listen to our God.

**People: May our faces shine in anticipation.**

**Our God has invited us to this moment of meeting.**

Leader: We share in a new covenant of promise and hope.

Our spirits have been set free for worship and praise.

**People: We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.**

**We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.**

Leader: Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God.

Our failures become opportunities for learning.

**People: Let us praise God’s holy name in chorus.**

**Let us share in the glory of life.**

\*Hymn # 593

“Lord, Speak to Me”

\*Prayer of Confession

**O God, our transgressions are many. We have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have wandered far from your truth. You alone know the extent of our guilt. You are justified to pass judgment and sentence us. We are crushed by the wrong we have allowed and the good we have avoided. We plead for mercy. Wash us thoroughly and cleanse us deep within. Put a new and right spirit in us and restore to us the joy of your salvation. Help us to lead lives worthy of your call to us, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri

\*Sharing of the Peace

## **DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 119:145-152

Anthem

“Here I Am, Lord”

Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:29-39

Sermon

“Well Worn Prayer Paths”

Mrs. Donna Yarnal

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

\*Affirmation of Faith

*(The Apostles' Creed)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Hymn # 300

“In the Garden”

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

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Presentation of the Offering

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn # 466

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response

\*Postlude

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

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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, Mrs. Donna Yarnal; Liturgist, Mary Anzelone; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Alan Lowman and Mya Johnson; and Property Manager, Bob Cosharek.

WE WELCOME Mrs. Donna Yarnal to worship this morning. She is a lifelong member of the Shelocta Community Presbyterian Church. She is now serving on the Ministry Commission. Five years ago, she was commissioned to Pulpit Supply in our Presbytery and is blessed by this call of God, especially by meeting the “people in the pews” who are a source of encouragement in many ways. Donna lives in Indiana with her husband, Dave, and is the mother of two children and five grandchildren. She is a retired medical secretary. Please be sure to greet her before you leave.

THE 2023 ECCLESIASTICAL/CORPORATE MEETING will be held Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. This meeting is an annual review of the work of the church. We hope you will plan to attend.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS are asked to have year-end reports for the Annual Ecclesiastical/Corporate Meeting to the church office by **Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact the church office.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is the first meeting of the New Year. The agenda is full and committees will be organized. Elders are asked to please try to be in attendance and be thinking about what Session Committee you would be willing to chair. Packets for the meeting are available to pick up in the parlor.

OUR HANDBELL CHOIR will rehearse this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. Our bell choir is also looking for new ringers. If you would like to try ringing a bell, contact Vicky Westley for more information.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR will rehearse Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are looking for new voices to join our choir. The only requirement is to enjoy singing. Please see Cindy for more information.

WE THANK all those who have been saving egg cartons for our egg ladies. At this time, they do not need any additional cartons. When the hens start laying eggs again, they will contact us.

THANK YOU to Sandy Robertson for volunteering to continue the Coupons for Veterans ministry. A box is located at the back of the sanctuary for your cut coupons.

PER CAPITA for 2024 is \$37.40 per member on the active roll. That breaks down to: General Assembly—\$10.00, Synod—\$2.40, and Presbytery—\$25.00. The Session has taken action to withhold all per capita to General Assembly with the exception of contributions given with specific designation to it.

THE WORK OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is some of the most important in the life of the church. Those serving have the responsibility to bring before the congregation the names of members who will potentially serve as elders and deacons.

Members of this committee should have:

- \* An understanding of the nature, ministry and mission of the church
- \* An awareness of the spiritual nature of the offices of elder and deacon
- \* A knowledge of the impending challenges before the church
- \* A familiarity with the members of the congregation and the potential gifts and abilities they bring to service
- \* A spirit of prayer as they approach this work

## THE SESSION COMMITTEES FOR 2024

Each year the committees of session seek to have volunteers become active participants. Please review the committees and their responsibilities and consider serving. In this year of transition we need volunteers to be active participants. Please review the list below and consider where you fit in. If you would like more information or have questions, please see an elder or call the church office. Chairs will be determined at the January Session meeting.

**Worship** – Worship services, sacraments, music, funerals, weddings

**Mission** – Benevolences, special offerings, global & local missions and missionaries

**Christian Education** – Sunday school programs, curriculum, adult education, youth work, leadership education

**Finance** – Finances, special funds, and annual budget

**Stewardship** – Stewardship education and programs, challenges the congregation in its faithful use of the many different resources entrusted to our care

**Property & Maintenance** – Construction, maintenance, repairs, housekeeping, safety, security, yard work, inventory

**Congregational Fellowship** – Suppers, picnics, outings, trips, camping

**Evangelism** – New member recruitment and assimilation, outreach, publicity



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For over one hundred years, Christian churches throughout the northern hemisphere have been gathering to celebrate a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On January 21, 2024, the Blairsville Area Association of Churches will be celebrating the Sunday in this week with a service of Christian Unity. The Blairsville Area Association of Churches is composed of clergy and lay leaders, serving Jesus Christ while representing Christian churches working together to meet the spiritual, social and physical needs of Blairsville and neighboring communities. **The service will be held at Summit Church in Blairsville at 3:00 p.m.** All believers in Jesus Christ are invited to the service.

Every year a theme is selected by a representative church of the World Council of Churches. This year a team from Burkina Faso in Western Africa. Christians have been persecuted for many years representing only 26% of the religion in a predominant Muslim country. The team has selected Luke 10:25-37 as the theme, specifically, “You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself”. This is a fitting theme for our country at a time where the Christian church is coming under attack from so many areas. Like Burkina Faso, we are called to walk, pray and work together in mutual love during this difficult period in our Christian lives.

In the resource material provided by the World Council of Churches this message rings loudly in our lives – *“Love is the ‘DNA’ of Christian faith. God is Love and “the love of Christ has gathered us into one”. We find our common identity in the experience of God’s love (cf. Jn 3:16) and reveal that identity to the world by how we love one another (Jn 13:35).*

We have an opportunity in our communities to show the world how much we believe in the first and second commandments given to us by Jesus himself. We hope that you will consider joining us to worship together and raise a mighty voice for Christianity in our little corner of the world.

## **REGULAR SCHEDULE:**

<b>Sunday</b>	10:15 a.m.	Cookies and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Mrs. Donna Yarnal
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:30 p.m.	Blairsville Brass Rehearsal
<b>Sunday</b>	10:15 a.m.	Cookies and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Mrs. Donna Kanyan
	3:00 p.m.	Community Unity Service at Summit Church in Blairsville