



*“For all those who
exalt themselves
will be humbled,
and those who
humble themselves
will be exalted.”*

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”*

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

January 7, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

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

“Master’s in this Hall”

Arr. Innes

Introit

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

177

**Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

Call to Worship (*Psalms 148*)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

People: Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

People: He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**People: He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!**

***Hymn # 184 "What Child Is This"**

***Prayer of Confession**

Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin. You created the earth and called it good, but it now groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse and carelessness. You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. We have created, maintained and benefitted from unjust systems built on divisions based on race, gender, ethnicity and more. You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us. Lord, have mercy. For You are gracious and compassionate. Out of Your fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace already given. Re-create us now. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Gloria Patri**

***Sharing of the Peace**

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

**Anthem "Let the Song Begin" By Yarborough
Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director**

Gospel Lesson Luke 18:9-14

**Sermon "The Right Kind of Righteousness"
Mr. Graham Smith**

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.

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

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 229

"The First Noel"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Confessional Prayer

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(Please come forward to receive the sacrament)

(Those who remain at their seat, will be served)

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn # 242

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

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

This morning we celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is invited to receive and share the sacrament.

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, Mr. Graham Smith; Liturgist, Jean Heberling; Communion Leader, Gene Artman; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Alan Lowman and Mya Johnson; and Property Manager, Terry Brown.

WE WELCOME Mr. Graham Smith to our pulpit this morning. He is a recent graduate from the reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh. Graham is a member of the PCA and is pursuing ordination. Make sure to greet him before you leave.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Joan Moran.

WE REJOICE this morning as Lynnette Borbonus, Lindsay Barto, Kristi Eckenroad and Dianna Messenger are ordained and installed to the Diaconal Class of 2026. We thank Steve Moran, Bobbi Monroe and Janet Smith for their faithful service.

WE REJOICE this morning as Todd Faulk is ordained and installed with Bonni Dunlap and Rick Shoemaker to the Sessional Class of 2026. We thank Jeff Lewis, Joan Moran and Patrick Swope for their leadership.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held following worship today to review the report of the Nominating Committee. The report will include the names of those selected to serve on the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

THE 2023 ECCLESIASTICAL/CORPORATE MEETING will be held Sunday, January 28th 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 21st. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28th. For more information, please contact the church office.

GRANNIES will meet Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. There are tasks for everyone. All are welcome.

THE BLAIRSVILLE AREA MINISTERIUM will meet Monday at 11:00 a.m. at SS Simon and Jude Church.

THE ICCAP FOOD BANK will distribute groceries from Fellowship Hall Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Those signing up for the first time should provide proof of residence within the Blairsville Borough.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS meeting was moved to Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This will be a planning meeting. All deacons are asked to attend.

A COMMUNITY UNITY SERVICE will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, January 21st at Summit Church in Blairsville. Area choirs, musical groups and musicians will share their talents and scripture will be read. This service is sponsored by the Blairsville Area Ministerium. All are welcome.

OUR HANDBELL CHOIR will resume rehearsals 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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday - Closed

END OF THE YEAR financial statements will be mailed early to mid-January. If you would like your statement earlier, contact the church office at 724-459-7991.

A COMMUNITY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL for 2024 is planned. If you feel led to share, please contact the church office and let us know of your willingness and which day you choose. Send devotions to the church office email, upchurch@r-church.com or drop off a hard copy **by Sunday, January 21st**. If you have questions, please call the office.

Thursday, March 7—Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9; Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23

Friday, March 8—Psalm 81:6-11, 14, 17; Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, March 9—Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21; Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

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

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Cookies and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Mr. Graham Smith Communion with Elder Gene Artman
	12:00 p.m.	Ordination & Installation of Officers Congregational Meeting
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	10:30 a.m.	Food Bank Distribution
	6:00 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	WIC meets in Fellowship Hall
	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
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Blairsville Brass Rehearsal
Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Cookies and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Mrs. Donna Yarnal