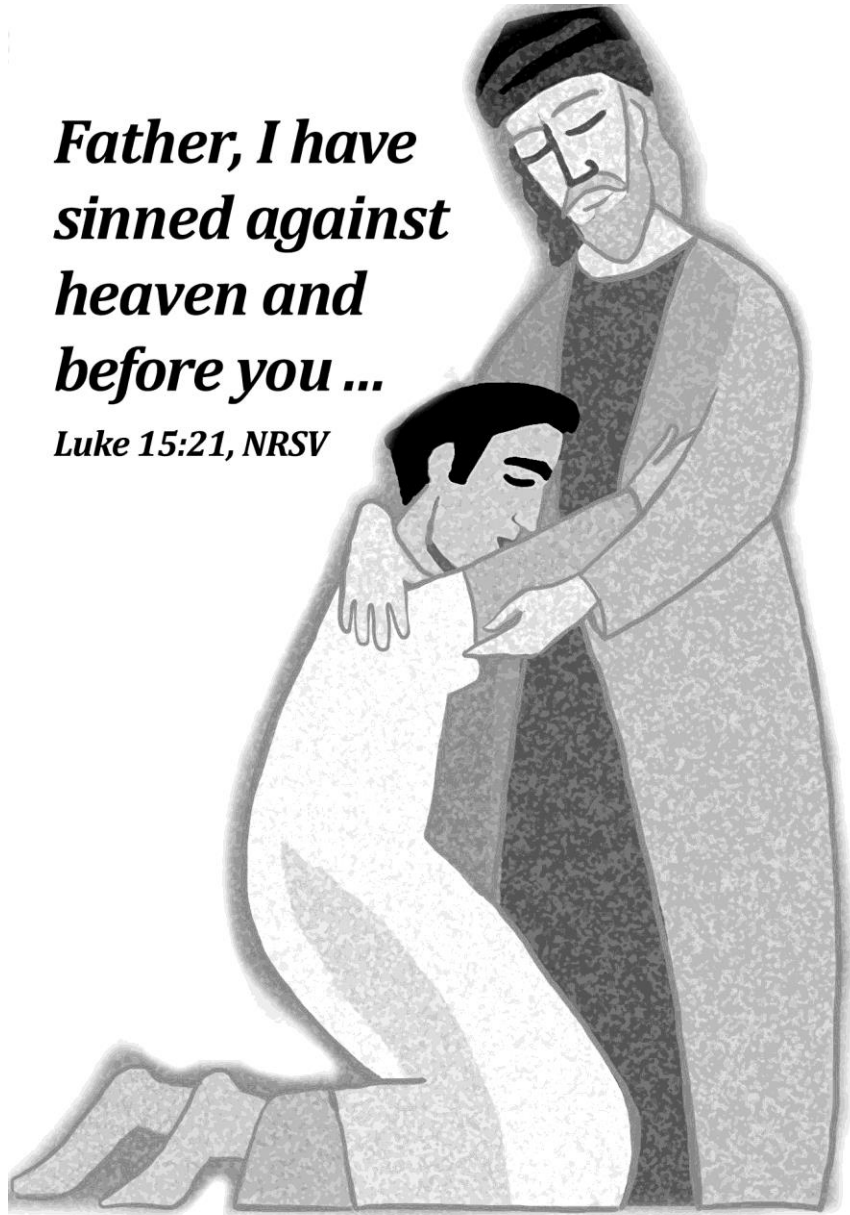


***Father, I have
sinned against
heaven and
before you ...***

Luke 15:21, 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”*

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

February 18, 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 "Whiter Than Snow-Nothing But the Blood"

Arr. Berry/Bennett

Introit (*all sing*)

"Christ Be My Leader"

453

Christ be my leader by night as by day;

Safe through the darkness, for he is the Way.

Gladly I follow, my future his care,

Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, in you we trust.

People: Lead us in your truth and teach us,

Leader: For you are the God of our salvation;

People: For you we wait, for you we worship.

*Hymn # 66

"To God Be the Glory"

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem	“In This Very Room”	By Harris
	Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director	
Old Testament Scripture		Psalms 51:1-4, 10-12
Gospel Lesson		Luke 15:11-32
Sermon	Lent Begins - “It’s Time to Come Home”	Mrs. Donna Kanyan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith *(A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

*Hymn # 348 “Softly and Tenderly”
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 # 422

“Amazing Grace”

*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 Guest Speaker, Mrs. Donna Kanyan; Liturgist, Jean Heberling; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Alan Lowman and Mya Johnson; Audio/Visual Techs, Brylea Borbonus and John Clark Bruner; and Property Manager, Terry Brown.

WE WELCOME BACK Donna Kanyan to worship this morning. She is a member of the Jacksonville Presbyterian Church and is an elder and serves as Clerk of Session. Donna also ministers as part time organist. She has been preaching in area churches for 12 years and is a Commissioned Pulpit Supply in the Kiskiminetas Presbytery. Please be sure to greet her before you leave.

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

THE 77TH ANNUAL TROOP 4 Soup & Chili Cookoff will be held today following worship in Fellowship Hall. The event is scheduled from noon until 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and children ages 6 years and under are free. Price includes samples, bread, drink and dessert. All proceeds benefit Boy Scout Troop 4.

COMMUNITY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available to you at the back of the sanctuary. The booklets include a Daily Lenten Reflection for each day through Lent and concludes on Easter Day. We would like to thank those from our church who participated by writing a devotion and providing artwork. We hope you pick one up and use it through the season.

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

COOKIES AND BEVERAGES are offered at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday before worship. We are looking for cookie bakers to provide cookies for future Sundays. If you could help, please let us know by signing up at the back of the sanctuary.

THE COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Please see the schedule below. Each Wednesday through the season of Lent, beginning at 12:00 noon, a Lenten service is held followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon.

2/21	Hopewell Church.....	Pastor Susan O'Shaughnessy
2/28	C&MA Church	Pastor Bill Hebenthal
3/6	Hebron Lutheran Church.....	Pastor Fred Craig
3/13	United Presbyterian Church.....	Father Dino Laude
3/20	Black Lick Methodist	Pastor Jim Kendall
3/27	SS Simon & Jude Church.....	Pastor Jenn Krishart
3/29	Blairsville Methodist Church	Pastor Mark Ferlin

Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.

OUR HANDBELL CHOIR will rehearse this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room. Our bell choir is 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 ARE PLANNING AHEAD for Easter. Please see the Easter Breakfast insert in your bulletin today and consider helping out. Any questions can be directed to Doug or Andrea Clayton.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING will be received Palm Sunday during worship. These gifts will share God's love with neighbors around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. If you choose, giving calendars and banks are available at the back of the sanctuary to collect your gifts.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to order flowers for Sunday worship, please use the chart to sign-up for your choice of date. Please note any special dedication for the bulletin. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the: Board of Deacons.

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.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for ushering. Please use the signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary to sign up for your choice of dates. For more information, ask an elder. We also need help with the sound, projector and streaming. Please see Doug Clayton for more information on helping with the audio/video. Those who are willing to serve as liturgist, please see Elaine Jellison or call the church office.

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 were determined at the January Session meeting and are listed.

Worship – Worship services, sacraments, music, funerals, weddings;
co-chairs: Jean Heberling and Doug Clayton

Mission – Benevolences, special offerings, global & local missions and missionaries; *chair: Gene Artman*

Christian Education – Sunday school programs, curriculum, adult education, youth work, leadership education; *co-chairs: Jim Antis and Gene Artman*

Finance – Finances, special funds, and annual budget; *chair: Rick Shoemaker*

Stewardship – Stewardship education and programs, challenges the congregation in its faithful use of the many different resources entrusted to our care; *co-chairs: Bonni Dunlap and Todd Faulk*

Property & Maintenance – Construction, maintenance, repairs, housekeeping, safety, security, yard work, inventory; *chair: Terry Brown*

Congregational Fellowship – Suppers, picnics, outings, trips, camping;
chair: tbd

Evangelism – New member recruitment and assimilation, outreach, publicity; *chair: Kim McKinney*

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

- Sunday** 11:00 a.m. Worship with Mrs. Donna Kanyan
 12:00 p.m. Boy Scout Soup & Chili Cookoff in
 Fellowship Hall
- Monday** 6:00 p.m. Monday Music Club meets in Fellowship
 Hall
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday** 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday** 12:00 p.m. Community Lenten Luncheon
 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. Blairsville Brass Rehearsal
- Sunday** 10:15 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship
 11:00 a.m. Worship with Mr. Clark Bruner