



Therefore,

THE PROMISE COMES BY FAITH,
SO THAT IT MAY BE BY GRACE
AND MAY BE GUARANTEED
TO ALL ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING.

ROMANS 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”*

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

February 25, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Dennis Gould, 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 "Like A River Glorious" Arr. Berry/Bennett

Introit (*all sing*) "Mighty Is Our God" # 45

Call to Worship (*Psalms 22*)

Leader: You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**People: For he did not despise or abhor the affliction
of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD; and all the families
of the nations shall worship before him.

**People: For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

Leader: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

**People: Posterity will serve him; future generations
will be told about the Lord, and proclaim
his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

*Hymn # 256 "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

*Prayer of Confession

Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account. We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high to set the world aglow. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Anthem

"Are Ye Able?"

By Wilson

Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director

New Testament Lessons

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

"Curiosity"

Mr. Clark Bruner

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

(A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives; teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts; forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*Hymn # 260 “The Old Rugged Cross”
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 # 257 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

*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, Mr. Clark Bruner; Liturgist, Dennis Gould; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Alan Lowman and Mya Johnson; Audio/Visual Techs, Eli and Brennan Borbonus; and Property Manager, Todd Faulk.

WE WELCOME BACK Mr. Clark Bruner to lead our worship service this morning. Clark and his wife, Connie and family worship with us each Sunday. We are happy to have him share a message with us today.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of Russ by Sue Harvey and family.

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

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.

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 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.

2/28	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.

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 would like to help, please see Joan Moran.

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.

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. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please let us know.

THE 67TH ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST sponsored by the YMCA of Indiana County will be held March 29th at 7:00 a.m. at their facility. Tickets are \$20 per person thru March 15th and \$25 per person from March 16th – 29th.

WEEKLY UPDATE:

- *The Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the job description for a pastor has been posted in both the Church Leadership Connection and the Just Church Jobs website. The Committee continues to meet weekly to finalize the screening and interview process for prospective candidates. Please pray for the committee in their work .
- *We will be meeting with any person interested in joining the church at the start of the next Session meeting on March 19th; once Session approves their membership, they will be received into the church during our March 31st service. If you know of anyone interested in joining the church, please have them contact Bonni at bdunlap1211@gmail.com.
- *Just a reminder that members of Property and Maintenance lock the church at 11:10 a.m. during Sunday services. This is a safety precaution for our congregation.

- *If you are interested in volunteering in the church office, we will be holding an orientation on March 19th at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Please let Bonni or Jill know if you're interested.
- *If you use Facebook, we hope you've found our page and note the announcements. It's under "The United Presbyterian Church of Blairsville".
- *Bible Study will resume on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., beginning April 3rd in the Fellowship Hall! All are welcome to join!

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE SEASON OF LENT & EASTER

Wednesdays

Community Lenten Lunches, 12:00 pm

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday Worship, 11:00 am

Good Friday, March 29

Community Worship, Blairsville Methodist Church, 7:00 pm

Easter Day, March 31

Easter Breakfast, 9:30 am

Easter Day Worship & Communion, 11:00 am

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Refreshments and Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Mr. Clark Bruner
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Monday Music Club
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet 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 Sharon Nelmes