



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United Presbyterian
Church of Blairsville, PA

JUNE-JULY 2023

Since my youth, I've never been a fan of reading fiction. My favorite part of any story was the phrase "The End". Such is my attitude towards fiction. The Bible, however is non-fiction, a true story in which each seeming end is simply the seed of a new beginning. Where the world punctuates with a period, God edits with a comma. When our sin held Jesus on the cross, God led Jesus to a place where that sin could be discarded, rendered powerless. As Jesus' body lay breathless, God filled his lungs with life. As the world rolled a stone sealing a tomb, God sent angels to roll the stone away. Where the world issued a sentence of death, God made an exclamation of resurrection. For forty days, the Risen Lord enjoyed fellowship with the believers and the prediction was, "and they lived happily ever after," but God said, "there is more to this adventure," sending a cloud to envelope his Son and bring him home. Watching Jesus ascend, the disciples sighed, "it was nice while it lasted," but the Lord replied, "Just wait, there is more to come." As they waited expectantly for more of what had been, God came to them in a new way as the Spirit made his grand entrance. The newly birthed church sighed, "How nice of you to pay us a visit," to which the Spirit replied, "Visit, no, I'm moving in."

As the church we have experienced again the season of life—Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide, and now Pentecost. Each season moves us from what has been to what will be. Each ending transforms us into someone new. God the Father has made known the Lord's power and majesty. God the Son has shown us the depth and beauty of the Lord's loving desire for us. God the Spirit moves us through the life-filled chapters that have been written of us to enjoy for ages to come. And should we settle back and say, "Well, it's been a good ride," God responds, "Buckle up, you ain't seen nothin' yet."

In recent weeks we have been affirming our beliefs in the words of "A Brief Statement of Faith." Therein we have declared the source and foundation of our trust. The Holy Spirit is acknowledged as the giver and renewer of life, the beginning that never ends. The Spirit, by grace through faith, makes us right with God and neighbor, binding us together as a family that knows no limit of time or language or distance or status or privilege. We seek to see and accept each other as God sees and accepts each of us. The very same Spirit who spoke the words, "Let there be ...and there was," spoke us into being. In his breath, we breathe. By his word we are made and moved in faith. In our baptism we are claimed and washed and clothed in righteousness. In feeding on the bread of life and drinking of the cup of salvation we are strengthened to move from table to ministry as the church. The Spirit gives us courage to face the brokenness and fears of this world. We are in constant touch with the Lord, both speaking with and listening to him. We are in constant conversation with the world, listening to its cries and comforting its afflictions. We speak truth to power confronting the lies that try to lead us astray. At the same time we listen to those the world has told to "shut up and go away." All the while we work with others in Christ to pursue justice, to secure freedom and to seek peace.

In gratitude to God the Father for all he has given us and empowered by God the Spirit by whom we have been given the assurance of the holy presence in our midst, we make it our aim in our personal, our familial, our community, our national and our congregational lives to serve God the Son with every fiber of our being as the fabric of the Kingdom blankets the world. And in one voice, we the church pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end....

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jim

Scripture Texts for Worship

The scripture texts for June and July are given for your study in preparation for Worship.

June 4

II Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 11

Genesis 12:1-9
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18

Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25

Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

July 2

Romans 6:12-23
Genesis 22:1-14

July 9

Romans 7:15-25
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16

Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Romans 8:12-25

July 30

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Romans 8:26-39

August 6

Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Food Bank

The Blairsville Area Food Bank is held the second Tuesday of each month. Food bags are distributed to folks from the Blairsville Borough between the hours of 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Proof of address in the Blairsville Borough is needed when signing up.



OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE

Begins

Sunday, June 4 - 10:00 AM

Choirs will be in recess for the summer and will resume again in the Fall. Our Summer church schedule runs from the first Sunday after Memorial Day in June until the Sunday after Labor Day in September.

Summer Musicians

Our Chancel Choir will take a break for the summer months. Beginning in June, we will host guest musicians and have Special Music during worship. If you or someone you know would like to share a musical talent during worship, please see Cindy Borbonus or contact the church office.

Worship Assistants

Volunteers to assist during the worship service are always needed. There are a variety of ways you can become involved as an assistant. Call the office if interested.

Greeter—welcome those coming in for worship and hand them a bulletin; answer questions like, “Can I sit anywhere?”

Liturgist—assist the minister, from the pulpit, by leading the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and reading the first scripture

Audio-Visual Tech—after training, take your turn in rotation to run the sound and slides from the balcony during worship, and live-stream the service for those at home.

Thank You

We would like to thank Reverend Tim for the beautiful service and prayers for our sister, Judy Trimble. We would like to thank the kind people who prepared the food and to the church choir for all their support, kind stories and lovely flowers.

Rhonda Rabic & Wendy Trimble

Ball Brothers' Concerts Scheduled

The Ball Brothers have been bearing witness to their faith in Jesus Christ in small towns and large cities around America. Now that their ministries are taking some new directions, they are engaged in their Farewell Tour. We looked at the possibility of hosting them for an evening here in Blairsville, but we didn't feel we could do that with the limits of their timeline. So we are encouraging you to attend a concert of praise being offered in our area.

Friday, July 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Baptist Church, 7154 Rt. 403 South, Dilltown, PA (814) 446-5019
You can the church for information about tickets.

Home Communion

If you are not able to come to worship and would like to receive communion in your home, please call the church office at 724-459-7991 and arrangements can be made for the sacrament to be shared with you.

August Newsletter

Articles to be published in the August edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Sunday, July 16th. If you have news to share, contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

*We will celebrate the Lord's Supper Sunday, July 9th during worship.
Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.*



Summer Camping Opportunities

Summer is coming and camps are preparing for this season! There are three local camps supported by local presbyteries.

1—**Camp Lambec** is supported by the Camping Association of the Presbyteries of Northwestern Pennsylvania. It is located on 92 acres with beachfront access to Lake Erie.

2—**Pine Springs Camp** is a ministry of the Washington (PA) and Redstone (PA) Presbyteries. This year Pine Springs Camp celebrates a 75-year legacy. Exciting things are planned!

3—**Crestfield Camp & Conference Center** is supported by the Pittsburgh Presbytery. It is a 59 acre site in Slippery Rock, PA. For more information on Crestfield Camp, check out their website at crestfielddcc.org.

Brochures are available at the back of the sanctuary. Also, funding is available to offset some of the cost for campers. Please call the office for details.

Worship in PA Parks & Campgrounds

Chaplains are a friendly presence in the parks and campgrounds, and a witness to the love of God. They welcome you and care about you; feel free to ask for them from any of the park or campground employees. For more information or to see which parks or campgrounds are served by a chaplain, visit www.pachurches.org/ministry/campground-ministry.

Worship Assistants for Summer

June 4

Liturgist	Bobbi Monroe
Flowers	Ed & Becky Bence
Special Music	Handbell Choir
Property Mgr.	Pat Swope

June 11

Liturgist	Jean Heberling
Flowers	Gary & Barri Stuchal
Special Music	Betsy Holby
Property Mgr.	Bob Cosharek

June 18-Father's Day

Liturgist	Mary Anzelone
Flowers	Joe & Elaine Jellison
Flowers	Jim & Chris Antis
Property Mgr.	Dennis Gould

June 25

Liturgist	Rick Shoemaker
Flowers	Mary Anzelone
Property Mgr.	Kim McKinney

June Offering Counters

Elaine Jellison & Becky Bence

July 2

Liturgist	Mary Anzelone
Flowers	Bill & Deb Lint

July 9-Communion

Flowers Pat & Janeen Swope

July 16

Flowers Karen Ruda

July 23

Flowers Ron & Kim McKinney

July 30

Flowers Sue Harvey & Family

July Offering Counters

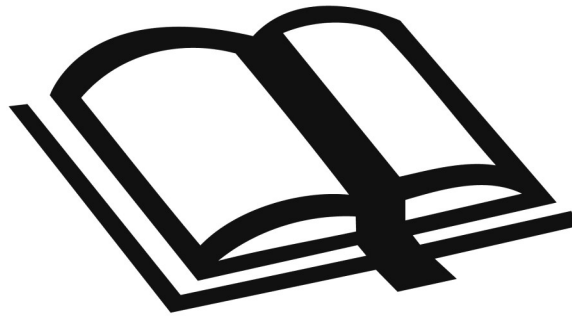
Pat & Janeen Swope

Need Help....

Do you need help:

- * Feeding your family
- * Becoming a volunteer
- * Getting taxes done
- * Avoiding eviction
- * Caring for my grandmother
- * Keeping my heat on
- * Joining the workforce
- * Finding a summer camp
- * Protecting a friend

Dial 2-1-1...it's a friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed hotline for help with human services. If you need help, information or referrals in your community, call 2-1-1 first.



How Well Do You Know Your Bible

Bible Trivia

Answers in the next newsletter

1. How many days and nights did it rain when Noah was on the ark?
2. How many books of the Bible have the name John in them?
3. How many sling-throws did it take David to hit Goliath?
4. How many books in the Bible? In the Old Testament? New Testament?
5. How many kings did Israel have? How many kings did Judah have?

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Who preached at Pentecost?
Answer: Peter (Acts 1:14-39)
2. Who was exiled to an island?
Answer: John (Revelation 1:9)
3. In what city were Jesus' followers first called "Christians"?
Answer: Antioch (Acts 11:25-26)
4. Which apostle took the Gospel to the city of Samaria?
Answer: Philip (Acts 8:1-8)
5. What did Pilate do to "cleanse himself" of the crucifixion?
Answer: Washed his hands (Matthew 27:19-24)