



# UPLIFT Newsletter

The United Presbyterian  
Church of Blairsville, PA

MARCH 2024

## Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

The festival of the Resurrection of the Lord (or Easter Sunday) is the center of the Christian year. On this occasion the church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. It is sometimes said that every Sunday is a little Easter; liturgical theologian Laurence Stookey suggests that it might be more appropriate to say that every Easter is a great Sunday (*Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Abingdon Press, 1996, 158-161). Easter Sunday is the Lord's Day writ large: a great annual celebration of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week. As such, the service should be centered around the typical and fundamental elements of Christian worship on the Lord's Day: the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Easter Sunday is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of Baptism, if not celebrated during the Easter Vigil of the previous night.

Easter Sunday is something like the keystone of an arch — the top and center stone upon which all the other stones lean and depend — both in terms of its theological significance and its relation to other events in the Christian year. Theologically speaking, the faith we claim and the life we live depend on the affirmation, celebration and proclamation of Christ's resurrection. In a chronological sense — since Easter is a “moveable feast,” taking place on a different date each year — all the other events of the Christian year (from the Transfiguration of the Lord and Ash Wednesday through Pentecost and Trinity Sunday) pivot around the date of Easter Sunday, shifting accordingly.

For Western Christians (Catholics and Protestants) the date of Easter is the first Sunday that comes after the first full moon that occurs on or after March 21 (the Spring Equinox) — occasionally shifted to the following Sunday, when the original date happens to coincide with the Jewish Passover. This computation means that Easter always occurs sometime between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. The Eastern Churches (Greek and Russian Orthodox, e.g.) use a different set of astronomical tables based on the Julian Calendar (instead of the Gregorian), which means that Orthodox Easter generally follows the Western date by one, four, or five weeks (sometimes occurring in early May).

### **Resurrection faith—An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 107-108)**

Pascha [or Easter] is the central event, the time of transformation, of becoming a resurrected people, God's new people. On this Sunday of all Sundays, Pascha, we celebrate our transformation as a new people. When Christ rose from the grave, death and all other “principalities and powers” that seek to entomb God's will were forever defeated. Easter is not simply the miracle of a dead person raised from the grave, but a celebration of power that can shatter death in order that people can freely serve the God of life. In the resurrection of Christ, God's awesome purposes were on display, revealing a radically new world of peace and harmony and equality and mutuality, about which we can only dream. The Lord of the future has been disclosed to us. Both the incarnation at Christmas and the resurrection at Easter testify to the lordship of Christ. ...

On Easter we glimpse a new landscape — the age to come — and experience a sense of holy awe at the significance of the resurrection for human life. The shape of the age to come reveals a new people of God, a new humanity. When Christ was crucified, humanity died with him on Calvary. But on Easter morning, a new world was born — raised up with the crucified and risen Christ. Bursting the bonds of death, the first human being of a new human race, Jesus Christ, appeared among those who crucified him. In the midst of the old sin-struck world, God gave the world a new beginning, a new humanity. By faith the old guilt-ridden humanity was born again into the new forgiven humanity of Jesus Christ. Ever since, here and there, clusters of the new people of God live according to the new social order of the new age.

Therefore, Easter faith recalls the past, especially the awesome act of God in raising the crucified Christ from the grave. Easter hope looks to the promised future, to that which awaits us. Easter love celebrates the presence of the crucified and risen Christ who is now among us, reconciling us as one people. Resurrection faith asserts that by grace we are born again into the new humanity of Jesus Christ. We are called to new life for God and for neighbors. As representatives of the new humanity we walk in newness of life.

*Reprinted from the PCUSA Mission Agency*

## Worship Leaders

### March 3

Speaker	Sharon Nelmes
Liturgist	Mary Anzelone
Audio/Visual	Karen & John Kerin
Property Mgr.	Gene Artman

### March 10—Daylight Savings begins

Speaker	Graham Smith
Liturgist	Pam Irwin
Audio/Visual	Kristi & Olivia Eckenroad
Property Mgr.	Bob Cosharek

### March 17

Speaker	Donna Kanyan
Liturgist	Dennis Gould
Audio/Visual	Brylea Borbonus & John Bruner
Flowers	Jill Wolford
Property Mgr.	Terry Brown

### March 24-Palm Sunday

Speaker	Donna Yarnal
Liturgist	Todd Faulk
Audio/Visual	Eli & Brennan Borbonus
Property Mgr.	Dennis Gould

### March 31—Easter Day

Speaker	Rev. Dr. Don Wilson
Liturgist	Rick Shoemaker
Music	Blairsville Brass
Audio/Visual	Karen & John Kerin
Flowers	Easter
Property Mgr.	Todd Faulk

### Offering Counters

Becky Bence & Elaine Jellison

## April Newsletter

All articles to be published in the April 2024 edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Friday, March 15th.

## Change Your Clocks

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. Be sure to change your clocks. We spring forward!



*We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Sunday, March 31 during worship.  
Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.*

## Community Lenten Devotionals

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. It was a community effort again this year with devotions written by friends in area churches. We would like to thank those from our church who participated by writing a devotion or submitting artwork. We hope you pick one up and use it through the season.

## Handbell and Chancel Choirs

Our Handbell Choir is directed by Vicky Westley. Rehearsals are held in the Bell Room and begin at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening. We are in need of additional ringers to complete our choir. If you have ever thought of giving handbells a try, please contact Vicky. She is willing to plan a time to meet so you can “test it out” before committing to ringing with the Bell Choir. We would love to have you join us!

Our Chancel Choir is directed by Cindy Borbonus. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Many of our seasoned members are no longer with us. We invite new voices to join us! Auditions are not necessary. If you like to sing and are interested in being a part of the choir, please see Cindy. All are welcome!

## Volunteer Opportunities

Your church family is in need of volunteers for the following worship help positions:

**Ushering**—a sign-up sheet is available at the back of the sanctuary.

**Sound, projector and streaming tech**—please see Doug Clayton for more information if you are interested.

**Liturgist**—Elaine Jellison schedules the liturgist for each Sunday. If you would like to help in leading the worship service, please see Elaine.

You may also call the church office if you are interested in helping in any of these areas.

## Souper Bowl of Caring Offering Update

Since 1990, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need. We received our Souper Bowl of Caring Offering Sunday, February 13th during morning worship and received a total of \$655. One hundred percent of these gifts will be sent to ICCAP in support of the Food Bank.

## The Committees of Session for 2024

*Consider taking part as an active committee member!*

Committees include: Christian Education, Congregational Fellowship, Evangelism, Finance, Mission, Property & Maintenance, Stewardship, Worship

**SESSION 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!

**The 67th Annual Good Friday Breakfast**

The YMCA of Indiana County will hold a Good Friday Breakfast March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. at their facility. Tickets are \$20 per person thru March 15<sup>th</sup> and \$25 per person from March 16<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Y for information.

**Community Lenten Services and Lunches**

The Blairsville Area Ministerium Community Lenten services and lunches are held each Wednesday through the season of Lent, beginning at 12:00 noon. A Lenten service is held followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon. A schedule of dates, places, and pastors are listed below.

March 6 .....	Hebron Lutheran Church.....	Pastor Fred Craig
March 13 .....	United Presbyterian Church .....	Father Dino Laude
March 20 .....	Black Lick Methodist .....	Pastor Jim Kendall
March 27 .....	SS Simon & Jude Church.....	Pastor Jenn Krishart
March 29 .....	Blairsville Methodist Church .....	Pastor Mark Ferlin

Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.

**Dates to Remember for the Season of Lent and Easter**

**Wednesdays**

Community Lenten Lunches, 12:00 pm

**Sunday, March 24**

Palm Sunday Worship, 11:00 am

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**

**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



**Annual Easter Breakfast  
Sunday, March 31, 2024**

Easter Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. before worship.  
Come join our church family for a great Easter breakfast and fellowship!

Please fill out and return by March 17th—

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Including yourself, how many are attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to come and help to setup tables  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

We are looking for help on the Easter Breakfast Planning Committee. Would you like to help?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Thank you to all who help to make this breakfast an enjoyable event each year!

Please contact Doug & Andrea Clayton for more information.

**Happy Easter to all!**



## How Well Do You Know Your Bible

Bible Trivia

*Answers in the next newsletter*

1. True or False: the opposite of the Fruits of the Spirits are called the “works of the flesh.”
2. Where can you find the 10 commandments in the Bible?
3. How many deacons were chosen to help the apostles to distribute food to the widows?
4. True or False: Jesus would sometimes “spit” as part of his healing miracles.
5. True or False: At first, Jesus’ earthly family tried to stop his ministry and said he was crazy.

### BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at the time of Jesus’ death?  
**Answer:** Annas (John 18:12-14)
2. Who gave Jesus a crown made of thorns?  
**Answer:** The Roman soldiers (John 19:1-2)
3. What happened when Jesus went into the wilderness?  
**Answer:** He was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11)
4. What four books tell about Jesus’ life on earth?  
**Answer:** Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
5. How many people did Jesus feed with fish and bread?  
**Answer:** 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21)

## Easter Flowers

Flowers are a sign of Spring and also of the Easter season. Our Board of Deacons are giving you the opportunity to order flowers. Easter Lilies and Tulips are available at a cost of \$10 per flower. Forms are available to place your order or call the church office. Be sure to add a dedication for the bulletin. The vendor providing our plants is Frank’s Flowers of Indiana.



These candies tell a story. The best news you’ll ever hear.  
It’s about Jesus dying on the cross, so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...  
The “M” becomes a “W” an “E” and then a “3.”

The “E” stands for Easter: God’s everlasting love and His eternal plan.  
It reminds us of the cross and the way God rescued sinful man.

The “3” represent the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave.  
By His death, His children He did save.

The “M” reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed as he died in our place,  
And the miracle of the resurrection so we can see Him face to face.

The “W” reminds us that He alone is worthy of our worship and praise  
And calls us to be His witnesses around the world for all of our days.

*By Bethany Tapp*