



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

April 21, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Dianna Messenger, 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

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”

Arr. Berry-Bennett

Introit (*all sing*)

“He Leadeth Me”

499

**He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!**

**Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

Call to Worship (*Psalms 95:1-3, 6 NRSV*)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him

with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

People: O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

*Hymn # 649

“Gather Us In”

*Prayer of Confession

L: In life, we wander away from God.

We forget who we are as God's beloved children.

Let us return to God,

and let's start with love and humility.

Let us confess our sins to God and to one another.

P: God, you call us to love, and we try, but too often we fail.

**You call us to love everyone, but we find it easier
to love only those who love us.**

You tell us to love even our enemies,

but that command we find almost impossible.

Forgive us when we fail at the task of love.

Forgive us, we pray.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

(I Corinthians 5:17)

L: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

P: The old life has gone; a new life has begun

L: Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

P: Amen!

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:16-30

Anthem

"Shepherd of My Soul"

Arr. Dengler

Chancel Choir – Cindy Borbonus, Director

New Testament Lesson

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon

"The Easiest. The Hardest. The Greatest"

Elder Barkley Butler

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA), 10.3

L: Let us, together, confess our faith.

P: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*Hymn # 397

"The Gift of Love"

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 # 596

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

*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, Elder Barkley Butler; Liturgist, Dianna Messenger; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; Audio/Visual Techs, Eli and Brennan Borbonus; and Property Manager, Dennis Gould.

WE WELCOME Barkley Butler to our pulpit this morning. He is an ordained elder and 35-year member of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Indiana where he has preached often. Barkley is retired from IUP where he spent 22 years as a Professor of Biology. He lost his wife, the love of his life, to cancer in October of 2021. He has two married daughters and three grown grandsons. Please be sure to greet him following the service.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of Ron Conrad by Ron and Kim McKinney.

GRANNIES will meet in Fellowship Hall Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. There are a variety of tasks to be done. For more information, please see Nancy Boone or one of the grannies.

ELECTION DAY is Tuesday, April 23rd. Voting will take place in Fellowship Hall all day. Please be aware of the extra traffic when visiting the church on Tuesday.

BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday morning in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Gene Artman and Bill Lint are leading the study. Please see Gene 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.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet in the parlor Thursday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This group works on personal projects and enjoys fellowship. All are welcome.

A CLEAN-UP DAY for the grounds of the church is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th. Volunteers are needed to help with weeding and cleaning up the yard and around the building. Bring gloves, hand tools and wear appropriate clothing for a day in the fresh air. For more information, please see Terry Brown or a property and maintenance committee member. Rain date is May 4th.

AN OPEN HOUSE of the manse will be held before and after worship Sunday, April 28th from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. An information sheet will be available during the open house with renovation and repair needs.

I would like to thank each person who helped to make our Movie Night happen and be so successful. We had forty people attend. We had so many favorable comments. Gratefully, Jean

WE ARE LOOKING for the names of upcoming graduates from high school or schools of higher learning. It has been our tradition to recognize the accomplishments of our young people during a worship service. Please submit names of graduates to the church office. More information to follow.

THE DEACONS may plan a CPR training class. They would like to know how many would be interested in attending before plans are made. If you are interested in being a part of a CPR training, please contact Susie Cotti or the church office. Once we see how many may be interested, additional information will be made available.

Our Website—www.r-church.com

Facebook page—The United Presbyterian Church of Blairsville

Instagram—[presbyterianblairsville](https://www.instagram.com/presbyterianblairsville)

Youtube—[@theunitedpresbyterianchurch7667](https://www.youtube.com/@theunitedpresbyterianchurch7667)

Each Sunday our worship service is **live streamed**. Access is available through our facebook page or our Youtube channel. Previous services can be watched from our Youtube channel.

Stay up-to-date with news through our weekly email updates. If you're not on our email list and would like to be, send us your email address, upchurch@r-church.com.

Something new!! Our online giving portal is now active!! If you want to give through the website, just click on the donate now button on the top right corner. If you want to scan the QR code, open your phone's camera and hover over the box below. A link will appear. Touch the link and it will take you to the online portal. Follow the online instructions. It's that simple. Pew cards are now available including the QR code.



MISSION NEWS: The Gitarama Presbyterian Church has been our Rwanda Partner since 2007. The purpose and goals of our partnership are these:

- *To listen and learn from our sisters and brothers in Christ in Rwanda on how to worship, how to cope with oppression and how to care for one another more effectively.
- *To have exchange of representatives so as to establish a personal connection and sense of mutual support.
- *To provide support and assistance to one another's needs as quickly as possible.
- *To be the Body of Christ together, to demonstrate our unity (John 17), our inclusivity and our fulfillment of Christ's great commission (Matthew 28).

To this end we mutually pledge ourselves to this partnership.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Refreshments and Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Barkley Butler
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Grannies meet in Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Monday Music Club Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday		Election Day-Voting in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
	5:00 p.m.	Daisy Troop in Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:30 p.m.	Blairsville Brass Rehearsal
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Grounds Clean-Up Day
Sunday	10:15 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
	10:00-11:00 a.m.	Manse Open House
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Donna Kanyan
	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Manse Open House