



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"*

Rev. John Manon

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

November 30, 2025 ~ 11:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Welcome Liturgist, Dianna Messenger
- Opening Prayer
- Announcements
- Stewardship Presentation Tricia Baker
- Prelude "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
Arr. Berry/Bennett
- Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Dennis and Nancy Gould
- *Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" # 176
- Scripture Lesson John 12:41-46
- Passing of the Peace
- Young Disciples
- Anthem "Carol of Advent" Arr. Price/Besig
The Chancel Choir, Cindy Borbonus, Director
Featuring Dave Hiltabidle, saxophone
- Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9:1-2
- Sermon "Hope In The Darkness"
Rev. John Manon
- Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word
- Offertory
- *Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
- Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
- *Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 153
- *Benediction
- *Postlude

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 Liturgist, Dianna Messenger; Advent Readers, Dennis and Nancy Gould; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Lewis; Ushers, Linda George, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Dennis Gould.

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

THE KIDS CLOSET will be open to the public Monday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to help with sorting donation items and or appointments.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will meet Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Please contact the church office if you would like to join from home.

OUR CHANCEL CHOIR will rehearsal Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome. For more information, see Cindy Borbonus.

THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY are invited to purchase delicious holiday treats for gift giving, holiday parties, etc. at our Christmas Cookie Sale on **Saturday, December 6th**. Proceeds will support the Kids Closet, Food Pantry and Blessing Box. This year, we will also be a stop for the Community Cookie Walk. We look forward to sharing a treat with our neighbors. The Grannies will have a display of their homemade items to purchase that day for your gift giving needs. We hope to see you on Saturday!

TODAY is the beginning of Advent. Devotionals were distributed by email last week. Hard copies are available at the back of the sanctuary for those who may want a printed copy. This guide is meant to help you as you move through the season to the coming of the Christ Child.

THE DEACONS would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving Baskets. This year we were able to distribute 29 baskets to local families in need. Due to all the financial and food donations this year, we were able to add more items to the baskets! We are truly blessed to have a caring congregation.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the annual turkey dinner. From setting up, to cooking the food, to the cleaning up...many hands make light work! Lots of delicious sides and desserts too. We were able to share a bit of our left overs with the Veteran's Halfway House in Indiana and they were very appreciative! Very sincerely, Chris Antis

NEXT SUNDAY, the Strategic Planning Committee will share the first of two presentations. Our worship service will be modified to a half hour followed immediately by a half hour Strategic Planning presentation. Then, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a potluck luncheon and a wrap up of the Stewardship Campaign. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share. If you have questions or comments, please see Pastor John or call the church office.

THE 11TH ANNUAL COATS-FOR-KIDS DRIVE has begun. We are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific size coats for kids in need. Please mark your donation clearly for "Coat Drive" and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Please see Janet Smith or call the church office if you have any questions.

YOU ARE INVITED to the Annual Community Christmas Concert, Saturday, December 6th at 7:00 PM at the First Methodist Church, Blairsville. The concert is hosted by the Blairsville Monday Music Club. The Blairsville Bicentennial Celebration will be culminating in this annual Community Christmas Concert. We hope to see you there!

SUNDAYS will be busy the next several weeks. The schedule is as follows:

- *Today – First Sunday of Advent; Stewardship Campaign Presentation
- *December 7th – Second Sunday of Advent; Stewardship Campaign Presentation; Strategic Planning Presentation; Potluck Luncheon including a Stewardship Wrap up
- *December 14th – Third Sunday of Advent; Strategic Planning Presentation; Catered Luncheon and State Police Safety Presentation
- *December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- *December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship and Communion at 7:00 p.m. (one service this year)

THANK YOU to all those who participated in writing Christmas cards for our military. We mailed 208 Christmas greetings this week.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday		<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
	11:00 a.m.	Worship & Stewardship Presentation
Monday	5:00 p.m.	Kids Closet Open
	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Board of Deacons meet in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group meet in the Parlor
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Otter Creek Brass Rehearsal
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cookie Sale & Grannies Craft Sale
Sunday		<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
	9:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Strategic Planning Presentation
	12:00 p.m.	Potluck Luncheon & Stewardship Campaign Wrap Up