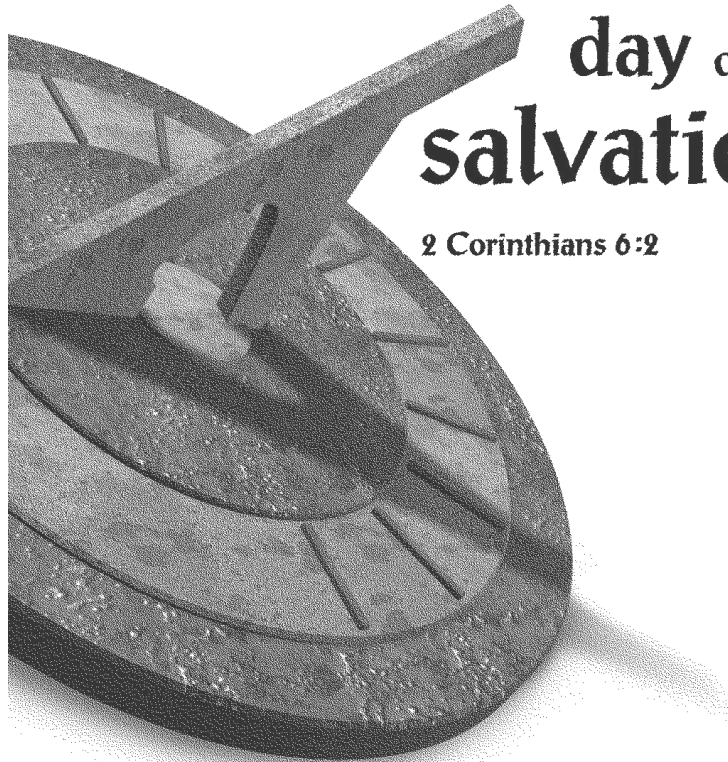


**Behold, now is**  
the acceptable  
**time;**

**behold, now is the**  
day of  
**salvation.**

2 Corinthians 6:2



**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”*

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

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THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

June 23, 2024 ~ 10:00 AM

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

Words of Greeting Todd Faulk, Liturgist

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

Mission Moment Mr. Jim Sisitki, Habitat for Humanity

PNC Update Todd Faulk

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

Prelude “Blessed Be the Name” Arr. Wyrzten

Organ and Piano Duet

Call to Worship *(Based on Mark 4:35-41)*

Leader: When the storms of life arise

**People: And the waves threaten to overturn  
the boat of our faith,**

Leader: Remember the power of our Savior

**People: To calm, to still, to establish peace.**

\*Hymn # 549 “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”

\*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we doubt you and are people of little faith. When the circumstances of our lives overwhelm and the tragedy of the news leaves us lamenting the state of our world, we wonder where you are or if you even exist. Does the universe really bend toward justice? Does this justice include us and those we love? Does this justice include the innocent caught in the crosshairs of war? Forgive us, God, for the evils we perpetuate, the unjust systems from which we cannot see our way clear. Claim us and guide us in working toward the Beloved Community you so desire for us, where all your children live in peace. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri

\*Sharing of the Peace

## DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 9:9-20

Special Music

“Safe Within Your Arms”  
Adam Loucks

Arr. Hayes

New Testament Lesson

II Corinthians 6:1-13

Sermon

“Jimmy, I Love You”

Michael Renninger

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Special Music

“Psalm 23”

Arr. Wood

\*Affirmation of Faith

(A Brief Statement of Faith)

**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 # 312

“Christ Is Alive!”

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Presentation of the Offering

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn # 426

“Blessed Assurance”

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*(\*All who are able, please stand)*

*\*Worship Helps today by Teri McDowell Ott and the Presbyterian Outlook.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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 Video Speaker, Michael Renninger; Liturgist, Todd Faulk; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; Audio/Visual Techs, Karen and John Kerin; and Property Manager, Terry Brown.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of Olaf Marx by Mary Anzelone.

GRANNIES will meet in the new Grannies Room 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.

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.

OUR CHURCH SECRETARY will be out of the office this week. Volunteers will be available to answer phones and greet visitors.

WE WILL HOST guest musicians and have Special Music during the summer months. If you or someone you know would like to share a musical talent for our worship service, please see Cindy Borbonus or contact the church office.

A KID'S CLOSET will open in July! During the month of June the deacons will start collecting gently used clothes for a Kids Closet which will be helping local families in need. Clothing sizes from newborn to young adult will be accepted. Donations for the Kids Closet will be accepted ongoing: please reach out to the deacons if you have any questions. The Kids closet will be open to the local community starting the week of July 8th. Local Blairsville families in need should call the church office to set up an appointment to retrieve clothing needed for their children.

A TRAINING will be scheduled for volunteers who are interested in helping with the audio visual presentation each Sunday and those interested in serving as a liturgist. The training will take place one evening during the first week of July. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Doug Clayton or call the church office.

THE 226<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held in Salt Lake City, UT from June 25 – July 4. The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in Chapter 3 of the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies. As the meetings begin, many important topics will be discussed and voted on that will affect the PC(USA) local churches. Please pray for those who are discerning God's voice in decisions that are made. If you would like to follow the assembly online, check out [ga.pcusa.org](http://ga.pcusa.org).

## SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

June 23 .....Adam Loucks  
July 7 .....Betsy Holby  
July 21.....Angela Lyons  
August 4.....The Blairsville Brass  
August 18.....Abigail Bruner  
September 1.....Nightengals

*\*Dates are still available for guest musicians*

GUEST SPEAKERS scheduled for June-July-August are listed below.

10:00 a.m. June 23 .....Michael Renninger  
Summer June 30 .....Donna Kanyan  
Schedule July 7 .....Jerry Young  
July 14.....Lessons in Hymns  
July 21.....Donna Kanyan  
July 28.....Morgan Kelly  
August 4.....Dr. Barkley Butler  
August 11 .....Rev. Arthur Dilg  
August 18.....Clark Bruner

## SUMMER SCHEDULE:

**Sunday** 10:00 a.m. Worship Video with Michael Renninger  
1:00 p.m. Blairsville Chamber Music Festival  
Concert in our sanctuary  
**Monday** 9:00 a.m. Grannies meet in the sewing room  
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts in Fellowship Hall  
**Thursday** 2:00 p.m. Stitching Group  
6:30 p.m. Blairsville Brass Rehearsal  
**Friday** 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved  
**Sunday** 10:00 a.m. Worship with Donna Kanyan

## “Center Shot on Cereal”



My name is John Bruner and I have been a member of the Indiana County 4-H Program since I joined as a Cloverbud at age 5. I've completed a lot of projects over the years but my favorite is shooting sports. This year I am focused on completing my 4-H diamond project (the equivalent of an Eagle Scout Project). My activity will be a 2-day shooting sports day camp. Along with all the fun things campers will experience and educational skills they will learn, my diamond project has a service-learning component. In line with the National Shooting Sports Program called Center Shot on Cereal, one of the workshops at day camp will be to discuss good nutrition as it relates to shooting sports. Iron fortified cereals build strong bones and muscles necessary for shooting strength and stamina. I am partnering with ICCAP, the Indiana County Community Action Program, to collect boxes of dry cereal from churches, 4-H clubs, individuals, and community organizations to support my mission of helping Indiana County with food insecurity. I am asking for your help. My goal is to have at least 500 boxes of cereal donated. Any kind, any size, and any variety is accepted. I plan to collect all donated cereal by July 1st. If you have any questions about my diamond project or the National 4-H Shooting Sports Center Shot on Cereal Initiative my contact information is:

John C. Bruner, [jcb5238@gmail.com](mailto:jcb5238@gmail.com).

Thanks in advance for helping to make my Diamond Project successful!



**Congregational Update**  
**PNC Committee Progress Report**  
**June 23, 2024**

**Committee Members:**

Chris Antis, Mary Anzelone, Tricia Baker, Zack Barto, Mark Borbonus, Bonni Dunlap, Pam Irwin and Rick Shoemaker

Key points on committee:

1. Open candid discussion and debate (Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024)
2. Hard work and creativity; continued sense of urgency
3. Shared goal for our congregation; representative of our church
4. **Our Committee prays to be led by the Holy Spirit (opening and closing prayer) and we need your prayers for support; we have experienced highs and lows**
5. Stayed committed to confidentiality to ensure fair process.

**A QUICK REVIEW:**

**\*\*Reminder: Two tiers of accepted Pastors:**

- **Full Communion Partner Churches: PCUSA, Evangelical Lutheran Church, United Church of Christ and Reformed Church in America**
- **Letter of Correspondence Churches: World Council of Churches and Christian Churches Together**
- **Or they must go through our Presbytery's full 2-Year Ordination Process/Exams**

**As a Review: Five Focused Areas for Search:**

- Preaching the Gospel and Authority of Scripture
- Outreach and Evangelism
- Leadership and Vision: Worship Service design/delivery, including music ministry
- Church Ministries: Youth Program
- Stewardship



- Traditional View of Marriage and Support for Women in Leadership Roles are key areas of focus

### **Steps in Process:**

- Screening
- Virtual on-line interview with PNC
- In-Person interview and visit with PNC
- Recommended Interview with PNC/Session
- Review of final candidate with Presbytery; to ensure credentials
- Finalized candidates to be brought before Congregation
- Vote by Congregation on Terms of Call
- Installation of Pastor

### **Key Work Since Last Update:**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>:** Initial on-site Pastoral Candidate withdrew from consideration

**May 9<sup>th</sup> - June 6<sup>th</sup>:** Screened 23 Associate Pastors from Redstone/Butler&Beaver/Pittsburgh/Huntington Presbyteries (we received 1 interested candidate who later withdrew from consideration after receiving a new contract to serve as Director, Youth Ministry)

**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** Began contact/outreach with all Redstone Presbytery Senior Pastors (67 churches, some shared)

\*Note: As a result of this outreach effort, we have received two interested Pastoral candidates

**June 18<sup>th</sup>:** After re-engagement with first candidate; she ultimately declined further consideration position due to location/joint custody issues

**June 20<sup>th</sup>:** Conducted Virtual Interview with candidate from Redstone Presbytery

Note: Next month we are considering a non-traditional approach of utilizing the electronic billboard on Route 22 in Delmont and also utilizing advertisement on WORD FM to better publicize our Pastor position.