



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

APRIL 2024

Easter Stewardship: Resurrection Reset

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:3-4

Christ is Risen! Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The triumphant words we cherish every Easter signal more than just Jesus' victory over the grave. They announce for us the end of deadness and the start of a new life, a fresh beginning, in our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we, too, might walk in newness of life.

From Jesus' resurrection, our lives take on a new trajectory, a turn away from the values and precepts of the world and toward the kingdom of God. As we journey, our lives progressively align with the purposes and mission of God.

For a steward-disciple of our Lord, the implications are many. As we walk in newness of life, we might find ourselves

- ◇ Re-examining our relationship to "stuff" – our money, our possessions, the things that might have given us a sense of security or worth. Jesus is our security and our worth.
- ◇ Drawing closer to family and friends. True wealth is measured by the love we give and receive. Our lives effervesce with the love we receive from God.
- ◇ Contributing more to church and charity. Jesus frees us from the grip that possessions have upon us. We can more freely give.
- ◇ Gathering into our lives what Paul calls the fruits of the spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

May your lives as steward-disciples take a resurrection reset.

Christ is risen! Risen indeed! Alleluia!

--Rob Blezard

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Worship Leaders

April 7

Speaker Donna Yarnal
Liturgist Mary Anzelone
Audio/Visual Kristi & Olivia Eckenroad
Property Mgr. Todd Faulk

April 14

Speaker Clark Bruner
Liturgist Jean Heberling
Audio/Visual Brylea Borbonus & John Bruner
Property Mgr. Bob Cosharek

April 21

Speaker Barkley Butler
Liturgist Dianna Messenger
Audio/Visual Eli & Brennan Borbonus
Flowers Ron & Kim McKinney
Property Mgr. Dennis Gould

April 28

Speaker Donna Kanyan
Liturgist Barb Brown
Audio/Visual Karen & John Kerin
Property Mgr. Kim McKinney

Offering Counters

Linda George & Jean Heberling



Election Day

Election Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd. Voting will take place in Fellowship Hall all day. Please be mindful of the extra traffic when visiting the church that day.

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.

May Newsletter

Articles to be published in the May edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Monday, April 15th.

2024 Flower Chart

The Flower Chart is located on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office. You may sign-up for your choice of dates. Gary's Floral provides our arrangements. After worship, you may take your flowers home or we ask that you pick up by the following Tuesday. Those remaining after Tuesday will be delivered to one of our home bound members. Dedications to be printed in the bulletin can be submitted to the church office or noted on the sign-up chart. Flower arrangements are \$20 each and checks can be made payable to the "Board of Deacons."

Volunteers Needed

- * Volunteers are needed to run the **audio/visual equipment** in the balcony each Sunday morning. Those interested will be trained. Please see Jean Heberling or Doug Clayton if interested.
- * Volunteers are needed to **usher**. An usher signup sheet is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to participate in worship as an usher/greeter, please sign-up. There are dates available. Our deacons thank you.
- * If you would like to help during the worship service as a **liturgist**, volunteers are needed. As a liturgist you will lead the order of worship from the pulpit with the aid of a liturgist guide. A liturgist guide and a copy of the bulletin will be sent to you ahead of Sunday for your preparation. Please contact Elaine Jellison if you are considering helping as a liturgist.



Movie Night

A movie night will be held in Fellowship Hall Saturday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. The movie will be NOAH from Sight & Sound Theatre. Popcorn and drinks will be served. A basket for donations will be available for those who wish to donate to defray expenses. Come and enjoy!

Many Thanks

Dear members of the Blairsville Congregation,

Blessings to you especially during your time of transition in between pastors. Deb and I were blessed by the servanthood of Tim and Bobbi; we're sorry we were not able to meet any of you and thank you personally for your church's hospitality and generosity. Your church let my wife and I sleep there one night along our cross-country bike trip the summer of '21. You also donated monies to that mission cause—The Bowery Mission in New York City—and to our 9-months of service in Malawi in 2023 from January to October. Thank you so very much.

May God be with you and guide you as you continue to follow Christ and serve Christ in others with your time, talents and financial giving.

In Christ,
Deb & Chuck Monts

Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, April 3rd, Bible Study will be held in Fellowship Hall from 10:00—11:30 a.m. Leaders will be Gene Artman and Bill Lint.

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

The PNC and Session wanted to provide an important update on our pastoral search and the progress that has been made since our official kick-off on January 23rd. Since inception until the position was posted to the Church Leadership Connection and JustChurchJobs websites on February 21st, the Committee worked to develop job descriptions and a compensation package that would be used for advertisement purposes. Five core focus areas were identified as follows:

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

This core group of job requirements were developed in a joint session (28 participants from the congregation) with the Deacons, Elders, PNC and Staff. Two other key points that are covered during the screening process include; the candidate's views on Traditional Marriage and support for Women in Leadership roles.

Since the position was posted on February 21st, the Committee has screened over 100 total pastoral candidates from around the Pennsylvania region. While many of the candidates have been of the Presbyterian faith, the Committee has broadened its search to include other denominations such as Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist and other evangelical faiths. A summary of screened candidates follows below:

Church Leadership Connection: (Presbyterian Website)

- 24 Initial Matches
- 14 Screened Out
- 10 Invited to Apply
- 5 No Response
- 4 Declined
- 1 Accepted
- 2 Self Referrals (connections through Presbyter Don Wilson)
- Of the 1 acceptance and 2 self-referrals, all 3 have been interviewed and 2 are/have made it to in-person interviews

JustChurchJobs website: (Broader Denominations Website)

- 7 Official Applications
- 5 were rejected
- 2 were requested for interview, but their denomination/ordination did not meet PCUSA and Kiskiminetas Approval

- Approximately 85 candidates screened from overall PA region
- 9 Candidates were invited to apply and sent individual follow-up
- 1 Responded with no interest

It is important to note that PCUSA and Kiskiminetas Presbytery recognize two levels of pastoral candidates into service. First, there are ministers from **Full Communion Partner Churches**: PCUSA, Evangelical Lutheran Church, United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America. Second, there are ministers from **Letter of Correspondence Churches**: identified by membership in the World Council of Churches and Christian Churches Together organizations. If a candidate is not ordained through one of these two church designations, then they would be required to go through our full 2-Year Ordination Process/Exams. As you can see from this important requirement and designation, it is imperative that our Committee work closely with Presbyter Don Wilson during the screening process.

An overview of the screening process steps are outlined below:

- ◆ Screening
- ◆ Virtual on-line interview with PNC
- ◆ In-Person interview and visit with PNC
- ◆ PNC to attend Pastoral Candidate Service and Preaching (In-Person)
- ◆ Recommended Interview with PNC/Session
- ◆ Review of final candidate with Presbytery; to ensure credentials
- ◆ **Finalized candidates to preach before Congregation**
- ◆ Vote by Congregation on Terms of Call
- ◆ Final Review and Acceptance Vote into Presbytery
- ◆ Installation of Pastor

Session is working with Pastor Tim Monroe to vacate the manse/garage/second floor education room and complete his move to his new condominium in Indiana. The deadline for completion is March 22nd. Additionally, the pastoral office is now cleared and ready for cleaning/renovation. This is an important step as prospective candidates want to see the facilities when they are visiting in person.

Last, on behalf of our Pastoral Nominating Committee; Chris, Mary, Tricia, Zack, Mark, Bonni, Todd, Pam and Rick, we want to thank you for your support and request your continued prayers that the Holy Spirit guide our work and selection of a new minister to lead our congregation.

News You Can Use

- * As part of our vision for planning for our church, the **Session, Deacons, Staff and Pastor Nominating Committee** met earlier this year to determine some common themes that we want to focus on for the church. The group will be meeting again on April 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to continue their work.
- * **Deacons and Session** are asked to mark their calendars for their monthly meeting on April 16th; Deacons will meet at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Session will meet upstairs at 6:30 p.m.
- * Special thanks to all those who helped with **Easter breakfast and the service**, including Boy Scout Troop 4, the Blairsville Brass Band (and combined choir), Rev. Dr. Wilson, Cindy and Brylie Borbonus and "Holly" the lamb, Pam Irwin and many others! We had a little issue with the live streaming of the service in the beginning of the service, but Doug Clayton was able to fix it by the Children's Moment. Thanks to all who coordinate our services - each week.
- * Just a reminder, we also post pictures and notices on our **Facebook page** (United Presbyterian Church of Blairsville) and **Instagram** (presbyterianblairsville) pages. Please follow, like and share the pages with others. Look soon for our new **online giving** program too!!!



PENTECOST

Pentecost Communion

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion Pentecost Sunday, May 19 during worship. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

Meetings Scheduled

The elders will gather for a Session Meeting Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room. The Board of Deacons will also meet Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars.

MMC Spring Program

The Monday Music Club will present their Spring Program, "Celebrating 100 Years Through Music" on Monday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the evening are \$10 and are available from a Monday Music Club member or contact the church office, 724-459-7991. Proceeds from the evening will support the club's scholarship fund. We hope you will join us!

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. CAPNWP offers summer camp programs for all ages from late June to early August annually.

2—**Pine Springs Camp** is a ministry of the Washington (PA) and Redstone (PA) Presbyteries. Since 1948, Pine Springs camp has been a place where lives have been changed by encountering Christ in a vital way. 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. Programs are offered to those 4 years and older from mid-June through July. For more information on Crestfield Camp, check out their website at crestfieldcc.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.



How Well Do You Know Your Bible

Bible Trivia

Answers in the next newsletter

1. What happened after Jesus was buried in the tomb?
2. How did Jesus leave earth and go to heaven?
3. What garden did Jesus go to when he prayed after the Last Supper?
4. Who was the Roman Governor who sat over Jesus' trial?
5. Who cut off a soldier's ear when Jesus was being arrested?

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. True or False: the opposite of the Fruits of the Spirit are called the "works of the flesh".
Answer: True (Galatians 5:19-26)
2. Where can you find the 10 commandments in the Bible?
Answer: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5
3. How many deacons were chosen to help the apostles to distribute food to the widows?
Answer: Seven (Acts 6:1-15)
4. True or False: Jesus would sometimes "spit" as part of his healing miracles.
Answer: True, 3 times the Bible mentions it (Mark 7:31-37; Mark 8:22-26; John 9:6-7)
5. True or False: At first Jesus' earthly family tried to stop his ministry and said he was crazy.
Answer: True (Mark 3:19-30)

—STAYING— CONNECTED

Find us online at the following:

Website—www.r-church.com

Facebook page—The United Presbyterian Church of Blairsville

Instagram—Presbyterianblairsville

Youtube—@theunitedpresbyterianchurc7667

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.