



UPLIFT Newsletter

The United
Presbyterian Church
of Blairsville, PA

JUNE 2024

UPCOMING 226th General Assembly (2024) June 25 - July 4, 2024 Salt Lake City, UT

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders. Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries. It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

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.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

First, reports and recommendations come from the various arms of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly. The Office of the General Assembly, headed by the Stated Clerk, is the ecclesiastical arm of the church. The Stated Clerk and his staff work to ensure that the Presbyterian Church maintains itself as a church. The Office of the General Assembly carries out all constitutional, and most ecumenical functions at the General Assembly. Mission programs are carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency which supervises the work directed to be done by the General Assembly, and can make certain decisions on behalf of the Assembly. Overtures from synods and presbyteries are the second source of General Assembly business. These governing bodies use Overtures to bring recommendations and matters of concern before the whole church. Commissioners Resolutions are a third source of General Assembly business. As a commissioner one is entitled to sign two resolutions which will come before the whole assembly.

The meeting begins with an orientation on Saturday afternoon and that evening the plenary, or whole General Assembly, meets together to elect a Moderator from among the commissioners assembled. The Moderator presides over the plenary meetings for the rest of the week. Once a Moderator is elected, the assembly breaks up into assembly committees to consider particular kinds of business. Each committee is responsible for considering a number of items, and reporting back to the General Assembly on completed actions or their recommendations. The combined insights of all those on assembly committees become the recommendations to the whole assembly. If they are approved, they guide the church in the years to come.

(Reprinted from oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga)

Stay up-to-date on what's happening at the 226th General Assembly at ga.pcusa.org

Worship Leaders

June 2

Speaker Rev. Ray Lyons
Flowers Ed & Becky Bence
Audio/Visual Kristi & Olivia Eckenroad
Prop. Mgr. Dennis Gould

June 9

Speakers Faith Stories
Flowers Mark & Lynnette Borbonus
Audio/Visual Brylea Borbonus & John Bruner
Prop. Mgr. Bob Cosharek

June 16

Speaker Donna Yarnal
Flowers Gary & Barri Stuchal
Flowers Joe & Elaine Jellison
Audio/Visual Eli & Brennan Borbonus
Flowers Steve & Joan Moran
Prop. Mgr. Todd Faulk

June 23

Speaker tbd
Flowers Mary Anzelone
Audio/Visual Karen & John Kerin
Prop. Mgr. Terry Brown

June 30

Speaker Donna Kanyan
Audio/Visual Kristi & Olivia Eckenroad
Prop. Mgr. Kim McKinney

Offering Counters

Elaine Jellison & Becky Bence

New Online Giving

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, it's below. 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 for in house worshippers.



Summer Worship Schedule

10:00 AM

Sunday Worship

Chancel Choir in recess
Handbell Choir in recess
Bible Study in recess

Special Music is being scheduled for summer worship services. Please see Cindy Borbonus if you or someone you know would like to share a musical talent with us.



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.



Graduate Sunday

Our church tradition has been to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of our young people, especially at graduation time. Graduate recognition will be Sunday, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m. during the morning worship service. We hope you will join us. This year our graduates include:

Eli Borbonus, High School
Olivia Eckenroad, High School
Emily Harkleroad, High School
Elizabeth Bruner, Penn State Dubois
Amy Kukula, IUP

If we missed anyone, please contact the church office.

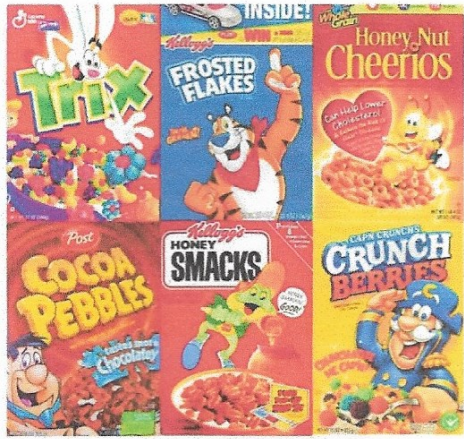
Deacons Kids Closet

A Kids 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.



July Newsletter

Articles to be published in the July edition of the UPLIFT newsletter are due to the church office by Sunday, June 16th.



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.

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



Children's Aid Society of Mercer County

Want to mentor a teen in foster care? We work with youth and mentors from all over Western PA. It takes 5 steps and a few hours of your time to make a difference in the life of a teen in foster care. Our mentoring program matches approved, volunteer members with teens living in foster care. These mentors are a support and a dependable role model to the youth we work with. They spend quality time together while building what we hope is a lifelong connection. It only takes a few hours a month to provide a youth with a caring adult who is invested in them and their future. Check out more from Children's Aid Society of Mercer County by scanning the QR code.



Summit Legal Aid

Summit Legal Aid is a nonprofit legal aid organization. They provide free legal services to qualified residents in a ten-county region in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Summit Legal Aid is dedicated to equality, justice, and breaking down barriers. Their legal advocates work to provide services that empower clients by keeping families protected, homes secured, and finances stabilized. Their legal services are always free to those who qualify. For more information call 1-800-846-0871 or email info@summitlegal.org.

Area Vacation Bible Schools

Blairsville First Methodist Church

50 S. Walnut Street, Blairsville
"The Great Jungle Journey"

An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation

June 24—28, 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Register with the QR code



or call the church at 724-459-6155

Bethel Presbyterian Church

1470 Bethel Church Road, Indiana
"Back to the Stone Age"

A Yabba Dabba Do VBS

June 9—14, 9:00—11:30 a.m.

Register with the QR code



or call the church at 724-479-2465

Pastor Nominating Committee

Please continue to pray daily for those serving on the PNC: Chris Antis, Mary Anzelone, Tricia Baker, Zack Barto, Mark Borbonus, Bonni Dunlap, Todd Faulk, Pam Irwin and Rick Shoemaker. A word of support, a thank you and especially your prayers will greatly help to encourage them as they strive to find our next pastor.

Mandated Reporter Training

Mandated Reporter Training is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Those who should consider attending include: elders, deacons, staff and anyone interested in working with children within the church. Please contact Bonni Dunlap or call the church office if you are interested in attending.

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. Flower arrangements are \$20 each and checks can be made payable to the "Board of Deacons."



Concerts Scheduled

The Blairsville Chamber Music Festival returns for its second year, featuring a trio of captivating concerts on June 20th, 21st and 23rd. Delight in the artistry of renowned New York City-based musicians as they bring classical masterpieces to life. Don't miss this celebration of exquisite music in the heart of Blairsville!

Murphy Lot Benefit Concerts

June 20th—7:30 pm

Blairsville Amphitheater
(Hebron Lutheran Church if inclement weather)

June 21st—7:00 pm

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

June 23rd—1:00 pm

The United Presbyterian Church

\$20 Suggested donation



How Well Do You Know Your Bible

Bible Trivia

Answers in the next newsletter

1. Who did God tell to build an ark?
2. True or False—Jesus stayed away from people with bad reputations?
3. Besides preaching, name an activity that Jesus did while traveling in Galilee.
4. Name the person who received the 10 commandments from God?
5. What were men trying to do at the Tower of Babel?

BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. How did Moses' mother save him from the Egyptian soldiers?
Answer: Put him in a basket in the river (Exodus 2:1-10)
2. Through what did God speak to Moses in the desert?
Answer: A burning bush (Exodus 3:1-17)
3. When Daniel prayed to God after it was not allowed, what was his punishment?
Answer: He was thrown into the lion's den (Daniel 6:1-21)
4. Who got Joseph thrown into prison by lying about him?
Answer: Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:1-23)
5. What did Jesus say is the second greatest commandment?
Answer: Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:36-40)

—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.