

*Worship
the
Father
in
spirit
and
truth.*

John 4:23

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

July 14, 2024 ~ 10:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting

Rick Shoemaker, Liturgist

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

The Kerin Family

Call to Worship (*Psalm 95*)

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: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.
(based on Romans 8:39)

P: Loving God, you have charged us to love our neighbors, but if we are honest, sometimes we don't even like them. We want them to change. Caring God, you have told us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. But sometimes we find it even harder to love ourselves than to love our neighbors. We have memories that carry shame. Comfort and forgive us, we pray.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

L: Remind us of your love, forgiveness and acceptance made real to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

(based on Psalm 147)

L: God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

P: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

L: God's understanding is beyond measure.

P: We give thanks for the forgiveness we receive through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 32:1-3, 5-6, 11

L: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

P: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

L: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

L: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

P: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Special Music

The Kerin Family

Gospel Lesson

John 4:3-30, 39

Sermon

"The Power of Acceptance"
Elder Barkley Butler

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

(from a Brief Statement of Faith)

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...

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...

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Hymn # 354

"Just As I Am"

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 # 596

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

*Benediction

*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, Dr. Barkley Butler; Liturgist, Rick Shoemaker; Special Music, the Kerin Family; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Irwin; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; Audio/Visual Techs, Eli and Brennan Borbonus; and Property Manager, Bob Cosharek.

WE WELCOME Dr. Barkley Butler back to our pulpit this morning. Dr. Butler was with us back in April. He is an ordained elder and member of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Indiana where he has been a member for 35 years and has preached often. He is retired from IUP where he spent 22 years as a Professor of Biology. Dr. Butler lost his wife, the love of his life, in October of 2021. He has two married daughters and three grown grandsons. Please be sure to greet him before you leave today.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of parents and grandparents by Bonni Dunlap.

THE SESSION will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Packets for the meeting are available to pick up in the parlor.

THE STITCHING GROUP will meet Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor. This group works on personal projects and enjoys fellowship.

WE ARE HOSTING 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.

THE DEACON'S KIDS CLOSET is open! Clothing sizes from newborn to young adult is being accepted. Donations for the Kids Closet will be received ongoing: please reach out to the deacons if you have any questions. Local Blairsville families in need should call the church office to set up an appointment to retrieve clothing needed for their children. Share the news!

THE 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY is now complete. Many important topics were discussed and voted on that will affect PC(USA) local churches. Please see the bulletin insert from the Presbyterian Outlook with highlights.

KNOTWEED FESTIVAL: August 10, 2024

We are looking for volunteers to help plan/work the booth our church is sponsoring for this community event. There will be a table with a sunshade and we are planning to provide drinks, give aways, children's activities and a raffle. There will be a planning meeting/call scheduled for the week of July 14th. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Todd Faulk at 724-459-7991.

NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The exterior door locks have been changed. This measure was taken for security reasons only. Please note if you had a key, it will not work. New keys will only be distributed to those holding positions in the church with a need to access the building outside of office hours. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Terry Brown, Jim Antis or Todd Faulk. Limitations are being placed on the number of keys available for security reasons.

VOLUNTEERS to assist during the worship service are always needed. There are a variety of ways you can become involved as an assistant. Call the office if interested.

Greeter—welcome those coming in for worship and hand them a bulletin; answer questions like, “Can I sit anywhere?”

Liturgist—assist the minister, from the pulpit, by leading the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and reading the first scripture

Audio-Visual Tech—after training, take your turn in rotation to run the sound and slides from the balcony during worship, and live-stream the service for those at home.

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC SCHEDULE

July 14..... The Kerin Family
July 21..... Angela Lyons
July 28..... Matthew Cyphert
August 4..... The Blairsville Brass
August 18..... Abigail Bruner
September 1..... Nightengals

**Dates are still available for guest musicians*

Guest speakers scheduled for July and August are listed below.

10:00 a.m.	July 14.....	Dr. Barkley Butler
Summer	July 21.....	Donna Kanyan
Schedule	July 28.....	Morgan Kelly
	August 4.....	Rev. Dr. Ron Wanless
	August 11.....	Rev. Arthur Dilg
	August 18.....	Clark Bruner
	August 25.....	Rev. Dr. Ron Wanless

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