



**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

December 1, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

*First Sunday of Advent*

**THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

Words of Greeting Mary Anzelone, Liturgist

Leader: May the love of God, the joy of Christ and  
the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Todd and Stacy Faulk

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

Prelude "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

Arr. Berry/Bennett

Introit # 593 "Lord, Speak to Me"

**Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your wandering children, lost, alone.**

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the season of holy waiting.

**People: We wait for the day when  
swords are transformed into plowshares.**

Leader: We wait for the day when  
peace in all its fullness reigns.

**People: We wait in the shadows  
for the Light of the world to appear.**

Leader: Let us walk in the light of God!

**People: All praise, glory and honor  
be unto God Almighty!**

\*Hymn # 152 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

\*Prayer of Confession

**God who is with us and God who is on the way, we confess that we do not wait and watch for you as we should. Works of darkness encumber and distract us. They command our attention far too often. God of power and love, awaken in us a hope and promise fit for your coming. We praise you for the forgiveness you so lovingly extend even as we watch and wait with confidence and joy. AMEN**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri

\*Sharing of the Peace

Young Disciples

## **DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 28:10-15

Special Music

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:5-24

Sermon

“Angelic Appearances” (Part 1)

Rev. John Manon

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

\*Affirmation of Faith

L: Holy God, you are gracious and compassionate,  
long suffering and ever faithful.

**P: You are good to all; your compassion rests upon  
all you have made.**

L: You keep faith and are consistent in all you do.

**P: You support all who stumble and lift up  
those brought low.**

L: All your creatures lift their eyes to you in hope  
and you provide for them according to their need.

**P: You open your hand and satisfy every living creature.**

L: You are near to all who call on you.

**P: You hear their cry and protect them. AMEN.**

\*Hymn # 158            “Blessed Be the God of Israel”  
Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer (*debt...and debtors...*)  
Choral Amen  
Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word  
Presentation of the Offering  
\*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication  
\*Hymn # 172        “For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed”  
\*Benediction  
\*Choral Response  
\*Postlude

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

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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, Mary Anzelone; Advent Readers, Todd and Stacy Faulk; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Lewis; Audio/Visual, Todd and Stacy Faulk; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Terry Brown.

ADVENT begins today. Our devotional this year was sent by email to those on our churchwide email list. If you did not receive the email and would like the devotional sent to you, please drop a note in the offering plate with your email address or call the church office. A few hard copies are available in the back of the sanctuary.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS will gather for a meeting Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

BIBLE STUDY will resume this week. Wednesday morning we will gather at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday evening we will gather at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to join one of the studies online, please call the church office for more information.

OUR CHOIRS will rehearse this Wednesday. The Bell Choir will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Room and the Chancel Choir will rehearse at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We would love to have you join our choirs. For more information, see Vicky Westley, director of the Bells or Cindy Borbonus, director of the choir.

CUSTOM KEEPSAKE ORNAMENTS of the church from Wendall August Forge are available to purchase at a cost of \$12.00 each. Checks can be made payable to the church. Please see Linda George or contact the church office.

CALLING ALL BAKERS... families in the congregation are asked to donate cookies, candies, or holiday treats for our Christmas Cookie Sale to be held Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your fellow bakers, family and friends, to participate. All baked goods may be dropped off in a disposable container on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. through the church office or Saturday morning from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or would like to help, contact the church office. A sign-up sheet is located in the back of the sanctuary. Please let us know what kind of cookie you will be donating!

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 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$8 per pound and proceeds will help supply diapers and wipes to our Kids Closet and replenish our Deacon's Pantry. The Grannies will also have a display of their homemade items to purchase that day for your gift giving needs. We hope to see you on December 7<sup>th</sup>!

OUR NEXT MOVIE NIGHT is scheduled for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will gather in Fellowship Hall to watch "I Heard the Bells," the inspiring true story behind the beloved Christmas carol. Snacks will be available and donations will be accepted to help cover the cost.

THE 10<sup>TH</sup> 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". If you know of a family with children who may need a winter coat, please contact Janet Smith.

THE DEACONS are collecting unused greeting cards and luggage for the patients at Torrance State Hospital. Please set any donations at the back of the sanctuary.

TODAY is the last day to drop off your Christmas greetings for the military. Please place them in the red Christmas box at the back of the sanctuary.

THE DEACON'S KIDS CLOSET is available to families in the River Valley School District and Blairsville area. If you know of a family in need, ask them to call the church office to schedule an appointment. Donations for the Kids Closet of sizes from newborn to young adult are always welcomed.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH will host a Chamber Music Concert presented by the Blairsville Chamber Music Festival today at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.

THE PRAYER CHAIN is coordinated by members of the Adult Sunday School Class. If you have a prayer request or know of someone's need for prayer, please contact Linda George or the church office.

POINSETTIA ORDERS will be received through Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost per flower is \$10. Please use the bulletin insert to place your order. Thank you to the deacons for coordinating the beauty of the flowers for the Christmas season. If you plan to have individual flowers delivered, please let the office know.

THE GRANNIES have a display setup in the parlor of their homemade items to purchase for your gift giving needs. A list of a variety of items and costs are available at the back of the sanctuary or in the parlor by the display. If you have any questions, please see a granny.

THE BLAIRSVILLE MONDAY MUSIC CLUB is hosting the annual Christmas Concert, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at SS Simon and Jude Church. We are having a community choir which will sing 3 selections at the end of the concert.

### **REGULAR SCHEDULE:**

<b>Sunday</b>		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	10:15 a.m.	Refreshment and Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:00 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Staff Reviews
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Otter Creek Brass Rehearsal
<b>Friday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Cookie Sale
	7:00 p.m.	Movie Night, "I Heard the Bells"
<b>Sunday</b>		SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	10:15 a.m.	Refreshments and Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts Cookie Baking