



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 29, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Dennis Gould, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Arr. J. Anderson
The Otter Creek Brass

Special Music Angie Neal

Call to Worship

Leader: Arise and shine for your light has come!

People: We are called out of our darkness into light.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

People: We rejoice in the gift of light.

Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

People: We come to praise the light of God incarnate.

*Hymn # 23 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

*Prayer of Confession

Great and mighty God, by the leading of a star, your Son was made known. Light came into the world. We confess that by our many sins we dim that light in our lives and to all the world. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us wisdom leading us to better choices and to the radiance that your grace and mercy always provides. AMEN.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

Young Disciples

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Special "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"
Arr. T. Marchand

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:21-40

Sermon "Simeon's Song"
Rev. John Manon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn # 231 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

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

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory "Coventry Carol" Arr. S. Skelly

Presentation of the Offering

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 443 "Trust and Obey"

*Benediction

*Postlude "And the Glory of the Lord" Arr. D. Boone

*(*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 Liturgist, Dennis Gould; Special Music, The Otter Creek Brass; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Lewis; Audio/Visual, Todd and Stacy Faulk; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Kim McKinney.

ACTIVITY BAGS have been prepared for our Young Disciples. Children are invited to pick one up on their way into worship. At the end of the service, please return your bag to the back of the sanctuary so it can be prepared for the following week.

PASTOR JOHN will be out of the office this week. If you need to reach him for a pastoral emergency, please call the church office.

BIBLE STUDY will not meet this week but will resume next week. If you would like to join one of the studies online, please call the church office for more information.

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.

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.

A COMMUNITY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL for 2025 is planned. Submissions are to be 420 words, list the biblical reference from one of the listed lectionary texts or a text of the writer's choice citing the version of the Bible used, followed by the devotional and a two-sentence prayer. Giving your name is optional but appreciated. If you feel led to share a devotion, please contact the church office and let us know of your willingness and which day you choose. Send devotions to the church office email, upchurch@r-church.com or drop off a hard copy **by Sunday, February 2nd**. If you have questions, please call the office.

Monday, April 7—reserved

Tuesday, April 8—Psalm 20; Judges 9:7-15; 1 John 2:18-28

Wednesday, April 9—Psalm 20; Habakkuk 3:2-15; Luke 18:31-34

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 at 724-459-7991.

THE 2025 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway by the office. Flowers will continue to be provided by Betsy Steeves and will cost \$20 per arrangement. Please take time to sign up for your choice of dates.

THE DEACONS would like to thank all the cookie bakers and volunteers who helped with our Christmas cookie sale. We made over \$700!! This money will be used to replenish diapers and wipes for our Kid's Closet and to buy food for the Deacon's pantry. Cookies left over from this sale were given to the Boy Scouts to distribute to veterans and senior citizens in our community.

THE 10TH ANNUAL COATS-FOR-KIDS DRIVE continues to provide coats to children in need. We are receiving monetary donations for the purchase of specific size coats for kids. 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 or the church office at 724-459-7991.

COMING IN 2025

- ❖ Communion will be offered the first Sunday of each month. The traditional method of passing trays of bread and cup will be utilized.
- ❖ The offering will be received each week by passing the plates among the pews.
- ❖ Adult Sunday School classes will begin on January 5 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor John will be leading the class.
- ❖ Children's Sunday School will begin as early in January as possible once teachers are secured.
- ❖ Ordination and Installation of leaders will take place during worship Sunday, January 5.
- ❖ Beginning in 2025, a Minute for Mission will be shared during worship the third Sunday of each month.

THE SESSION COMMITTEES FOR 2025

Each year the committees of session seek to have volunteers become active participants. Please review the committees and their responsibilities and consider serving. If you would like more information, please see Pastor John, an elder or call the church office. Chairs will be determined at the January Session meeting.

Worship – Worship services, sacraments, music, funerals, weddings

Mission – Benevolences, special offerings, global & local missions and missionaries

Christian Education – Sunday school programs, curriculum, adult education, youth work, leadership education

Finance – Finances, special funds, and annual budget

Stewardship – Stewardship education and programs, challenges the congregation in its faithful use of the many different resources entrusted to our care

Property & Maintenance – Construction, maintenance, repairs, housekeeping, safety, security, yard work, inventory

Congregational Fellowship – Suppers, picnics, outings, trips, camping

Evangelism – New member recruitment and assimilation, outreach, publicity

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th immediately following worship. This meeting is an annual review of the work of the church. Committee chairs and treasurers are asked to have year end reports to the church office by Sunday, January 19th.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday		Office Closed for the holiday
Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Stitching Group
Friday	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship and Communion
		Ordination and Installation of Officers

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ONLINE GIVING