



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

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 8, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Jean Heberling, 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 Dana, Adam and Brady Doak

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” Arr. Innes

Introit # 158 “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

**Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.**

**The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.**

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to God and praise his holy name!

People: With all that we are, we have come to praise God!

Leader: Sing to God, let all that have breath
make a joyful noise!

People: Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice!

*Hymn # 189 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we come before you to confess what you already
know – that we have sinned against you in thought, word and
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. In
your mercy, forgive us. Help us move past what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, to the
glory of your holy name. AMEN.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

*Sharing of the Peace

Young Disciples

DECLARATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 2:1-10

Anthem

“Carol of Advent”

Arr. Besig

The Chancel Choir - Cindy Borbonus, Director

Dave Hiltabidle, saxophone

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

“Angelic Appearances” (Part 2)

Rev. John Manon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

“Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” AMEN. (Col. 1:15-20)

*Hymn # 71 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn # 348

“Softly and Tenderly”

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*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 Liturgist, Jean Heberling; Advent Readers, Adam, Dana and Brady Doak; Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus; Organist, Pam Lewis; Audio/Visual, Kristi Eckenroad and Doug Clayton; Ushers, Mya Johnson and Alan Lowman; and Property Manager, Bob Cosharek.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT in worship this morning is given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Jim and Chris Antis.

GRANNIES will meet Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon in the Granny Room located on the second floor of the Christian Ed wing. There are tasks for everyone. All are welcome.

THE BLAIRSVILLE AREA MINISTERIUM will meet Monday at 11:00 a.m. at SS Simon and Jude Catholic Church.

THE FOOD BANK will distribute groceries Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon from Fellowship Hall. Proof of residence within the Blairsville Borough is needed when signing up for the first time.

BIBLE STUDY will meet Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday evening 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.

POINSETTIA ORDERS are due today. Cost per flower is \$10 and our vendor is Frank's Flowers in Indiana. 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 DEACONS would like to thank everyone who donated food items or financial gifts to this year's Thanksgiving baskets. We provided 35 local families with a full Thanksgiving dinner. We would not be able to do this without the generosity of our church family.

THE BLAIRSVILLE MONDAY MUSIC CLUB is hosting the annual Christmas Concert, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. at SS Simon and Jude Church. There will be a community choir which will sing 3 selections at the end of the concert. All are welcome!

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.

THANK YOU to Tom and Janet Smith for graciously donating our Christmas tree. Thank you to the deacons for the beauty of the decorations.

THE 10TH 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.

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.

ACTIVITY BAGS have been prepared for our Young Disciples. Children are invited to pick one up on their way into worship. Each bag will contain a Children's Bulletin for the day, crayons, color pages, and other items. 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. Thank you to our grannies for sewing the bags for us!

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like a box or if you no longer need yours, please drop a note in the offering plate or call the church office. You can also email upchurch@r-church.com

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.

REGULAR SCHEDULE:

Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:15 a.m. Refreshment and Fellowship

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Cookie Baking

Monday

9:00 a.m. Grannies

11:00 a.m. Blairsville Ministerium

6:30 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Food Bank Distribution

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

5:00 p.m. Daisy Troop Meeting

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

2:00 p.m. Stitching Group

6:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Leader Meeting

Friday

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved

Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:15 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship

11:00 a.m. Worship