

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

April 2017

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Running on Empty

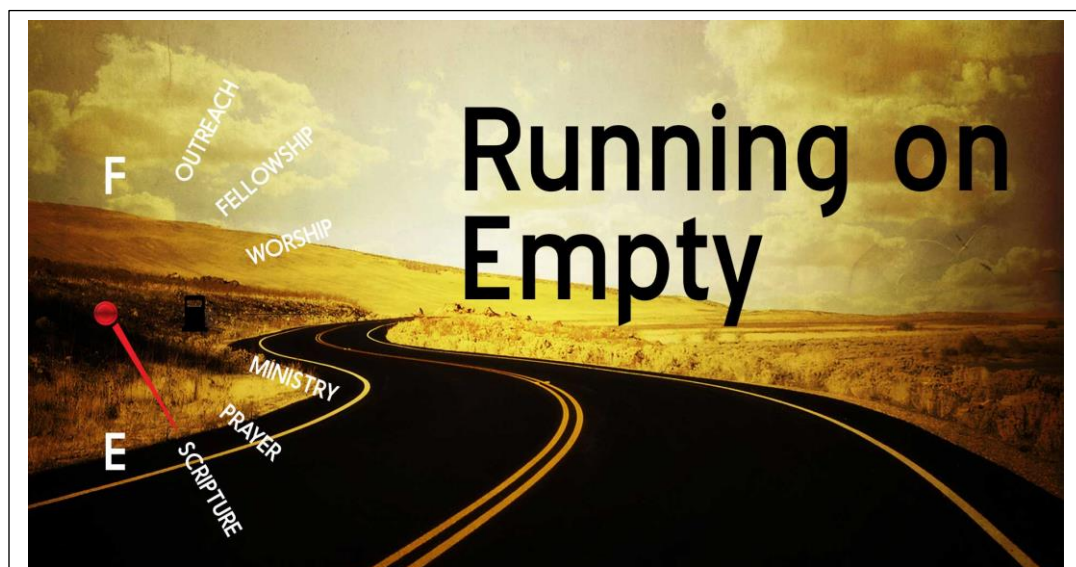
All morning I have been sitting with a good friend – my computer. To some that may sound strange, but my computer and I get along quite well. We often have breakfast together and sometimes even lunch. Most days we spend at least a few minutes together and often we spend hours together.

My computer is very smart. It tells me things I need to know. Like when I spell something wrong and when I need to save something before leaving. It also lets me know when it needs something. For instance, this morning as I printed, it reminded me that it was running low on ink for the printer. In fact, it is running low on black, yellow, cyan, and magenta –every color.

This is not a new reminder. In fact, it has been weeks since my computer began mentioning that it needed an ink refill. It took me a couple of weeks, but finally I did stop at the store and purchase the ink. So, I have all four ink cartridges sitting on my desk, ready to be installed in my computer. But I don't want to put them in until I have used every drop possible out of the old cartridges. So, I am waiting to replace the ink.

While I was waiting for the printer to finish, I thought that I could relate to my computer – running on empty! How often do we feel like we need a sign that says – “Running Low!”? All of our energy is spent and we need a refill. We are tired. Tired of work, tired of people, tired of struggles, tired of pain, tired of loneliness, tired of meetings -- tired.

I know there are days when I would like to hang out a sign that says “Running Low!” so people would know that there was not much left to give. The difficulty is that often when there is a day when we feel tired and out of energy, it is often followed by another and another until we are completely empty, with nothing left to give at all.



How do you replenish your life when you are running on empty? Do you long for a change of pace, a vacation, someone else to cook dinner, a nap?

When our lives need to be replenished, we do not have to run to the store to pick up a new ink cartridge. We don't need to run anywhere. Psalm 63 begins with these words:

*O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.*

God is prepared to replenish our lives, to fill us up, to give us new life. He is simply waiting for us to ask.

My printer is not bashful. It is programmed to ask for more when it is running low. Why is it that it is so difficult for us to do the same? We don't want anyone to know that we are struggling. But even when we hide from our spouses, our friends, our families, God knows. He knows our weaknesses and he loves us. He knows our needs and he loves us. God knows us through and through and he loves us completely.

My replacement ink cartridges are sitting on my desk ready to go to work, just as soon as I take them out of the box and install them. God has given us his scriptures as a source of strength. I imagine they are sitting on your shelf, your bedside, your end table, waiting to be opened and explored. Ready to provide food for your soul and rest on a weary day.

There are times when we all run on empty, but we don't have to continue to be empty. God will fill our cups to overflowing if we will open ourselves to him and ask for his blessing.

Pastor Brenda

Discipleship - Jane Kofroth

VBS

VBS volunteers prepare dinner for neighborhood kids on Monday nights at 6:00. After dinner, there's a Bible lesson and a fun group activity from 6:30 to 7:00. In anticipation of Resurrection Sunday, Linda Cook has been guiding the kids through another part of the Easter story each Monday.

Thank you to each one of our volunteer cooks and to all who so faithfully help serve and present the lesson every week.

Thank you for keeping this program in your prayers.

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April Birthday

9 Sammy DeVecchis
13 Dan Miller
21 Darlene Strunk
24 David Pysher
Denise Sweeney
27 John Shaw
30 Anna Geveke

April Anniversaries

10 Andrew and Amanda Harman



News about our Youth and Teenagers

- **Katie Boyer-Mason** volunteered to shovel snow and dig out cars for some older folks in their neighborhood.
- **Tom Geveke** is on the Sun Valley Varsity Lacrosse Team.
- **Sara Mason** helped her mom shovel snow during the last storm.
- **Matthew Shaw** is busy preparing for Career Day at school. He is giving a speech about being an inventor. He is looking forward to Tee-ball season starting.
- **Stephen Shaw** reached his million word goal. He has read 1,002,406 words so far this school year. He is excited to be playing baseball for the Brookhaven White Sox.

Chairperson's Report



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

- The Board reviewed the February financial statements,
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel,
- Discussed personnel issues and policies,
- Continued to discuss the financial situation of the Church.
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be taken care of around the Chapel and the Church, including painting. We contacted Williamson about painting the Church or fixing the stone wall as one of their service projects, but it seems that our projects are too large for them to complete.
- Discussed the difficulty finding a VERY tall ladder to clean the ceiling fans, and
- Heard reports from all the Team Leaders and discussed and planned for upcoming events in the Church.

Lenten Envelopes

The Lenten Offering will go to our children's programs which are for the children in the congregation and the community. This includes Sunday School, the Monday Night VBS program, and the Summer Lunch/Activity program. The offering will help pay for materials, craft supplies, books, and games. Thank you for helping us continue these activities.



Outreach – Joan Decker

Monday night dinner program is doing well at the church chapel from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary School, at the moment, is no longer in need of volunteers to help at the school. Jane Kofroth wrote this note when she volunteered at the school and thought you would like to read about her experience.

My morning at Main Street by Jane Kofroth

Mrs. Williams' class of 2nd graders at Main Street was a scene of good-natured chaos when I arrived at 9:00 for my first day as a classroom volunteer. But, it didn't take long until Mrs. Williams and all 33 children were ready to begin their day. Bringing order out of chaos with patience and a sense of humor---what a gift!

The time passed quickly as she guided them from project to project. Towards the end of the morning, she asked me to help some children with their vocabulary words---using flash cards! Some things never change.

I sat at a table with 3 boys. Two were very eager and enthusiastic. But, James was bored. It wasn't as easy for him to answer quickly, so he acted a little surly. When the word "musician " came up, they were stumped. The two eager beavers enjoyed guessing every "mu" word they could think of.

James still looked bored, but he was concentrating! When James was the first one to say "MUSICIAN!" he was pretty proud of himself---all smiles. I said, "OK, James, that's your word now. You **own** it."

When it was time for the boys to go back to their desks, Mrs. Williams asked me how it went. I said James should tell her his favorite word. "Musician," he said. "I own it!"

Memorial Day

Our next upcoming event will be the Memorial Day Parade in May. Look for more detail on the church website or the May Spire.

Food Bank

Remember the food bank with can goods . Please join us on Sunday morning for worship at 10:00 AM.

Worship Team Leader – Sue Kulp

On **Sunday, April 23rd** after service, you are invited to the chapel for some morning sweets and outreach. We will be involved in two projects. One is called "Trades of Hope" and the other is pretty crafty, as we make something for our Home Communion participants.

With "Trades of Hope," artisans from around the globe make jewelry items, scarves, purses, etc. to sell in order to make money to make their lives better. The money may pay for a well, farm animals, school resources, etc. My friend, Lauren, will be with us to explain the project and share products which you can order and purchase from the catalog. The items will be delivered to your home in time for Mothers' Day.

The other project will be a craft that our Home Communion members will receive when Dawn Rafalski and friends deliver Communion to them. Please join us to "Love God, Love ♥ Others.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- April 9 Church Program during Worship
- April 10 No VBS Night
- April 13 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm
- April 14 Good Friday Service, 7:30 pm
- April 16 Sunrise Service, 6:30 am
Church Service, 10:00 am
Egg Hunt, approx. 11:15 am
- April 17 No VBS Night
- April 23 Sunday Social
- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 22 Last VBS Night until September
- May 28 Memorial Sunday
- May 29 Memorial Day Parade & Picnic
- June 11 Children & Youth Sunday Brunch
- June 18 Father's Day

