

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

April 2018

Upland Baptist Church
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Dear Church Family,

I have noticed something different in worship these past few months. There is a lot more smiling, waving and a little more noise. It seems that is what having small children in church brings out in us. I am grateful for the parents who are making it a point to attend church, even when their young children are a little fussy. And I am grateful to the rest of us who are welcoming and who are grateful for the noise they make. Church is about being a family and we need our older folks who bring experience and wisdom. We need our middle group who are able workers and we need the children. We all need to have a place where we belong to be a family.

This past week, I read this article on Facebook. I wanted to share it with all of you because it does seem to put into perspective the joy of having children in our midst.

To You Who Bring Small Children to Church:

There you are sitting in worship or Bible study. Your child, or toddler, is restless. Perhaps they're even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the auditorium. All the while, you're a little embarrassed. Maybe you're a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you — you mothers and/or fathers — to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The little elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. To see young parents and their small children brighten her day, and she may have just received bad news this week about her health but seeing the vitality of young ones removes — if but for a moment — her fears.

The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of good. But, he sees you — a young family — in church, and you don't miss any gathering. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to worship.

Bring your children to church. If you don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half-asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.

Copied: (Author Unknown)

Blessings,
Pastor Brenda

The Bible on Prime Time

Every now and again a new show will be promoted that I feel I need to watch. Often the show discusses the Bible and Christianity in some way and I am curious as to what the world is saying. Currently, CBS is airing a show entitled *Living Biblically* on Monday nights at 9:30 pm. John and I have been watching since it first aired on February 26, 2018.

In case you have missed this show here is a synopsis from the CBS website:

About Living Biblically

Chip Curry is a modern-day man at a crossroads in his life, who decides to live strictly in accordance with the Bible. A film critic for a New York Newspaper and a soon-to-be father, Chip wants to be a better man following the loss of his best friend. He decides to put his slightly obsessive temperament to use and start living his life 100% by the Bible to find direction. His smart, pregnant wife, Leslie, while both skeptical and entertained by her husband's new passion, supports him completely. Knowing he'll need some practical advice, Chip forms a "God Squad" with Father Gene, a Catholic Priest who helps Chip translate the rules of the Bible to a modern world; and Father Gene's best friend, easygoing Rabbi Gil Ableman, who respects Chip's chutzpah and is glad to serve as a sounding board when they meet at their local bar. At Chip's newspaper, he finds support from his no-nonsense boss, Ms. Meadows, who knows Chip's self-penned story will sell newspapers, and his co-worker and friend, Vince, who is quick with a reality check and likes to wind Chip up for his own amusement. As he begins his sincere spiritual journey toward a more moral life with the help of his wife and friends, Chip wonders if he'll be able to take a page – or every page – out of the Good Book, and if the effect will be of Biblical proportions.

The show is based on a book by A. J. Jacobs entitled, [The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible](#). I haven't read the book yet, but it is on my reading list.

I mention this show, not because I am hoping to boost its ratings, but because it has been fascinating to watch prime time television and hear a thoughtful and accurate discussion of biblical principles. The second episode discussed false idols. It was a very interesting discussion about cell phones and whether they have become idols to many. The third episode was entitled *Love Thy Neighbor*. We believe strongly here at Upland Baptist that loving our neighbor is what God has called us to do. The episode was a slightly humorous, mostly thoughtful discussion of what loving our neighbor really looks like.

None of us should be getting all our understanding of the Bible from television. But I have enjoyed seeing the Bible portrayed in such a powerful way. It is encouraging to know that biblical principles are being discussed on prime time. I hope people are watching.

Mostly, I hope people are taking seriously the call to love their neighbors and to follow God. As always, my door is open if you want to chat about the show, life or something else entirely.

Pastor Brenda



News about our Youth and Teenagers

- **Katie Boyer Mason** continues to do a great job volunteering,
- **Sammy DeVecchis** is being inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. It is interdisciplinary and, as a junior inductee, he is in the top 7% academically. Sammy presented at Widener University's Honors Week held March 19 – 23, 2018. His presentation was *The Truth about Instagram*.
- **Tom Geveke** is on the Sun Valley Varsity Lacrosse Team.
- **Sara Mason** has been enjoying cooking.
- **Matthew Shaw** is excited to begin playing baseball. He has moved up to the Rookies and is on the Orioles this year. He is very excited to be playing with his good friend, Patrick.
- **Stephen Shaw** participated on the Coebourn Elementary Reading Olympics Team. The team worked since October reading over 40 books. They competed at the county event and achieved blue ribbon status. Stephen crossed over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts on Palm Sunday weekend. He is very excited about being a Boy Scout.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

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|------------|--------------------------------|
| • April 2 | No VBS Night |
| • April 29 | Sunday Social |
| • May 13 | Mother's Day |
| • May 21 | Last VBS Night until September |
| • May 27 | Memorial Sunday |
| • May 28 | Memorial Day Parade and Picnic |
| • June 3 | Recognition Sunday and Brunch |

Chairperson's Report for February



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

- The Board reviewed the January financial statements,
- Discussed needed repairs around the Church and Chapel,
- New computer was purchased for the church office,
- Discussed investigating the ability for on-line giving;
- Discussed Easter flowers;
- Discussed sending follow-up stewardship notes;
- Discussed lawn/cemetery issues;
- Continued to discuss the financial situation of the Church,
- Heard reports from all the Team Leaders and discussed and planned for upcoming events in the Church.



Chairperson's Report for March



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

- The Board reviewed the February financial statements;
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel – chapel roof and new hot water heater;
- Discussed repairs still needed to be completed;
- Discussed alarm system fees;
- Discussed the church parking lot;
- Discussed repairing the sound system in the nursery;
- Continued to discuss adding on-line giving to our website;
- Continued to discuss the financial situation of the Church; and
- Heard reports from all the Team Leaders and discussed and planned for upcoming events in the Church.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – Frank Kulp

I continue to be grateful for all those who continue to work to make the worship broadcast run smoothly. We want to hear from you, if you are watching at home. Please email the church or Pastor Brenda or give the office a call and let us know how you are doing.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Easter Services - April 1, 2018

6:30 Sunrise Service followed by breakfast in the chapel
10:00 Worship and Communion
11:00 Easter Egg Hunt

Butterfly Invitations to Worship were made at the Sunday Social on 3/18 and available to the congregation to invite a friend or neighbor to worship with us on Easter.

There are still opportunities for you to be an usher or greeter in April. Sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.

We look forward to Mother's Day on May 13th.

Nursery During Worship

There is a need to open the nursery during Worship on Sundays for children from infant to 4 years old. We need volunteers to provide care for the small children who are coming to church with their parents.

We are grateful for their attendance and want to make the experience positive for the children and parents. There is a sign- up sheet in the back of the church. We would like to encourage our teenagers to also volunteer to help with this endeavor. Please see me after church or call me at 410-378-0713 if you have any questions.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

Join us for a coffee/tea and donuts social on April 29th following morning worship. The March social with butterfly making was a great time.

Karen Johnston reports that her son Aaron, who is deployed out of the country, has received the notes from members of the church and how much he and the men in his unit appreciate them. Aaron says that they share these notes and that it means so much to them to receive something from home.

We are working on getting a package together to send to Aaron before Memorial Day. We plan to mail the packages by May 6th. Here is a list of items that we would like to send:

- Flavored drink singles to go
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Candy
- Gum
- Lip balm
- Individually wrapped hand wipes
- Personal notes

We have three high school seniors graduating this year and would like to recognize them on June 3rd during worship. They have worked hard this year so join us and celebrate their accomplishments.

Katie Boyer

Tom Geveke has been accepted at Penn State Main Campus. Rachel Miskowic will be going to Delaware County Community College.

Men's News

Watch the church bulletin for the next Men's Breakfast and other news.

It's not too early to plan for the annual Retreat for Men and Young Men. The date is Friday, July 27 to Sunday, July 29, 2018. Mark your calendars and look for more information in a future Spire.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Welcome Spring! I can't help a little spring fever creeping in even with a snow warning in the next few hours. Sunday school is going successfully as we have volunteers to teach in April. May slots are ready to be filled. Please give this some thought as your help is critical in teaching our children Gods plan for them.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

Outreach

Monday night dinner program is doing well at the church chapel from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. There are 10 to 15 kids in attendance for Bible story and dinner. Thank you to all our volunteer cooks.

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary school is going well.

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

Food Bank

Please remember the food bank with ramen noodles for the month of April. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if you are interested in volunteering in the Food Bank.

Worship

Please join us on Sunday morning for worship at 10:00AM.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL

Mrs. Susan Hegarty 4/8
C/O Federacion DeAsociaciones Bautistas De Costa Rica
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Email: sue.hegarty@internationalministries.org

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Mrs. Corenne Smith 4/24
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Dr. Laura Chanchien Parajon 4/27
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Rev. Joyce Anderson-Reed 4/29
7013 McCallum St., Apt. A
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Email: joyce.reed@internationalministries.org

April Birthdays

9 Sammy DeVecchis
13 Dan Miller
15 Kimberlee Kalichak
21 Darlene Strunk
24 David Pyshe
Denise Sweeney
27 John Shaw
30 Anna Geveke

April Anniversaries

10 Andrew and Amanda Harman