

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## December 2016

Upland Baptist Church  
325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015  
610-874-7474

Email: [uplandbaptist@verizon.net](mailto:uplandbaptist@verizon.net)

Website: [www.uplandbaptist.org](http://www.uplandbaptist.org)

## **Journey to Jesus**

Where did you go on your last journey? It could have been to a place far away or a place close to home. Those journeys that take us far away from our homes require much planning and preparation, whereas the journeys that only take us away an hour or two can happen on a moments notice.

Even when our journey is simply to the grocery store, we often spend time preparing. We check our cupboards and refrigerator to see what we need and make a list. We may call a neighbor to see if they need anything or check to see what the Food Bank needs for its shelves. We take time to prepare for our journey.

And before we can leave, we must pack. I am a chronic over packer. When I am going on a long trip, I often have to repack my suitcase two or three times because what I think I need the first time simply won't fit. But even when simply running to the store, we pack. We gather our wallet, our keys and our cell phone before we head out the door. If we are going to the grocery store, we gather our coupons and our list before heading out the door.

And no journey can be complete without travel. We drive, fly, walk, or ride to our destination. Someone may pick us up, or we may take ourselves, but we must travel. And travel always has the potential for breakdowns. Something can go wrong. A tire can go flat, a construction zone can make us detour, an accident can stop us in our tracks, and something can slow us down or change our course. When those things happen, we must focus on our destination.'

There is a saying that goes something like this – life is not about the destination, but about the journey. And overall I think that is true. Life is about enjoying each day and the process of living, not just trying to achieve some goal that you believe will make you happy. But there are times when the destination is important.

Today we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of Christmas. Well before Thanksgiving Christmas music could be found on your radio. Decorations sprung up even before the Halloween candy had disappeared. And it is easy to get caught up in the festivities. But where is the journey taking you? Is the journey of Christmas taking you to the mall to find the perfect present or to a quiet manger where a newborn Jesus lays sleeping?

This year as we journey through Advent towards Christmas, may we remember that our journey is leading us to Jesus. As we make plans, visit friends, write our cards, and do our shopping may our destination always be clear – we are celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has promised to return and claim us for himself. We celebrate Christ the King. Merry Christmas.

*Pastor Brenda*

We hope to see you during the Christmas Season.

Sunday, 12/18, 10:00am All Church Christmas Program  
Monday, 12/19, 6:30pm Night of Music  
Saturday, 12/24, 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service  
Sunday, 12/25, 10:00am Christmas Day Worship



### **ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The All Church Christmas Program will be held during the Worship Service on Sunday, December 18, 2016. We will need adult volunteers from the congregation, so we hope you will agree to participate if you are asked. The *Joyful Noise* will also be playing during the service. Please join us as we celebrate the Christmas season on Sunday, December 18th.

### **WORSHIP ~ Sue Kulp**

### **NIGHT OF MUSIC PRESENTS- JOY TO THE WORLD!**

#### ***Do you hear what I hear?***

Our holiday ***Night of Music*** is set for Monday, December 19th at 6:30 pm. It will not be a silent night. Please dress casual and join us in the church for a time of harmony, fellowship, and fun.

Refreshments will be simple and we will have a sugar cookie decoration station. Go tell it on the mountain and ask your friends and neighbors to come, too.

All are welcome to sing and play music about the greatest gift of all!

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

### **Legal Corporation Highlights (October 25)**

- Approved the Christmas gifts for the Church staff.

### **Legal Corporation Highlights (November 20 and 21)**

- Some of the members of the Legal Corporation met and discussed bids on repairing the soffit around the outside of the Church. The contract was awarded to *4SeasonsHomeServices LLC*. The repairs to the soffit will be done in late November and the painting of the soffit will take place in the spring.

### **Legal Corporation Highlights (November 22)**

- Reviewed the financial reports through the end of October.
- Discussed repairs that have been completed and still need to be done around the Church.

- Pledges received as of November 20: 28 pledges for \$80,674
- Discussed sending the Proposed Budget with the January Spire.
- Discussed sending a follow-up Stewardship letter in January.

### **Ministry Council Highlights (November 22)**

- Discussed upcoming programs for December.
- Discussed the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon.
- Heard reports from each of the Team Leaders.
- Formed a Nominating Committee for the Team Leader positions that are open this coming January.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **Plan Ahead . . .**

- |               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| • December 18 | All Church Christmas Program      |
| • December 19 | <i>Night of Music</i> , 6:30 pm   |
|               | No VBS Night                      |
| • December 24 | Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm    |
| • December 26 | No VBS Night                      |
| • January 2   | No VBS Night                      |
| • January 10  | Annual Reports Due                |
| • January 16  | No VBS Night                      |
| • January 22  | Annual Business Meeting and Lunch |
| • February 12 | Valentine's Brunch                |



## CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** enjoys playing her electric guitar. She is taking lessons on line.
- **Sam DeVecchis** will be traveling to Central America after Christmas as part of a study abroad trip with his environmental science course on the topic of sustainability.
- **Tom Geveke** was inducted into the Sun Valley science national honor society.
- **Sara Mason** continues to play the bass guitar and the piano.
- **Matthew Shaw** finished a fun season of soccer and had a great time walking in the Brookhaven Holiday Parade with the Lion's Cub Scouts.
- **Stephen Shaw's** soccer team won the Aston Soccer Under 10 Championship. He and his dad had a great time camping on the *USS New Jersey*.
- **Thank you** to all the children who Trick or Treated for UNICEF. Thank you to the congregation who contributed to the boxes in the back of the Church.



## ADVENT ENVELOPES

This year, the congregation's Advent Offering will be split between two of our church's ministries.



Half of the money from the Advent Offering will go to our children's programming which reaches children in the Church and the community. This includes Sunday School during worship service and our Monday Night VBS program. Materials are expensive.

The other half of the offering will go to our work with Main Street Elementary School. This includes recognizing students with awards and treats, stocking the Friday Recognition Cart, providing refreshments for parent gatherings and student programs.

## **CHRISTMAS CARD FUND**



Are you sending Christmas cards this year? Be sure to include your friends at Upland Baptist Church by adding a card to the Church's Christmas tree. By giving one card, you can send Christmas wishes to the entire congregation and provide funds to one of our children's programs. Please put your card and donation in the boxes at the back and front of the Church by **December 18<sup>th</sup>** so your name appears in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Church Bulletins. Your name will also appear in the January *Spire*. All donations will go to our Summer VBS Activities and Lunch Program. Donations will be used to purchase more books for our lending library, craft supplies, and some additional board games. Your donations will be appreciated.

## **PROPERTY ~ Diane Lord Ogram**

The electrical work has been completed in both the chapel and Food Bank.

## **MINISTRY ~ Dawn Rafalski**

### **Ministry to Members**

There are loads of things for members to be involved with in December. If you are looking for things to do just check your bulletin or go online to our website.

### **Men's News**

There will be no Riverside Men's Breakfasts in December or January. Watch your Spire for the next breakfast in February.

John Kofroth reports that on 11/18 and 11/19 the ABMOPAD Vision Team and Board met at Tel Hai camp in Honeybrook. The Vision team reviewed how members worked with other groups to assist with the disaster in West Virginia. We talked about plans to try and facilitate better communication with the Men who attend our Retreat.

During the Board meeting we decided to terminate the Scholarship program to help stop the financial bleeding of the Board. We reviewed the plans for the 2017 Retreat which is scheduled for July 28 to July 30.

## **JOB POSTING!**

**Looking for someone to take turns helping John Kofroth "stream" live broadcast church services on Sunday mornings. If interested, please see, call, or email John Kofroth to schedule a training session. He can be found in the choir loft on Sunday mornings, by telephone @ 610-216-6465 or by email @ [john.kofroth@outlook.com](mailto:john.kofroth@outlook.com) Do not worry about being tech savvy. John is a very good teacher.**

## **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. VBS is becoming the "in" place for Upland neighborhood kids to be on Monday nights! We have been blessed with attendance between 15 and 20 kids each week.

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.

There will be no VBS on Monday, December 26, January 2 or January 16.

### **Sunday School**

Our Sunday School class for children meets during worship service. All the children are invited to go to the classroom downstairs right after Children's Talk. We are very grateful to each of our volunteer teachers. There is a teacher sign-up sheet for January, February and March in the back of the church.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 18 or December 25

### **Bible Study**

Bible Study group meets on Thursdays, at 10 AM. We continue with our study of 1 Samuel. Come and join the group.

The group will not meet on Thursday, 12/29.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups are reading "*Crazy Stories...Sane God*" by John Alan Turner.

These stories, taken straight for the Scriptures, are crazy! They're full of peculiar details that make you wonder why God included them in His Word!

Mr. Turner's sharp insight into the lives of these characters and the lessons their crazy stories tell us about our God makes for a fascinating "read" and lively discussions!

**Tuesdays meeting dates:** December 6. 2017: February 7 and 21; April 4 and 18; May 2 and 16.

**One group meets at 12:00 noon.** Bring your lunch. We'll supply dessert. **The other group meets are 7:00 P.M.** Dessert will be served.

### **Devotionals for Advent**

November 27 was the first Sunday in Advent---that blessed time of the year when we prepare to celebrate the not only the birth of our Savior, but anticipate His promised return.

Our Advent Devotional this year is called "Form Heaven to Manger". The whole family can experience the joy of anticipation the Advent with this little booklet that emphasizes the true meaning of Christmas. The whole family will enjoy the daily thoughtful reflections and suggested actions that center on the birth of Jesus--- not just parties and presents.

If you did not get your "From Heaven to Manger" devotional booklet yet, please be sure to ask for one. Make it a part of your daily walk with the Lord this Christmas season

## **COMMUNICATIONS ~ John Kofroth**

We experienced a problem with the WiFi Internet connection used for the Live Broadcast. It was resolved by the installation of a new router in the window of Pastor Brenda's office. We anticipate that the broadcast will go smoothly from now on.

Thanks, Dave Geveke, for running the live broadcast while we are on vacation. I would like to show 1 or 2 other volunteers how to do this job from time to time. It is not difficult to learn. The camera work is optional. This is an important outreach for anyone who is not able to attend Worship service in person.

## **OUTREACH ~ Joan Decker**

Monday night dinner program is going well at the church chapel from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Our Outreach program for Main Street Elementary for Christmas gifts such as gloves, hats scarfs and pajamas.

The night of music will be December the 19 at 6:30 PM. Come join us for refreshments after the program.

If someone is interested in running Grocery Bingo please call the church office and leave your phone number with the secretary. I will get back to you with the details.

Remember the Food Bank with canned goods. Also, if anyone is interested in helping out at the Food Bank please call the church office at 610-874-7474.

Our Christmas Giving Tree gifts once again will be with the residents of Belvedere. Gifts must be back by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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



**Home and International Missionary birthdays  
for December**

Rev. David Reed            12/25  
7013 McCallum St., Apt. A  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

**December Birthdays**

4    Bobbi Jean Simcox  
7    Deloris Hanley  
16   Ben Geveke  
     Cheryl Rhoads  
24   Amanda Harman  
26   Kathleen Geveke  
27   Courtney Klimek  
28   Beatrice Smith

**December Anniversaries**

18    Carol and Richard Arscott

From the Leber and Balock Families:

Thanking all my church family for their thoughts, prayers, sympathy cards and face-to-face condolences during our difficult time on the passing of wife, sister and aunt, Cindy Leber. God Bless!

*Sincerely, Ray Leber*

