

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## December 2017

Upland Baptist Church  
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# Christmas Gifts that Won't Break

I miss the days of the Sears Wish Book. My sisters and I used to pour over that catalog, folding down pages, circling our favorite items and dreaming of Christmas. Today the boys read the Target toy catalogue, but it isn't anything like the Sears Wish Book of years gone by. I googled the Sears Wish Book and you can read it their website, but you can't circle anything, and you can't leave it open on the coffee table, hoping your parents will see something!

We have a lot of wishes for this Christmas season. We want our to-do lists to get finished. We want the presents we purchase to arrive on time and fit perfectly. We want the cookies baked to perfection, or at least not crushed in the bag we bring them home in from the bakery. We want family gatherings to go smoothly. We want to have a wonderful holiday season.

Our wishes are often for things that we can touch, things that break, things that go out of fashion. This Christmas season we want to focus on *Christmas Gifts That Won't Break*: hope, love, joy, peace, Christ. These gifts remind us of God's unconditional love.

The traditional meanings of the Advent candles are **Hope, Joy, Love, Peace** and the center candle is the **Christ candle**. We light these candles each week to remind us of the gifts that God gives to us. By lighting the candles, we are able to remind ourselves what God has promised us. The lights of the candles draw our attention to the Light of the World.

What does it mean to you that God has promised you HOPE?  
What does it mean to you that God has promised you LOVE?  
What does it mean to you that God has promised you JOY?  
What does it mean to you that God has promised you PEACE?  
What does it mean to you that God has promised you CHRIST?

Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time of anticipating all that God will do. When God promised us something, God keeps his promises. Are we anticipating all that God wants to do in our midst? Are we anticipating all that God has promised us? God will give us Hope. God will give us Joy. God will give us Love. God will give us Peace. Anticipate all that God has promised and accept the gifts he gives. Do that and our Christmas season will be the fullest, the richest and the most beautiful time of our lives.

*Pastor Brenda*

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. May the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

# CHAIRPERSON ~ Linda Cook



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

### **Legal Corporation Highlights (November 28)**

- Reviewed the financial reports through the end of October
- Approved the Proposed Budget for 2018
- Will send the Proposed Budget with the January Spire
- Pledges received as of November 19: 30 pledges for \$77,896
- Discussed sending a follow-up Stewardship letter in early 2018
- Approved changes to the Wedding Fee Schedule
- Approved changes to the Funeral Fee Schedule
- Approved sending a letter to residents who use our parking lot
- Approved the Christmas gifts for the Church staff
- **Ministry Council Highlights (November 28)**
- Discussed upcoming programs for December
- Discussed the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
- Heard reports from each of the Team Leaders.
- Discussed setting a meeting with the Nominating Committee

# congratulations!

## **Normajeane Colby, Widener Alumnus Award**

Norma Jean was presented the *Outstanding Alumnus Award* by Widener University in October. The Award is given to alumni who have brought honor, recognition and distinction to the alma mater, through service to the community or profession, or by honors received, service rendered or other accomplishments.

Normajeane is an assistant professor in Widener's School of Nursing, as well as coordinator of pediatric nursing. Normajeane also volunteers as a camp nurse for the Widener Partnership Charter School in the summer, and she began the local chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| • December 18 | <i>Night of Music</i> , 6:30 pm<br>VBS Night – Dinner Only |
| • December 24 | Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm                             |
| • December 25 | No VBS Night   |
| • January 1   | No VBS Night   |
| • January 8   | Annual Reports Due   |
| • January 15  | No VBS Night   |
| • January 28  | Annual Business Meeting and Lunch                          |

# ★ ★ CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Sara Mason** had fun at the Upland tree lighting celebration.
- **Tom Geveke** was accepted into the mechanical engineering program at the University of Pittsburgh. He also was accepted at West Chester University and is waiting to hear from Penn State – Main Campus. Yeah, Tom!
- **Cameron Klimek** is running the *Girls on the Run 5K* in December and is performing in the Christmas Dance Recital.
- **Casey Klimek** is performing in her school's production of *Elf* and is dancing in her studio's Christmas Dance Recital. She made the Honor Roll for the first marking period.
- **Matthew Shaw** is really enjoying reading stories and drawing pictures.
- **Stephen Shaw's** soccer season ended with an exciting game, placing them second in their division. His coach awarded Stephen the *Sportsmanship Award!* Congratulations, Stephen!
- **Thank you** to all the children who Trick or Treated for UNICEF. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the boxes in the back of the Church and at Sue Kulp's elementary school.

## ADVENT ENVELOPES

This year, the congregation's Advent Offering will be split between two of our church's ministries - Sunday School and Main Street.

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, supplies, and food can be 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 17<sup>th</sup>** so your name appears in the Christmas Eve Day and Night Church Bulletins. Your name will also appear in the January *Spire*. **If you cannot make it to Church but would like to be included, please send your card to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook, 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015.** 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.

# **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – John Kofroth**

The following two changes have been made to the website to make accessing the Spire on line easier.

To view the *current* issue of the SPIRE on line, just go to the website and select the *Menu item: Spire*.

*Spire Archives* is a new tab on the menu. By selecting this tab, you bring up a list of the last 12 issues of the Spire. I will continue to maintain the archive in the event anyone needs to refer to an old issue.

On December 3 through Christmas, I will stop posting our current devotionals on the Upland Facebook group page.

You can still access them on your own at these links:

Our Daily Bread <https://odb.org/>

Our Daily Journal <https://www.ourdailyjourney.org/> of Advent.

On December 3, the first day of Advent, I will start posting our Advent devotional.



The Advent Devotional is entitled "*The Season of Advent*" and is available on Amazon, Amazon Kindle and Amazon Nook.

## **WORSHIP – Sue Kulp**

### **Fourth Annual Night of Music December 18, 2017**

Theme- "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

December 18th

6:30 pm in the church

Dress casual

Relax and listen to the sounds of the holiday season with friends and family. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us!

## **MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski**

Offering envelopes are being prepared for 2018. Please let Dawn Rafalski know if you no longer wish to receive envelopes. We have reduced the number of boxes of envelopes as a cost saving measure. We have re-numbered those over #45, so check for your new number when the envelopes are put out.

A big thank you to all those who helped with food and crafts at the November Taco social. It was a fun time making nativity scenes for our Christmas trees.

# DISCIPLESHIP – Jane Kofroth

## Sunday School

Sunday School class for children meets on Sunday mornings during the worship service.

Our class is small in number, but full of enthusiasm for Jesus!

Please encourage the children in your life to join us. If you would like to volunteer teacher, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

## Bible Study meets on Thursdays, at 10:00 AM.

Join us as we continue to study the book of Romans and consider how God's Word can--- and does---guide and direct our lives. There's always good company and a lively exchange of ideas.

## Small Groups will be on hiatus until January

We will continue reading "Why Did This Happen? Learning to trust God when you don't have all the answers" by Bob Yandian when we begin meeting again.

The daytime group gets together from noon till 2PM. Bring your lunch.

The evening group meets from 7:00 until 8:30.

## Monday Night VBS

VBS meets every Monday night for Dinner at 6:00 PM followed by a Bible lesson and creative activity from 6:30-7:00.

Sometimes only 6 or 8 kids come by....and sometimes there are 18! But, we can always count on a lot of energy and laughter and a certain amount of chaos. Feeding "guess how many kids?" is a challenge for our volunteer cooks—but they always come through and even keep smiling. Thank you all!

We are blessed to be able to offer hospitality and friendship to the kids in our community. The VBS kids will be invited to The Night of Music Program on December 18. We'll have pizza for them at 6:00. **Volunteers are needed to help me serve the pizza and wrangle the kids from 6:00 to 6:30. Please let me know if you can help.**

Please continue to keep this program in your prayers.

# **OUTREACH – Joan Decker**

## **Giving Tree**

A big thank you to all of the elf's who took Christmas tree tags. There were fifty tags that were made up. A list came from Belvedere as to what the residents wanted or needed. The gifts will be delivered on December 18 by Santa's elves and the activity staff at Belvedere will give the gifts to the residents on Christmas day. Thanks to all who took a tag to make for a special Christmas.

## **Food Bank**

The Food Bank is always in need of food items, paper bags and plastic bags. You can place these items in the box at the back of the church. Happy Holidays to all.

## **Worship**

Please pray for our outreach programs and come join us on Sunday morning for church at 10:00 AM.



# HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

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

Email: [david.reed@internationalministries.org](mailto:david.reed@internationalministries.org)

## **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