

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## February 2018

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## Love God! Love Others!

It seems to me if we were going to summarize the entire Bible in just one word it would be – LOVE. The foundation of how God interacts with his people and the way that God wants his people to interact with each other is love. In the Gospel of Mark Jesus tells us what the greatest commandment is: *you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and the second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself* (Mark 12:30-31).

It is good to be reminded that God loves us. God loves each of us just as we are. He doesn't wait until we are perfect to love us. He loves us with all our failings and our shortcomings. He loves us when we get things right and when we get them wrong. God loves us. It is an important truth to remember. When things are hard or painful, God loves us. When we find ourselves doing just what we don't mean to do, God still loves us. When we struggle to do the right thing, God loves us.

And God calls us to love one another. Some *others* are easier to love than others. Some others are friendly, we like the same things, we agree about things, we get along. It is easier to love those *others* because we like them,

But what does it mean when God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves? Is it enough to love those people who we like? Is it enough to love the people who we see all the time, or the people with whom we live? I don't believe that God wants us to love only those people for whom it is easy to love. Instead, the call to love others is a difficult call. It calls us to be faithful and to love as God loves us. Loving others means focusing our lives on living as God wants us to live.



Think about how God has loved his people. When the Israelites were held captive by the Egyptians, God sent Moses to deliver the message that Pharaoh was to set God's people free. And God delivered his people to the Promised Land. When the father brought his son, who was demon possessed to Jesus, Jesus healed his son. When the woman, who had been bleeding for 12 years, touched Jesus' cloak, he healed her. God met people where they were and loved them. He understood their pain and he walked with them through it.

We are called to love people in the same way. We are called to love others, no matter who they are, no matter what they are experiencing. Just as God sought out his people, no matter where they were, or what they were experiencing.

It is not always easy to love others, because we don't get to pick the other. We are called to love the other with every color skin. We are called to love the other who lives in a part of town we are scared to go in to. We are called to love the other who makes three times as much money as we do. We are called to love the other who is like us and the other who is different. We do not get to choose which other we love; we are called to love others.

In 1 John 4:7-8 *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. When we love, we demonstrate our faith in God. When we love others, we are showing our love for God. Loving others is part of how we show our faith.*

God loves us. And we are called to love God and love others. The way we love demonstrates our faith. And our faith is encouraged by the love of God. So, look around and discover the ways you are loved and notice the others in your path to whom you can show the love of God.

Love God! Love Others!

Pastor Brenda



# CHILDREN, TEEN, and YOUNG ADULTS NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason and Sara Mason** had two extra activities this month. Katie and Sara had a great time playing mini-golf at Linvilla Orchards, and they also went ice skating.
- **Katelyn DeVecchis** is getting married in October to Anthony Pomponio. Best wishes to Katelyn and Anthony!
- **Megan DeVecchis** is working at Caesar's in Atlantic City and has moved to Havertown.
- **Sammy DeVecchis**, a junior at Widener University, has made the Dean's List for the 5th semester in a row! He has been asked to be a Resident Assistant at school again.
- **Tom Geveke** was accepted into the mechanical engineering program at the Pennsylvania State University, Main Campus. He plans to matriculate there in the fall. Congratulations, Tom!
- **Cameron Klimek** is selling Girl Scout Cookies.
- **Casey Klimek** will be dancing at the Flyers Game in March.
- **Matthew Shaw** is very excited to be riding his bicycle without training wheels. He has learned on Tom Geveke's "hand me down" bike.
- **Stephen Shaw** recently was recognized for reading **two million words** in the Reading Counts program at Coebourn Elementary. Keep up the great work!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Plan Ahead . . .

- |               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| • February 11 | Valentine's Brunch             |
| • February 14 | Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 PM |
| • February 19 | No VBS Night                   |
| • March 18    | Sunday Social                  |
| • March 26    | No VBS Night                   |



## ***JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH***

*Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 11:15 AM.  
Snow Date is February 18, 2018*

Our **Valentine's Get Together** will follow the Worship Service, and we will be having a brunch. The Brunch is FREE and it's a wonderful time to fellowship with other members of the congregation. There are sign-up sheets in the front and the back of the Church. Hope to see you there!

# **LEGAL CORPORATION/MINISTRY COUNCIL**

- Welcome to Karen Johnston, Frank Kulp, and Priscilla Mills.
- Thank you to Jane Kofroth, John Kofroth, and Sue Kulp for your service.

At the January 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Legal Corporation . . .

- Discussed contacting a roofer to replace the missing shingles on the chapel roof;
- Discussed the Church parking lot;
- Continued the discussion of the finances of the Church;
- Discussed computer issues in the office;
- Voted on the Lenten Offering;
- Discussed doing stewardship follow-up;

The Ministry Council . . .

- Discussed upcoming programs for February and March.

## **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 Activity program. The offering will help pay for materials, craft supplies, books, and games.



## **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – Frank Kulp**

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

### **Sunday Morning Service – On-line Streaming (John Kofroth)**

I am pleased to announce that the on-line streaming provider for our Sunday morning and special services broadcasts has given us a dedicated ROKU channel. So, you can watch our broadcasts on TV if you have a ROKU TV or a ROKU box that's connected to your HDMI TV, you can watch our broadcasts.

Since we don't have this capability at home, I've been unable to see it in action. If anyone has the necessary hardware I would appreciate any feedback.

## **WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills**

I am pleased to accept the position of Worship Team Leader for the next two years. There are many opportunities for you to use your talents in service to support our church during worship. Thank you to everyone who serves as greeter and/or usher at the morning service. If you have never served in that role, sign up at the back of the church for a Sunday soon. It is a good way to get to know our members and visitors and make them feel welcome.

Bringing worship to Belvedere Nursing Home is another rewarding experience that needs more member participation. The residents really appreciate the sharing of song and God's word. Could you give one hour one Sunday every few months? The service is the last Sunday of the month at 2:30pm at Belvedere and lasts a ½ hour.

Many members participate in worship as Worship Leader, Scripture reader, Communion attendant, and the Children's Sermon. Let Pastor Brenda know if you are ready to expand your horizons and help in any of these important worship experiences.

On Feb 18<sup>th</sup> the Dedication of a Child will be part of the Worship Service. Give the friends and family of Stephen Kalichak, Jr. a warm welcome.

If you have any ideas to enhance our worship services, or increase our membership / attendance, please let me know. **Have you invited a friend or neighbor to church lately?**

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

Peggy Rhoads does a great job of sending cards to members of the church for birthdays, anniversaries or get well wishes. Right now, Peggy needs "thinking of you" cards. If you have any you can give to her, please put them in the church office and we will get them to her.

The next Sunday Social will be after worship on March 18<sup>th</sup> in the chapel. Come fellowship with us.

## **Men's News**

The next Men's Breakfast will be at New Hope Christian on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 8:15 a.m.

# **DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston**

Here goes. This is my first report to our congregation via the Spire. I would like to thank Pastor Shaw for her gentle encouragement and will try to do her faith in my abilities justice. Thank you in advance for your patience as I learn my responsibilities. I look forward to an exciting new adventure.

Are you looking for something to add to your Spring schedule? We have just the thing. Small group begins on February 6th with a new thought provoking book. Half Truths, by Adam Hamilton. Our day group meets at noon in the chapel (bring your lunch). The evening group meets at The Shaw's home at 6pm. Please consider doing this as we learn and fellowship together. Books are available please contact Pastor Shaw.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School class for children meets on Sunday mornings during the worship service. Our class is small, 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 begin a Lenten themed Bible Study. It will correspond with the sermons on Sunday morning. We hope you can join us.

## **Monday Night VBS**

VBS meets every Monday night for Dinner at 6:00 PM and a Bible lesson and creative activity from 6:20-7:00.

We are blessed to be able to offer hospitality and friendship to the kids in our community. Please continue to keep this program in your prayers.

**We will not meet on Monday 2/19.**

# OUTREACH – Joan Decker

## Outreach

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 is still going on, though there are no actives for February. Our next event coming up is the Memorial Parade in May.

## Food Bank

Please remember the food bank with hot cereal and soups. Also, if anyone is interested in helping at the food bank please call the church office at 610-874-7474. Please join us on Sunday morning for worship at 10:00AM.

## Worship

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

**Thanks to all the Elves** who helped un-decorate our church on January 6, 2018: Linda Cook, Hans Geveke, Joan Decker, Dawn Rafalski, Pastor Brenda Shaw, John Shaw, Stephen Shaw and Matthew Shaw.

*Iris Messick*



# HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY

Mrs. Nancy James                    2/17  
C/O ACAPE Flights, CAP #1369  
100 Airport Ave.  
Venice, FL 34285

Email: [nancy.james@internationalministries.org](mailto:nancy.james@internationalministries.org)

Rev. Paul Sandusky                    2/24  
Rankin Christian Center  
230 Third Ave.  
Braddock, PA 15104

Email: [psand1109@yahoo.com](mailto:psand1109@yahoo.com)

Mrs. Barbara Bolick                    2/29  
1321 Upland Dr., #3373  
Houston, TX 77043-4718

Email: [barbara.bolick@internationalministries.org](mailto:barbara.bolick@internationalministries.org)

## **February Birthdays**

11     Frank Kulp  
13     Stephanie Pysker  
14     Megan DeVecchis  
       Katelyn DeVecchis  
16     Ray Leber  
20     Joan Decker  
       Mary Lowe  
21     Janet Peterson  
24     Iris Messick  
27     Susan Kulp

## **February Anniversary**

17     Dave & Kathy Geveke