

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

March 2018

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

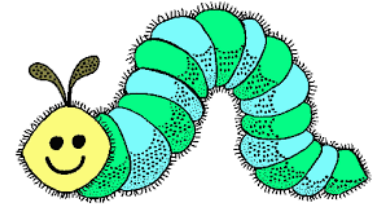
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The Story of the Resurrection

Caterpillar

A caterpillar is not much to look at, but it is a very busy creature. Here are a few things you might not know about caterpillars: A caterpillar has just one job – to eat. Some consume 27,000 times their body weight during this life phase. Caterpillars increase their body mass by as much as 1,000 times or more. They have as many as 4,000 muscles in its body. Caterpillars have 12 eyes and 6 legs. A caterpillar is only a caterpillar for a couple of weeks, but during that time it is very busy. It must eat enough to sustain itself during its time as a chrysalis.



Jesus' ministry was also very short. He only had three years in which to do public ministry. His entire life was very short in comparison to the history of creation. Yet in those three years, he taught us so much. We look at Jesus' life and we learn what it means to love, what faith lived out looks like. By watching Jesus', we learn what is important and how to be.

What is your favorite story from Jesus' ministry on earth?

Chrysalis



A caterpillar turns into a chrysalis; it goes into a hard cocoon. During this time, there doesn't appear to be any life. The cocoon seems to be lifeless, just a hard, ugly brown. They don't attract much attention. They are not very pretty.

When Jesus was in the tomb, his disciples believed that he was gone from them. This was a very dark time in their lives. They struggled with what to believe. They lost hope. They were afraid and full of grief.

Butterfly

When the time is right a beautiful butterfly emerges from the cocoon. Something magnificent comes from something that seemed dead. The butterfly reminds us that there is life, new life to be found in Jesus. For though the tomb was sealed, though there were guards standing by, Jesus rose again, he lives. This morning we worship a Risen Savior!

Each one of us knows what it is like to be encased by sin and shame. We have all lived in the darkness that comes when we did not know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. And the only way out of that darkness was by the light and love of Jesus.

Even though Jesus had tried to prepare his disciples, they did not understand, they were still experiencing the darkness. They still struggled with the idea of the resurrection. They were holed up in the Upper Room, afraid, bewildered, sad. The two Mary's went to the tomb that morning, not expecting to encounter a risen Jesus, but expecting to place burial spices on his body, something they had not had time to do with the Sabbath approaching on the day of Jesus' death. They were expecting to complete a ritual for a friend, instead they encountered Jesus, our Risen Savior.

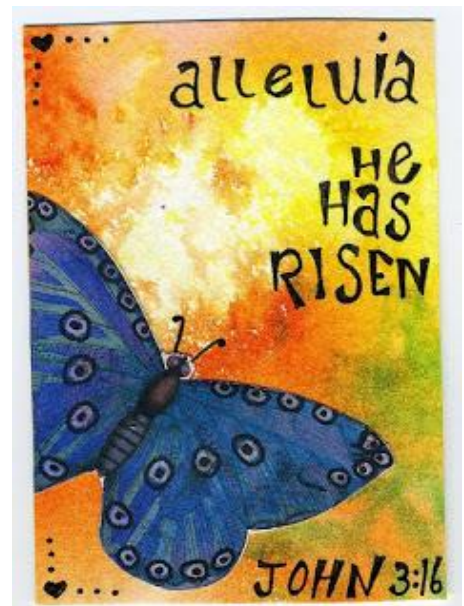
This is the moment we celebrate today and every day of our lives. This is the moment when we begin to see that Jesus is alive. This is the moment when everything changed.

There were many who had hoped that Jesus would be silenced. There were many who hoped that sealing the tomb meant it was over. But they were wrong. It wasn't the end, but a beautiful beginning. It wasn't over. God was in many ways just getting started.

I often wonder what those three days were like for the disciples. How did they cope with the sadness, the hopelessness, the pain they experienced? In many ways they were in the winter of their souls. Just like a caterpillar must turn into a chrysalis before it can become a butterfly. The disciples had to experience the pain of those days if they were going to experience the joy of the resurrection.

We too have risked the darkness. We have experienced pain and hardship. We have been through grief and illness. We have suffered job loss and economic strain. We have lived in the darkness. We have experienced the cold, the darkness, the pain. Some of us might even still be there today. Some of us may at this very moment feel like we are in the cocoon in our hearts and lives.

But we do not have to stay there. We do not have to live in the darkness forever. God promises us that the joy of the resurrection, the hope of our Risen Savior can be ours. All we must do is place our trust in him, our hope in him and we will bloom with the good news of the gospel.



When the caterpillar becomes a chrysalis, we must trust that a butterfly will emerge. We cannot be sure. We cannot guard it against predators. We must trust that a butterfly will emerge.

When we place our faith in God, we can be sure that we will experience the power of the resurrection. When we give our hearts to Jesus, we don't have to wonder if we will be accepted, we can be sure. God loves us. He sent his son Jesus to us. He welcomed us into his family. We have experienced the gift of the resurrection in our own lives.

When you feel like you are encompassed by darkness, when it feels difficult to see the future with hope, when you wonder if anything good will come, remember the butterflies. God created them. God cares for them. And they proclaim the gospel.

Know that God will provide the nourishment, the joy you need to get through the times of darkness in your life and create something beautiful in you.

When you see a butterfly soaring through the sky, imagine that it is shouting with joy the good news of Jesus. Imagine that it is proclaiming to all who see it that Jesus lives.

As we spend this final month of Lent, we cannot help but anticipate the coming celebration of the resurrection. Share the story of Jesus. Share the joy of the resurrection.

Pastor Brenda



Valentine Brunch

On Sunday, February 11, 2018, the second annual Valentine Brunch was held for the congregation. Hearts were all around! Prior to last year, we had a Valentine Breakfast for over 18 years. Now we have a brunch since our worship time has changed.

We had a great crowd – approximately 40 people attended. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal of breakfast casseroles, ham, fruit salad, Caesar salad, dessert and a great time of fellowship. We even celebrate Frank Kulp's 60th birthday! We would like to thank everyone who helped with the brunch.

Special thanks to . . .

- Everyone who baked, brought food, and/or helped in the kitchen:
Linda Cook, Joan Decker, Karen Johnston, Kim Kalichak, Jane Kofroth, Sue Kulp, Dave Miskowic, Priscilla Mills, Charlene Miller, Dan Miller, Dawn Rafalski, Brenda Shaw, Betty Vandergrift and Jackie Wright;
- Those who participated in the devotions program –
Katie Boyer-Mason, Tom Geveke, Sara Mason, Matthew Shaw, and Stephen Shaw;
- Linda Cook who organized the brunch and Linda and Brenda Shaw who set-up;
- Tom Geveke and Rachel Miskowic who helped serve; and
- **Everyone** who helped clean up.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 18 Sunday Social
- March 26 No VBS Night
- March 29 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm
- March 30 Good Friday Service, 7:30 pm
- April 1 Sunrise Service, 6:30 am
 Church Service, 10:00 am
 Egg Hunt, approx., 11:15 - **Bags will be provided!**
- April 2 No VBS Night



• April 2

Sunday School News . . .

- **Katie Boyer-Mason** is enjoying her volunteer activities.
- **Katelyn DeVecchis** is now substituting at The Christian Academy on her days off from being a nurse at Children's Hospital.
- **Megan DeVecchis** has successfully completed her six-month review and did "excellent" for her position with Caesars Corporation in Atlantic City. She commutes daily from Havertown to Atlantic City.
- **Sammy DeVecchis**, a junior at Widener University, has been accepted to a Study Abroad Program and will spend May and June in Germany. Sammy will take some classes at a university in Germany.
- **Tom Geveke's** team made it to the playoffs in the Sun Valley High School Volleyball Marathon which raised thousands of dollars for charitable organizations. Tom is also learning to drive a manual transmission.
- **Sara Mason** is doing a great job on her creative writing projects.
- **Matthew Shaw** completed the *God and Me* program at Cub Scouts. He was able to pray the Lord's Prayer from memory.

- **Stephen Shaw** was Student of the Month for February at Coebourn Elementary. He was recognized for displaying the value of *commitment*. Stephen is also very excited to be reading scripture in worship.
- **Matthew and Stephen Shaw** both enjoyed racing their cars in the Pinewood Derby. Thanks to **Frank Kulp** for helping them make their cars.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Linda Cook



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council

Our meeting was postponed until March 4, 2018. A report will be in the next Spire.

LENTEN ENVELOPES



The Lenten Offering will go to our children's programs which are for the children in the congregation and the community. These programs include Sunday School, the Monday Night VBS, and the Summer Activity program. The offering will help pay for materials, craft supplies, books, and games.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – Frank Kulp

I continue to be 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.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

On Feb 18 Stephen Kalichak Jr. was dedicated during the worship service. Be sure to welcome him and his parents, Steve and Kim when you see them in church.

There are still a few Sundays in March that need ushers and greeters. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church.

The next Worship service at Belvedere is March 25th at 2:30pm. Let Pastor Brenda know if you can go and help share God's word and song with the residents. They look forward to our coming.

Lenten season began on Wed Feb 14th with a 7:30 Lenten service and placing of ashes on the foreheads of those attending. The Devotional for Lent this year is Thy Will Be Done by Ted Schroeder and were passed out at the Feb 11th worship service. There are a few copies left in the back of the church. Start or end your day with the daily devotional as you prepare for Easter.

Plan ahead:

Palm Sunday, March 25 at 10 am

Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 7:30 pm

Good Friday, March 30th at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 1 at 6:30 am Sunrise Service

April 1 at 10 am Worship and Communion

April 1 at 11 am Easter egg Hunt

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

The next Sunday Social will be after worship on March 18th in the chapel. Come fellowship with us and get to know new people and catch up with others.

The new church directories are available now. They are in the back of the church If you haven't picked one up. There are several "thinking of you" cards in the packet. Please find someone you haven't seen for a while in church or is having a difficult time and drop them a note letting them know we care.

Men's News

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

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Welcome Spring! What a joy of is to experience the miracle of the Earth coming back to life. Monday evening has been an ongoing success thanks to Linda Cook and the many faithful members who give of their time to enrich the lives of our neighborhood children. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

As you leave the sanctuary Sunday please take a moment and check out the back table. We need Sunday School teachers. Please consider sharing your experience and love for the Lord with our children.

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 school needs volunteers to help at the school.

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 cans of soup for the month of March.

Worship

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

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

Dr. David G. Parajon 3/3
Box 5051
Managua, Nicaragua

Email: david.parajon@internationalministries.org

Ms. Karen Smith 3/17
412 N. Wayne Ave., Apt. 106
Wayne, PA 19087

Email: karen.smith@internationalministries.org

Rev. Timothy Long 3/18
1374 Los Coches St.
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Email: tim.long@internatiionalministries.org

March Birthdays

12 Tricia Gervase
22 Rev. Brenda Shaw
 Kyle Lord
25 Rachel Miskowic
30 Normajeane Colby
 Katie Boyer

March Anniversaries

28 Betty and Bob Singley

Easter Lily

There are several stories about why we have lilies to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. One suggestion is that lilies grew from Eve's tears as she left the Garden of Eden. Another suggests that the bulb represents the empty tomb, the white, fragrant flower symbolize life after death and the trumpet shape of the flower signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth and new life.

Whatever the story, white lilies adorning the sanctuary have become one of the ways we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Flowers blooming in the sanctuary remind us of new life as we celebrate our new life in Christ.

In the past couple of years, getting our traditional Easter lilies and azaleas has become difficult. The green house we normally use, no longer supplies these plants. This year we had to find a new source for Easter plants. In an effort to keep their costs at a reasonable level and to get quality plants, we have contracted with Polites Florist in Springfield, PA. This year you have a choice of a lily or a mum. The mums will be in an assortment of spring colors. Each plant is \$11.00.

I am grateful to Lori for researching and handling the Easter Flowers. The order forms are late, because I forgot about Easter flowers and did not ask Lori to begin looking for flowers until just last week.

Please be aware that the deadline is Monday, March 12, which only gives you a week. I apologize for the short notice. If you have any questions, please call Lori in the church office, or let me know.

Pastor Brenda

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS



The order deadline is **MONDAY, MARCH 12TH** . Please turn in your order by placing this form & payment in the offering plate or drop off at the church office. Payment must be received at time of order. Please make all checks payable to Upland Baptist Church. Please call Lori in the church office at 610-874-7474 if you have any questions.

Name: _____
_____ Single Stem Lily ~ 6" pot with foil cover, **\$11.00**
_____ Chrysanthemum ~ 6" pot with foil cover, **\$11.00** (Assorted colors)

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

