

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## March 2019

Upland Baptist Church  
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610-874-7474

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# The Beginning of an Adventure

My name is Malachi. I have 6 brothers and sisters. We live in a very nice home, near the water. Through I love my family, sometimes I long for adventure. I want to see the world. My brothers all laugh at me and tell me I will never go anywhere. My sisters all want me to settle down and live close to the family. I am afraid to tell my mother; I know she will think it is too dangerous to head out into the world on a grand adventure.

Then one day everything changed. Instead of sleeping during the day, because normally I work at night, I was up. I had traveled down to the Sea as there is always something happening there. I was hoping for a little excitement and I sure did find it.

There was a man, a stranger, walking beside the Sea of Galilee. This wasn't unusual, as there were always strangers coming and going near the Sea. Yet, there was something different in this man. Though he looked ordinary in appearance, there was something that made me follow him. I wanted to know more. I wanted to see what he was going to do. I just knew something life changing was about to happen.

As I watched, this man approached two fishermen. They were casting a net into the lake. For a moment, I thought I had been wrong. Nothing exciting was going to happen today. Then the man spoke. He said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."* This did not make any sense at all. Why would you want to catch people in a net? Why would you want to fish for people? I was really confused.

Then things got even more strange. The two men left their nets and followed the strange man. They didn't even stop to put their nets away. They just left them where they fell and went with this strange man. I was really interested now, so I hurried to keep up with them.

As they walked, the group come upon two more men. These two appeared to be brothers as they were working with an older man, who they both looked like. They were working in a boat, preparing their nets. My guess was that they too normally worked nights and they had been out fishing all night. I think they were just cleaning up and preparing things for the next night of fishing. They all seemed to be getting along and working hard. But once the strange man called to them, they immediately left the boat, their father, and followed him.

I was getting tired, but wanted to understand what was happening, so I kept following him. I got as close as I could and listened to them strange man talking to his new friends. I learned that the first two men were Simon Peter and his brother, Andrew. The men on the

boat were brothers. They were the sons of Zebedee, James and John. As they continued on together, I realized that the strange man I had been following was Jesus.

There were rumors about Jesus. Even I had heard his name. He had been preaching in Galilee. People were whispering about him and wondering what it meant when he said, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”* I wasn’t sure what he was talking about, but I wanted to know more.

I made a decision right then. This was my adventure. I was going to follow him too! I was going to go with Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to learn more about this man Jesus. I was going to find out what made these fishermen stop working and follow a virtual stranger.

With my decision made, I hurried home and packed a bag. I quickly gave my mother a kiss and promised to be careful. I told her that I had to go with Jesus and she seemed to understand. She made me promise to return and tell her all about my adventures. I think she wanted to learn about Jesus, too. One of my sisters cried as they hugged me, but I told her I would come home again. My brothers all looked shocked. They never thought I would actually go on an adventure. I did not have time to waste, I had to get back before I lost sight of Jesus and his friends.

I quietly stowed away in the travel bag of one of Jesus’ friends. I wasn’t sure which man the bag belonged to, but I would figure that out. I just knew that my tiny mouse legs wouldn’t keep up with the long strides of humans for very long and I knew that I could not get left behind. I was going on an adventure and I was going to learn everything I could about Jesus.

I’ll keep you posted on my adventure.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

I hope you enjoy the travels of Malachi the Mouse Adventurer as he follows Jesus and the disciples. Hopefully, as Malachi learns new things about Jesus, he will share them with us, so we can learn and grow along with him.

Following Jesus is an adventure. It is one that we should be excited to be on every day. I pray that you are excited to learn everything you can about Jesus today, and every day. May following Jesus bring you excitement, joy and fun to your days.

*Pastor Brenda*



## Valentine Brunch

On Sunday, February 10, 2019, the third annual Valentine Brunch was held for the congregation. Hearts were all around! Previously, we had a Valentine Breakfast for over 18 years, but now we have a brunch since our worship time has changed. We had a great crowd – over 40 people attended. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal of breakfast casseroles, scrambled eggs, ham, fruit salad, Caesar salad, potato salad, delicious desserts and a great time of fellowship. 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, Kathy Geveke, Karen Johnston, Courtney Klimek, Jane Kofroth, Monica Manerchia, Iris Messick, Priscilla Miles, Charlene Miller, Dan Miller, Dawn Rafalski, Doug Scott, Marsha Scott, Brenda Shaw, Denise Sweeney, and Jackie Wright;
- John Shaw who provided music for us;
- Cameron Klimek, Casey Klimek, Matthew Shaw, and Stephen Shaw who participated in the devotions program;
- Linda Cook who organized the brunch, and Linda and Brenda Shaw who set-up;
- **Everyone** who helped clean up.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 6                   Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 pm
- March 12                 Prayer Service, 7:30 pm
- March 17                 Sunday Social
- April 15                  No VBS Night
- April 18                  Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm
- April 19                  Good Friday Service, 7:30



## Good News . . .

- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Sara Mason** went bowling for the first time last weekend!
- **Megan DeVecchis** is now engaged to Joseph Fuller, Jr! It happened around the Christmas holidays. Congratulations!
- **Sammy DeVecchis**, will be volunteering his spring break to “Alternative Spring Break” and going south to build and/or rebuild houses for those in need. These are most likely homes damaged by recent storms and weather disasters. He is ready to graduate in May and has a big case of “senioritis”!
- **Anna Geveke** was elected to Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing. Congratulations, Anna!
- **Tom Geveke** is really enjoying indoor rock climbing at Penn State University.
- **Oliver Kulp** won 3 prizes at Coebourn’s Bingo Night. He shared a prize with a friend who didn’t win. Oliver is also joining T-ball this spring.
- **Matthew Shaw** reached his goal and is a million word reader! Yeah, Matthew!
- **Stephen Shaw** is working on his photography merit badge.



## LENTEN ENVELOPES

The Lenten Offering can be turned in anytime during the Lenten season. **This offering is over and above your usual envelope giving.** Please pray for our Lenten offering as our contributions have gone down the last two years since we have switched to envelopes instead of the coin booklets.

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.



## Chairperson's Report



## From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council

- Welcome to Dave Geveke as the Communications Chair!
- Thank you to Diane Lord Ogram for her many years of service!

At the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting . . .

- Continued the discussion of the finances of the Church;
- Voted on the Lenten Offering;
- Discussed doing stewardship follow-up;
- Discussed on-line giving;
- Approved selling the golf cart for \$300.00; and
- Discussed upcoming programs for February and March.

At the February 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting . . .

- The Board reviewed the January financial statements;
- Reviewed accounts in Wells Fargo and BMT;
- In an effort to shown community support and participation, the Upland Fire Company returned to the church \$1000.00 of our previous donations to them;
- Discussed repairs around the Chapel and Church;
- Discussed maintenance of the cemetery;
- Scheduled a work day for May 4<sup>th</sup> (Rain date May 11<sup>th</sup>) from 9 am to noon to clean up the cemetery;
- Continued to discuss stewardship follow-up;
- Continued to discuss the financial situation of the Church;
- Discussed Upland Borough's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over Memorial Day weekend and our participation in the celebration;
- Discussed the need to incorporate our Memorial Sunday into other Sundays during the year; and
- Heard reports from all the Team Leaders and discussed and planned for upcoming events.

Regretfully, there was a mistake in my 2018 annual report of the Treasurer that needs to be corrected. On the Christmas Card offering I missed crediting \$253.00, to this offering changing our total amount that should have been on the report. The original amount was for only \$30.00 but should have been for \$283.00. Below is the corrected and amended to the annual report.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Klimek

**Upland Baptist Church  
Annual Report of the Treasurer  
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018**

Fellowship Fund balance as of December 31, 2018	\$2,996.07
Cemetery checking account balance as of December 31, 2018	\$0.00
General Fund balance as of December 31, 2018	\$10,874.04
Less outstanding checks at 12/31/18	<u>-\$10,108.04</u>
	\$766.00
Christmas Card Offering (2018)	\$283.00
Lenten Offering (2018)	\$218.00
Advent Offering (2018)	\$194.00
<u>Benevolences for 2018 (Missions sent to ABCOPAD)</u>	
American Baptist Women - Love Gift	\$177.00
Partners in Ministry - Bake Sale	\$193.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$116.00
Partners in Ministry	\$7,792.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$8,278.00</u>
<u>Benevolences for 2018 (Sent directly to the Organization)</u>	
Upland Volunteer Fire Company	\$350.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$350.00
<b>Total Benevolences 2018</b>	<b>\$8,628.00</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Klimek

# COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – Dave Geveke

We have received feedback on the Church broadcast and appreciate it. Please continue to let us know how your experience watching the broadcast at home is going. You can email the church or give the office a call.

## WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Spring is slowly arriving and there are many Church activities during Worship in which you may participate.

**March 3** Joyful Noise Bell Choir will play at Worship.

**Lenten Season** starts on Wednesday March 6, 2019. Ash Wednesday Services will be held in the church at 7:30 pm. The Lent Devotional is *Psalms For Lent* by Jane Wilke for adults and *Jerusalem Journey* for children. Both will be available in church.

**Tuesday March 12** at 7:30 pm a special Prayer Service will be held downstairs in the chapel. This is an opportunity to pray together as a church community and address concerns for the future of our church as well as personal concerns. Join us as we seek God's will for our service to him and the community around us.

*Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

Matthew 21:22

**March 24** Services at Belvedere at 2:30 pm.

**April 14** Palm Sunday commemorating the triumphant entry of Jesus in Jerusalem. The Joyful Noise Bell Choir will play during worship services.

**April 21** Easter Services at 6:30am for Sunrise Service and 10am for Worship.

### **Handbells**

The first tuned handbells were developed by Robert and William Cor in Wiltshire, England between 1696 and 1724. They were brought to the United States by Margaret Shurcliff in 1902. American handbell choirs use bells made in England or by Malmark Bell craftsmen or by Schulmerich Bells based in Pennsylvania. Handbell choirs act as one instrument with each musician responsible for particular notes and so require music composed or arranged specifically for handbells. (Wikipedia.org)

Here at Upland Baptist we enjoy the bell music of the Joyful Noise Bell Choir directed by John Shaw.

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

We scrapped the idea of a bowling activity last month in favor of Indoor Miniature Golf at Linvilla. It was a great time with twenty-two amateur golfers and dinner at Famous Dave's after. Some of us didn't know how hard the course was.

We are celebrating St. Patrick's Day on 3/17 with a Sunday Social following worship. Look for green donuts, maybe and Irish Potatoes.

We were sorry to lose one of our home communion shut-ins, Art Colby, in January. Art was a sweet guy to visit and he loved our church service and sports on the TV.

If you have a couple of hours a month to visit our shut-ins with home communion it is so worthwhile. See Dawn if you are able to help with this endeavor.

It's not too early to think about the AB Men's Retreat. Mark your calendar for July 26-28, 2019 at Shippensburg University. Discount for early registration by May 15.

## **DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston**

It's true that we are a small group on Sunday mornings but it's an opportunity to share God's love for us. Please give thoughtful consideration to joining us downstairs during worship and sharing your experience with our children.

## **OUTREACH – Joan Decker**

### **VBS Night**

The VBS Night program on Monday nights dinner is going well at the church chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

### **Main Street Elementary School**

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary School is in need of volunteers to help at the school.

### **Memorial Parade**

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



## **Food Bank**

The food bank is providing a bag each week consisting of 11 to 12 items plus two meats as well as fresh vegetables. The bags contain cereal, soup, mixed vegetables, spinach, tuna or chicken in can, mashed potatoes, spaghetti and sauce, rice, mac and cheese as well as chicken and dumplings in a can. Please remember the Food Bank with canned goods and beets for the month of March. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474, if you are interested in helping at the food bank.

## **Worship**

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

# HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH 2019

All cards for International Missionaries are to be sent to the following address:

International Ministries  
1003 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Dr. David G. Parajon                      3/3

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

Ms. Karen Smith                              3/17

Email: [karen.smith@internationalministries.org](mailto:karen.smith@internationalministries.org)

Rev. Timothy Long                      3/18

Email: [tim.long@internationalministries.org](mailto:tim.long@internationalministries.org)

## **March Birthdays**

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

## **March Anniversaries**

None

# IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS



The order deadline is **MONDAY, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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, **\$12.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chrysanthemum ~ 6" pot with foil cover, **\$12.00** (Assorted colors)

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** \_\_\_\_\_

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