

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

May 2016

Upland Baptist Church
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April Showers Bring May Flowers

Spring has finally arrived! As the weather warmed and the flowers began to appear people began to talk about the long, hard winter. We had more snow this winter than in the last several winters put together. I love to look out the window and see the beautiful snow falling and covering the ground, but I must admit we had plenty of snow to remind me of the reasons I like it and the reasons I don't.

There were a few days in April when the sun shone brightly and the temperature was warm and it felt like spring had arrived. But then the rains came. Cold, dark days filled with hard, drenching rain. There were days when the sun never made an appearance, days when even leaving the house seemed to take a great deal of effort. It seemed as if spring had tempted us and not really arrived at all.

As the rain fell we reassured ourselves that *April showers bring May flowers*. We comforted ourselves with the thought that we would see something wonderful happen if we could hold on through the cold and rainy days. We would see the grass turn green and the spring flowers appear from nowhere and begin to color our world. We would hear the robins singing and watch the trees awaken. If only we survive the cold and dark days, we would be rewarded with the beauty and hope that comes in the spring.

Just as the seasons change, so do our lives. And our lives change in much the same way as the seasons change. Can you think of a time when you were experiencing winter in your life? Something was happening that was difficult, it seemed to take all of your energy just to do the necessary activities. A difficult diagnosis was given to you or someone you loved. An opportunity was gone before you were ready for it to go. You were older and life had not met all of your expectations. Life felt barren and cold.

How about spring? Can you think of a time when life felt like spring? Full of hope and wonder. A time when possibilities were opening up before you and everything seemed to be going your way. A time when no matter what happened nothing could take the smile from your face and joy from your heart.

Spring and winter come into our lives. Sometimes with little or no warning at all. One day our sky is blue and the next is filled with dark, brooding clouds. Or one moment all seems lost, and the next the sun has come through.

It doesn't just happen with circumstances but also with our spiritual lives. We go through times of great connectedness to God and times when we feel far, far away. What has changed in those moments? Has God deserted us? Has God gotten busy and forgotten about us and our lives? Has God taken pity on us and rescued us from a difficult situation?

Of course not, God has not moved. God has not changed. We have. We have walked away or we have run to the arms of God seeking His counsel and His comfort. We move and change – God does not. All change is not bad. A maple tree cannot grow without a period of rest in the winter. It cannot grow tall and strong if it does not lose its leaves in the fall and lie dormant in the winter. It needs that time of rest in order to grow.

We too need seasons of growth and times of rest. Life is full of hope and despair; there will always be moments of joy and concern. We need to recognize that when life looks more like winter instead of spring that it does not mean that God is against us or has forgotten us. For God is with us in all things at all times.

Without the spring rains, we would never have the beauty of spring. We need both, days filled with rain and days filled with sunshine. Today look outside and enjoy whatever is happening in God's creation. But also look in your heart and see what God is doing. Don't let the weather determine your outlook, but let God be the one who determines your disposition. If there are no flowers in your heart today, know that God is tending your heart and they will grow again. Even in times of despair, there is reason to hope.

Pastor Brenda



Chairperson's Report ~ Linda Cook

From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council

At the April Meeting of the **Legal Corporation**, we . . .

- Discussed Church finances and reviewed expenses;
- Discussed the upgrade to the office copier;
- Approved having Cullis fix the broken tombstones;
- Discussed Background Checks that still need to be completed;
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel;
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be taken care of around the Chapel and the Church; and
- Discussed moving one of the Church's accounts to Wells Fargo Bank.

From the April Meeting of the **Ministry Council** . . .

- Dawn Rafalski was chosen to be our voting representative to the Riverside Annual Meeting. John Kofroth is the alternate.
- Each of the Team Leaders reported on various items they were working on and/or hoping to initiate. Their reports can be found in this issue of the *Spire*.



News about our Youth and Teenagers

- **Katie Boyer Mason** went to a painting class and painted her own version of a “Monet.”
- **Anna Geveke** has committed to West Chester University. She will enter the nursing program in August.
- **Sara Mason** had a great time at Bette’s Fun Center.
- **Matthew Shaw** is enjoying his first season of baseball. He is playing for the Royals Brookhaven Baseball Team.
- **Stephen Shaw** is having a great season playing for the Astros Brookhaven Baseball Team.

WORSHIP ~ Sue Kulp

Mother's Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day Services were discussed with Pastor Shaw.

On Mother's Day, we will be taking quick photo shots of families, individuals, couples, etc. Everyone has a Mother on Mother's Day.

- Invite your mom
- Invite your kids
- Invite your grandma, your aunt, your nanny, your grandchildren
- Invite someone who has been like a mother to you
- Invite someone who has been like a child to you
- Invite someone who needs a family

On Memorial Day, we will honor our Veterans. We will support our troops now in deployment by filling up several care packages (4). Please bring one or some of the following items on or before Memorial Day service and place them in the boxes set up on the sanctuary.

Body Wash (the good stuff)
Lens cleaning cloths
Vicks VapoRub
Pain-Relieving Topical Cream
Plastic Model Kits
Crossword Puzzles
Flavoring Packets for Water
Beef Jerky
Barbecue Sauce

Lip Balm
Sunscreen
Baby Wipes
Pack of Cards
Books
Sudoko Puzzles
Hot Sauce
Sunflower Seeds
Hand-written Letters

For Father's Day, we will celebrate this special day service with a token to anyone who has a father. Same idea for Father's Day.

- Invite your dad
- Invite your kids
- Invite your grandpa, your uncle, your pop-pop, your grandchildren
- Invite someone who has been like a father to you
- Invite someone who has been like a child to you
- Invite someone who needs a family

MINISTRY ~ Dawn Rafalski

Ministry to Members

The “BAKE SALE” and “SUNDAY SOCIAL” on the first floor of the chapel has been rescheduled to May 1. Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated for the sale. Come, enjoy some goodies and talk with your church family.

We will be having an “ALL CHURCH BRUNCH” this year instead of a picnic. The brunch will be held following worship on June 12th in the chapel. The following Sunday we will be moving worship to the beautifully air conditioned chapel.

Men's News

It's not too early to look ahead to the Retreat for Men and Young Men on Friday, July 29 – Sunday, July 31, 2016 at Shippensburg University. The Keynote Speaker is Rev. Dr. Larron Jackson, Minister, Teacher, Author and Motivational Speaker. If you register by June 1 there is a \$10 discount. For more information see John Kofroth. Registration forms are in the back of the sanctuary.

Property ~ Diane Lord Ogram

- ❖ Calling Vector Security to get a new contract.
- ❖ Radiator in Secretary's Office needs repair.
- ❖ Decision to use Inclinator-Elenette, Inc. for our elevator service company. New contract will be effective ending Metro's contract.

DISCIPLESHIP ~ Jane Kofroth

VBS

Our Monday night VBS program will go on summer hiatus at the end of May. The children have enjoyed a good dinner, a lively time of fellowship a Bible lesson and a fun activity every week. Getting to know these kids from our community and being able to provide them with a safe, wholesome place to gather every Monday night is a real blessing for our church.

To everyone who has volunteered to cook and serve dinner---a huge "thank you!" The kids all appreciate the good dinners you prepare---as evidenced by their requests for second and third helpings every week! Thank you to each of our volunteers. Your commitment to this program and the good examples you set for the kids have surely made a very positive impression.

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. Special thanks to Anna Geveke who is a very faithful assistant.

The lessons are very adaptable and designed to be engaging and informative for kids of various ages. We have a very lively time. Please keep this program in your prayers---and invite all the kids in your life to come to Sunday School!

Bible Study

Bible Study group meets on Thursday mornings at 10 AM. The group is continuing their study in the book of Peter. It's a good time to join the group. Enjoy discussing God's word with other Christians and examine it's meaning for us as we follow Jesus.

Small Groups

Small Groups will meet at noon and 7:00 PM for the last time this season on 5/3. We have enjoyed reading and sharing our thoughts about, "The Friends of Jesus" a biblical novel by Karen Kingsbury. Ms. Kingsbury is a compelling story teller, bringing familiar Biblical characters to life in a unique style.

There's a place waiting for you in a Small Group "group" when we resume with another book next session. It's always fun to get together with friends and discuss a good book!

Summer Lunch Program

It's time to start thinking about our Summer Lunch Program.

Our church is opened up to the neighborhood kids 4 days a week. We serve lunch provided by a Philadelphia Catholic Arch Diocese program. After lunch the kids can participate in different activities... outdoor games, crafts, board games, library day and special speakers.

If you would like to help with this program, let me know. You might enjoy helping supervise outdoor games. Maybe you have an interesting idea for a craft. How about a game of Paw Patrol with some enthusiastic little players?

On Library Days the children can check out a book from our library. A special speaker reads a story and gives a presentation about his or her job. Last year a representative from the Police Department, a Fire Fighter, a pediatric dental worker, a fine musician (Sandy Kushner) were among those who contributed to Library Day.

Stand by for more information about how you can help out with this very worthwhile mission.

COMMUNICATIONS ~ John Kofroth

Upland Baptist Face Book Forum

Our "secret" Face Book page isn't much of a secret anymore! There are currently 18 members, many of whom have shared their thoughts and insights about "Be Still", this month's daily devotional.

We are blessed to be part of a church family who can encourage and support each other---even on-line! If you would like join the group, you must first be on FaceBook. If you need any help doing that, just let me know.

Volunteer Clearances

There are six potential volunteers who still need to get Pennsylvania child welfare clearances. I will be happy to help you get these clearances by getting on line with you or advise you how to obtain them on your own. Keep in mind that no one can work with youngsters unless we have their clearance on file.

OUTREACH ~ Joan Decker

Coming up in May is the Memorial Parade which will be May 28th. Our church and Resurrection Life Church will be working together to host this annual event. If anyone would like to help with this event, please call the church office at 610-874-7474.

Don't forget the Food Bank is always in need of canned goods and non-perishable food; and is always looking for helpers. If you would like to help, contact the church office.

Grocery Bingo will be May 21st from 1-4 pm in the Chapel. Come out and have some fun.



Outreach to Main Street Elementary

Pastor Brenda and Linda Cook met with the principal at Main Elementary School in early April to discuss ways that our congregation could support the students and staff at Main Street. Principal Brown was very excited to learn that we wanted to help. We decided to do something each month to help at the school.

- For our April project, we contributed items to the principal's prize cart. Principal Brown takes a cart around to the classrooms every Friday and deserving students are allowed to choose a prize. She has been purchasing most of these items using her own money. We purchased pencils, cars, stress balls, small stuffed animals, assorted "jewelry", small kick balls, and candy through Oriental Trading. The items were dropped off to the school at the end of April and were very much appreciated. **A picture of the prizes can be viewed on the Upland Baptist website www.uplandbaptist.org under the News Flash Tab.**
- For our May project, we will be purchasing water ice and bottled water for the fifth graders after one of their special events. On May 25th at 1:30, Pastor Brenda, Linda Cook, Joan Decker, Jane Kofroth, John Kofroth, and Diane Ogram will be scooping out the water ice and serving water.
- Also in May, we will be recognizing the teachers, support staff, and volunteers on National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 3rd.
- In June, we will be presenting a gift card, certificate, and a book to a deserving 5th grader at their Graduation Ceremony. We will also provide bottled water to everyone in attendance.
- Over the summer, we are asking members of the congregation to purchase **pencils, boxes of 24 crayons, and yellow highlighters** for the students. We will give them to the school in September.

We will meet again in late August or early September to plan for the next school year. We are excited to watch this ministry grow!

Home and International Missionary birthdays in June

Rev. Yamina Apolinaris 6/2
Corporacion Milagros del Amor
P.O. Box 6445
Caguas, PR 00726
Email: yapolinaris@gmail.com

Rev Rick Bunker 6/2
Philadelphia Park
P.O. Box 1000
3001 Street Rd.
Bensalem, PA 19020
Email: rbunker@rtca-pa.org

Mr. Philip Smith 6/8
1801 Dante Michilini –APTO 501
Mata Da Pria – Vitoria, ES – Brazil
Email: Philip.smith@internationalministries.org

Rev. Vital Pierre 6/15
Apartado 21
La Romano, Dominican Republic
Email: vital.pierre@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Kelly Bunker 6/22
(Same as Rick Bunker above)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Matthew Shaw
4 Noah Geveke
5 David Geveke
Darlene Pysher
15 Akky Geveke
17 Thomas Geveke
22 Sandy Kushner
23 Bob Singley
26 Jackie Wright
27 Hans Geveke

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

4 Brian and Courtney Klimek
10 Joan and Dennis Decker

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you all for your care while I have been out of work and hospitalized; and now recovering. I thank you for the cards, the well wishes, the contributions, the wonderful meals, and especially for your prayers! They are all so very much appreciated.

I've been joining you for church through the computer on Sunday mornings, but look forward to joining you again in person very soon.

Thank you again,

Love,
Dave Miskowic