

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

MAY 2017

Upland Baptist Church
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Rev. Brenda A. B. Shaw, Pastor



Blowing Bubbles

I have a few strange things in my office. People who stop by often remark on the brick *Last Supper* sitting on the table. The other thing, that I almost always keep around, are bubbles. Yes, I mean the bottles of bubbles with the wand where you blow and create lots of bubbles floating through the sky. I admit it. I love bubbles. I don't think you can blow bubbles without smiling. I don't think it is possible.



This Easter we blew bubbles at the Sunrise Service. I was nervous that the adults would think it was silly, but they smiled as they made bubbles. Not only did the bubbles fill the sky, but they did not pop as they landed on the wet grass. Soon we were standing surrounded by bubbles.

Not only do bubbles make me smile, but they also allow me to offer praises to God. Sometimes when I am praying, I will blow bubbles and visualize my prayers floating up to God. Some days they are praises and other days each bubble is a concern that I give to God. It may be a bit of an untraditional way to pray, but I find that there are days when that is exactly what I need.

Let me encourage you to get a bottle of bubbles. They come in handy when you need a boost. They are also a great way to pray. You can get fancy. They have battery operated bubble guns, multiple different kinds of wands and even bubble machines. All you really need is a standard bottle of bubbles with a single wand, unless you want to share. Then you may want to get an extra. If you stop by my office and want to pray together, or just feel like blowing bubbles, let me know. I always have an extra bottle around and I would be happy to share.

Pastor Brenda

THANK YOU

VERY MUCH

**All Upland Baptist Church volunteers are invited
to a thank you luncheon.**

**Sunday, June 11, 2017
following worship**

**Please look for a sign-up sheet at the back of the
church, or call the church office to say you will attend!**

I thank my God every time I remember you.

Philippians 1:3



Communications Team Leader – John Kofroth

The Board has voted to require that all church volunteers get a Child Welfare and State Police Criminal Check. Although this is beyond what the law requires, we have decided to error on the side of caution. Any organization is permitted to add additional requirements beyond what the law requires.

If you are a volunteer, please see me or Linda, the church secretary, for a form which will be used to request your clearance. Once the clearance is obtained,

the form will be shredded and the clearances locked in the church safe.

If volunteers would rather get their own clearances, they can go to “The News Flash” page of the church website; and see an article that links to the sites where clearances can be requested directly.

Note that during the process of filling out the Child Welfare Clearance, you will be asked if you have a charge code. Answer “yes” and then e-mail me to request the code. You will need an email if you do the CWC clearance. If you do not have one, you can easily create a gmail.com account.

Discipleship - Jane Kofroth

VBS

VBS volunteers prepare dinner for neighborhood kids on Monday nights at 6:00. After dinner, there's a Bible lesson and a fun group activity from 6:30 to 7:00.

Thank you to each one of our volunteer cooks and to all who so faithfully help serve and present the lesson every week.

Thank you for keeping this program in your prayers.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School class for children meets during worship service. All children are invited to go to the classroom downstairs right after Children's Talk.

Thank you to all our volunteer teachers. Please consider signing up to teach a class. There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Bible Study

Bible Study group meets on Thursdays, at 10 am. We continue with our study of Samuel. Come and join the group.



Ministry to Members – Dawn Rafalski

At the Sunday Social in April, we made crafts to take to our shut-ins. We also had a demonstration of *Trades of Hope* products that benefit countries in need. Beautiful jewelry, scarves and clothing items were on display for ordering.

We have been sending notes, welcoming visitors worshipping with us, to let them know that we hope

to see them again; and how pleased we are to have them with us.

We can always use more help with Home Communion. If that is something you would like to do, see Dawn Rafalski. It means so much to our shut-ins to not only serve them communion but to visit with them.

Men's News

ABMen and Young Men mark your calendars for Friday, 7/28 – Sunday, 7/30/17. The annual Retreat for Men and Young Men will be held at Shippensburg University. The theme is “Nothing is Impossible with God,” and “So Let Your Light Shine for Jesus to All!” Keynote speaker is Rev. Steve Etner. Cost is discounted if paid by May 1. See the flyers on the table at the rear of the church for more information.



News about our Youth, Teenagers, and Young Adults

- **Katelyn DeVecchis** participated in a week-long preparation for the State Boards for her Nursing licensure. She has also been inducted into Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success.

- **Megan DeVecchis** presented her senior project (on Friday 4/28) "For the Health of It: Fare & Square's Brand and Education Promotion." She has been inducted into Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success.



- **Sam DeVecchis** presented for Student Project Day (4/28/17) "A Short Video Clip to Entice Greater Participation in Widener's Office of Global Engagement Opportunities," and also, "The Tale of ENVR 180S (Sustainable Development in Central America) - Costa Rica in 4 Dimensions." On NBC News, two weeks ago, the footage of the coverage for the "Walk a Mile in Her Heels," to raise awareness of violence to women, was filmed by Sam himself for the television station.
- **Tom Geveke** is a science tutor at Sun Valley High School.
- **Cameron Klimek** just made the Honor Roll and is dancing at a festival at Dorney Park in May.
- **Casey Klimek** is playing soccer for West Chester United this spring.

- **Matthew Shaw** recently went on a field trip to see “Pete the Cat.” He is playing tee ball for the Brookhaven Athletics.
- **Stephen Shaw** is playing for the White Sox in Brookhaven. He recently played catcher. He is practicing his trumpet to play in the June 11th program at Church.

Outreach to Main Street Elementary

- We are collecting donations from the congregation to purchase a gift card from Loews to help the students in their efforts to beautify their school entrance. Students from the autistic support class and all the first graders are in charge of the project. The gift card will go towards the purchase of flowers and gardening supplies for the project. Upland Police are also assisting the students with this project. Donations can be given to Pastor Brenda and Linda Cook.
- We will be recognizing the teachers, support staff, and volunteers on National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 2nd.
- In June, we will be presenting a gift card, certificate, and a book to deserving 5th graders at their Graduation Ceremony.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 14 Mother’s Day

- May 22 Last VBS Night until September
- May 28 Memorial Sunday
- May 29 Memorial Day
Parade and Picnic
- June 11 Children and Youth
Sunday Brunch
- June 18 Father's Day



April Recap of Church Celebrations

Hopefully, you were in Church or viewing at home on Sunday, April 9th for our Palm Sunday/Holy Week Program. Members of the congregation - children, teens, and adults distributed the palms, shared scripture, readings and poems. They helped share the story of Easter week, especially the story of Palm Sunday. Thank you to **Linda Cook** for putting the program together and a BIG thank you to all our participants:

- **Katie Boyer- Mason, Linda Cook, Joan Decker, David Geveke, Hans Geveke, Kathy Geveke, Tom Geveke, Cameron Klimek, Casey Klimek, Courtney Klimek, Jane Kofroth, Frank Kulp, Sue**

Kulp, Iris Messick, Rachel Miskowic, Dawn Rafalski, Brenda Shaw, Matthew Shaw, John Shaw, Stephen Shaw, and Jackie Wright.

- Thank you to the ***Joyful Noise*** - **John Kofroth, Tom Geveke, Jackie Wright, Diane Ogram, Linda Cook, Brenda Shaw, Denise Sweeney, Dawn Rafalski, Sara Boyer-Mason, Sandy Kushner, Iris Messick, Brigid Levi, and the talented director, John Shaw.**



On Easter morning, we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service. Many adults and some of the teenagers hid the eggs – chocolate, plastic, and hard-boiled – for our egg hunters. The children completed two crafts while the eggs were being hidden by our volunteers. We had a special area reserved for our smallest youngsters so they could look for eggs, too! Thank you to **Pastor Brenda, Sue Kulp, Diane Ogram** and **Jackie Wright** for dying the “real” eggs for the egg hunt and **Linda Cook** for purchasing the plastic eggs and candy.



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

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

- Discussed Church finances and reviewed expenses;
- Discussed various investments of the Church and how to use those funds to help with Church finances;
- Discussed ways to save money, including changing our phone service plan;
- Discussed Background Checks that are being completed for the Food Bank;
- Discussed personnel issues;
- Discussed a grant we applied for through ABCOPAD;
- Discussed a service needed for the security and fire system;
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel; and
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be taken care of around the Chapel and the Church. While we know the inside of the Church needs to be painted, financially, we cannot afford to paint the Church. The project was too big for Williamson's service project.

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

- 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*.

Outreach Team Leader – Joan Decker

The Memorial Day Picnic will be on May 29, 2017. We will need volunteers to make potato salad or pasta salad. Please call the church office, if you can help.

This is one of the church's biggest outreach projects and a lot of work goes into this event. We will be in need of volunteers to walk in the parade and to help serve the food.

The summer lunch program will be starting again this year. Look for information on the church's website and in the June **Spire**.

The Food Bank is still in need of can goods. A big thank you to the volunteers who have come out and given of their time. Please check the church website for things that are going on at Main Street Elementary School.



Home and International Missionary Birthdays for June:

(No May Birthdays)

Rev Yamina Apolinaris 6/2
Corporation Milagros del Amor
(Loves Miracles Corporation)
P.O. Box 6445
Caguas, PR 00726
E-mail: yaponaris@gmail.com

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

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

Rev. Vital Pierre 6/15
Apartado 21
La Romana, Dominican Republic
E-mail: vital.pierre@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Kelly Bunker 6/22
Philadelphia Park
P.O. Box 1000
3001 Street Rd.
Bensalem, PA 19020
E-mail: rbunker@rtca-pa.org

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

