

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

May 2018

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Patience

I have a confession to make...I am failing at being patient. I am not proud of this. I am not rejoicing in this. It is simply the truth. I am not a patient person.

There have been several signs lately of my impatience...

- I am continually shouting at the boys to hurry up it is time to leave
- I am rushing from place to place feeling like I am out of time
- I relentlessly watch my email or text messages for answers to questions.
- I wake up way before the alarm worrying about things I can't control
- I look for the parking spot that will get me out of the parking lot the fastest

You get the idea, I don't really need to list all my faults!

The truth is that patience is a struggle. It is difficult to live out patience. Yet I believe that patience is a fruit of the spirit. *By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* (Gal. 5:22-23) I believe that if I am living my life according to God's will that part of the fruit that I will bear is patience. Therefore, if I am not living out patience, then I need to continue to work on it.

When we think about what patience looks like, it is helpful to think about Jacob. We know that Jacob fled from home because his brother Esau was going to kill him. We won't get into why right here, let's suffice it to say that family dynamics in that family were difficult. Jacob goes to his Uncle Laban's house and falls in love with Rachel. Laban said that if Jacob wanted to marry Rachel, he would need to work for 7 years. *So, Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.* (Genesis 29:20) He worked for 7 years so that he would be able to marry Rachel. Seven years is a long time to be patient.

When we love someone, we are called to be patient. This is not only about romantic relationships, it is about all relationship. *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.* (1 Cor. 13:4-5) When we talk about what it means to love others, we must include being patient with one another. Love is patient. That means that I must be patient with my postal carrier when he delivers my neighbors mail to me. I must be patient when the person in front of me leaves their groceries on the conveyor belt and goes to get the item they forgot. I must be patient with the person who is late, forgetful and sometimes rude. This is not easy, but loving others as God has called us to love is not easy.

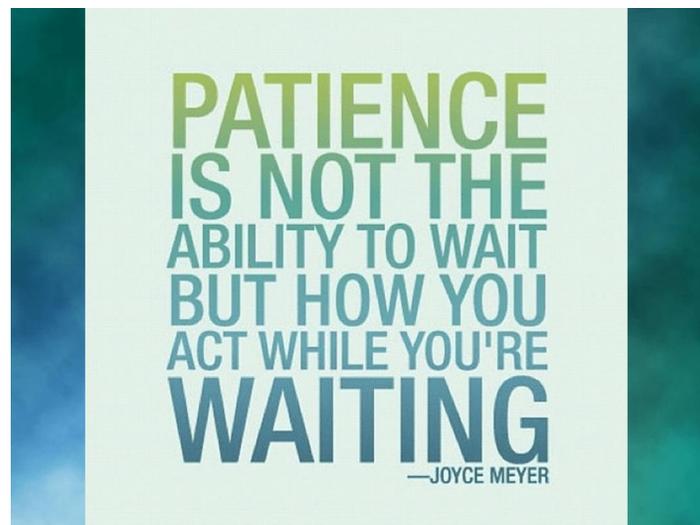
We agree that patience is something we all need to have, but having it is difficult. So how do we live out patience?

Here are a couple of tips:

- Pray before speaking.
Have you ever pictured God holding his hand over your mouth? I have. Sometimes I need God to stop me from saying what is on the tip of my tongue. If I will pause and say a quick prayer, even just the words, Lord guide me, it is often enough to help me pause before speaking and stop the unhelpful words from coming out.
- Be prepared to look at things from the other's person's perspective.
Think about the person who runs back to grab an item at the grocery store they have forgotten. Who wants to check out, load the car and then come back for that one thing? When I can put myself in the other person's shoes, or at least try to see things from their perspective, then I am more compassionate and better able to exhibit patience.

I do not believe that patience is easy. I do believe there are opportunities to practice patience every day. Quiet moments, small moments that allow us to share the gift of patience with others.

I encourage you as you work to be a patient person to invite God to be your strength. We will not be able to do it by ourselves. I will never be patient on my own strength. I am aware that being patient is a gift to my family, to my neighbors, to you, and even to myself. It is the way that God has called us to live and it is the way I want to be.



God, teach us what it means to have faith in silence. When we face trials that are beyond our understanding, help us to find peace. Help me be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. You set all things in accordance to your time. Remind us to wait patiently and find peace in your plan. AMEN

Pastor Brenda



News about our Youth, Teenagers, and Young Adults

- **Katie Boyer Mason** and **Sara Mason** both enjoyed seeing the play *Footloose* at Penncrest High School. Sara is enjoying doing more volunteer projects.
- **Sam DeVecchis** has been in a play, *Psycho Beach Party*, at Widener University with Lone Brick Theater productions that is closing out its run. He had a part in the play and was also a member of the stage crew. Sammy is packing and getting ready for his study abroad trip to Germany. He will be there for the months of May and June taking courses.
- **Tom Geveke** is taking four Advanced Placement classes at Sun Valley.
- **Matthew Shaw** is really enjoying baseball this season. His favorite position is playing catcher.
- **Stephen Shaw** is really enjoying baseball this season, too. He has even pitched an inning.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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| • May 13 | Mother's Day |
| • May 21 | Last VBS Night until September |
| • May 27 | Memorial Sunday |
| • May 28 | Memorial Day Parade and Picnic |
| • June 3 | Children and Youth Sunday Brunch |
| • June 17 | Father's Day |



Outreach to Main Street Elementary

- We purchased items – pencils, stress balls, and bendables - for the Principal's Cart to support Principal Parker efforts to recognize students at the end of each week. Students can earn "Main Street" bucks for following school and classroom rules and then at the end of week, can "buy" items off the Principal's Cart with their bucks.
- We will be recognizing the teachers, support staff, and volunteers on Thursday, May 3rd by providing snacks during Parent Conferences.
- Twenty students were recognized in April as being Students of the Month throughout the school year. We donated "medals" for them to wear recognizing their achievement.
- Jane and John Kofroth volunteer during the week in a second-grade classroom and have chaperoned two of their field trips.
- We will be recognizing Principal Parker on National Principal Day with a small gift. During her time at Main Street, Principal Parker has encouraged more parent and community involvement to support the students at the school.

April Recap of Church Celebration



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 a craft 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, Joan Decker, Priscilla Mills** and **Jackie Wright** for dying the “real” eggs for the egg hunt and **Linda Cook** for purchasing and/or stuffing the plastic eggs and the chocolate eggs.



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 issues with Wells Fargo which we are in the process of resolving;
- Discussed personnel issues; and
- Continue to investigate on-line giving.
- Discussed the security and fire system. Frank Kulp contacted the company and after numerous calls, we will not be billed for the next eleven months due to excess fees and the lack of service from the company.
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel. Frank Kulp fixed the chapel siding and John Shaw fixed the door to the lift and the sound system in the nursery.
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be taken care of around the Chapel and the Church. The chapel roof has been leaking and it seems that the roofer in 2009 used the wrong size nails to secure the shingles. We are working on getting this issue resolve. The soffit, which was repaired last year, has holes and the paint is peeling. Finally, the new computer purchased for the secretary would not turn on and had to be sent back to the manufacturer.
- We are still discussing the parking lot and how to keep track of community members who use it and what to do about those who park in it without our permission. We are close to resolving this issue.

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*.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – Frank Kulp

We want to hear from you if you are watching the broadcast at home. Please email the church or give the office a call and let us know how you are doing.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Nursery During Worship

The nursery is now available on Sundays during Worship for children up to age 4. Children age 5 and older are encouraged to attend Sunday School after the Children's Sermon in church. Thank you to Tom Geveke, Amanda Harmon and Sarah Mason who offered to help in April. The sign-up sheet for May is in the back of the church.

Mothers' Day May 13, 2018

The basic idea of Mother's Day goes back to the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. In the 16th Century England set aside a Sunday called "Mothering Sunday". In America in 1872 Julia Ward Howe asked that June 2 be set aside to honor Mothers for world peace. In 1905 Anna Jarvis advocated for a National Day to honor Mothers. In 1908 a Mother's Day church service was held on May 10 in West Virginia. Celebrations continued to spread locally and then to the state level through Anna's work. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill which designated the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday to be called Mother's Day.

Join us for Worship on May 13 as we celebrate Mother's Day during our services.

Memorial Day

On Sunday May 27 during Worship we will honor our Veterans who have given their lives in service of our great nation or have served their country and have now passed on.

We are also grateful to the Veterans currently in our church who have served and made sacrifices to defend our freedoms and liberties.

It is an old tradition at Upland Baptist to also honor those who have passed away and donations were made in their name to the Memorial Fund in the past 12 months.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

Karen Johnston's son Aaron is deployed out of the country and we have been praying for him and his unit as well as collecting goodies to send to them. We have sent one package to Aaron and his unit and have another one ready to go in May.

We have three high school seniors graduating this year and would like to recognize them on June 3rd during worship. They have worked hard this year so join us and celebrate their accomplishments.

Katie Boyer

Tom Geveke has been accepted at Penn State Main Campus.

Rachel Miskowic will be going to Delaware County Community College.

Interested in going as a group to a Blue Rocks game? Let Dawn Rafalski know so we can plan.

Men's News

The Annual Men's and Young Men's retreat is scheduled for Friday, July 27 – Sunday, July 29, 2018 at Shippensburg University. The theme is “Nothing is Impossible with God” and “So Let Your Light Shine for Jesus to all!”

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Sunday School

There is an ongoing need for volunteers to teach Sunday School. Teachers are needed for May and June. Please give this some thought as your help is critical in teaching our children Gods plan for them. Please contact Karen Johnston if you are interested.

Summer Lunch

It's time to plan for Summer Lunch. Mark your calendars for Monday, June 25 through Thursday, August 2.

Will coordinate Summer Lunch Training with Pastor Brenda.

Small Group Daytime

Small Group Daytime has one more meeting.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

Outreach

Monday night dinner program is doing very well. We have from 10 to 15 kids for Bible story and dinner. Come join us in the church chapel from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary is having snacks for the teacher during conference times in May.

The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 28, 2018. The committee for the parade will be collecting monetary donations for food and drinks. Please drop your monetary gift off at the church office. Thank you in advance. Come join us for the parade and picnic.

Food Bank

The Food bank needs cold cereal and plastic bags. Please remember can goods as well. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping at the Food Bank.

Worship

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



Once again, we will be sponsoring 6 weeks of activities and free lunch for any child (18 and under) who would like to join us. We have decided to try doing 6 weeks at the beginning of the summer. Our hope is that the notices we send out through the schools will net us more participation if we start soon after school lets out.

Mark your calendars for Monday, June 25 through Thursday, August 2.

Monday – Bible Story and activities

Tuesday – Craft Day

Wednesday – Board Game Day

Thursday – Library Day with Guest reader

Activities are from 11:00 to 11:45am

Lunch is served from 11:45 am to 12:15pm

Please plan to volunteer this summer as we *Love God! Love Others!*

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MAY

No International Birthdays for May 2018

May Birthdays

- 1 Matthew Shaw (2011)
- 4 Noah Geveke
- 5 David Geveke
Darlene Pysker
- 15 Akky Geveke
- 17 Thomas Geveke
- 22 Sandy Kushner
- 26 Jackie Wright
- 27 Hans Geveke
- 28 Stephen Kalichak, Jr. (2017)

May Anniversaries

- 4 Brian and Courtney Klimek
- 10 Joan and Dennis Decker