

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## November 2016

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

Email: [uplandbaptist@verizon.net](mailto:uplandbaptist@verizon.net)

Website: [www.uplandbaptist.org](http://www.uplandbaptist.org)

## Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,  
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something  
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.  
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations  
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge  
Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes  
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary  
Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things.  
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are  
also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive.  
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles  
and they can become your blessings.

Author Unknown

*Be thankful in all things and at all times. Somedays are more challenging than others to be thankful, but it is those days that being thankful is so very important. There is always something to be thankful for no matter what is happening in life. May your gratitude overflow.*

*Pastor Brenda*

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

### **Budget Committee Meeting (October 11)**

- Prepared the first draft of the 2017 Preliminary Budget.

### **Legal Corporation Highlights (October 25)**

- Reviewed and discussed the finances of the Church,
  - Approved the 2017 Proposed Budget,
  - Approved the Stewardship Letter,
  - Discussed the repairs that have been completed and those that still need to be done,
  - Approved a new contract for the cemetery,
  - Approved the snow removal contract, and
  - Approved the distribution of moneys for the Advent Offering and Christmas Cards.
- ### **Ministry Council Highlights (October 25)**
- Reported that the Special Collection and Bake Sale for our Area Ministers raised \$412.73. Thank you for your generosity!
  - Discussed appointing a nominating committee, and
  - Each Team Leader discussed upcoming events and activities.



## CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** continues to work with animals. She has also been enjoying art classes.
- **Tom Geveke** ran a personal best at the Paul Short Invitational as part of the Sun Valley High School Cross Country Team.
- **Casey Klimek** is dancing in the 6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia! Please tune in to see her during "Fantapulous"!
- **Sara Mason** has really enjoyed field trips to Bette's Fun Center and Linvilla Orchards! She is also learning Spanish.
- **Matthew Shaw** says school is more fun than staying at home. He decorated a spider pumpkin for the contest at school.
- **Stephen Shaw** continues to enjoy riding his bike to school and playing soccer. He recently cooked out with the Cub Scouts.
- **VBS Night on Mondays** has had some fluctuations in attendance this year, and recently we have had an increase in our attendance. But throughout the fall, we have had some children who have been our "core group" and have been very faithful attending almost every week. We would like to recognize the following children for their faithful attendance.

**Levi Santiago**

**Joyce Scott**

**Precious Scott**

**Rowan Hewes**

**Matthew Shaw**

**Stephen Shaw**

## MINISTRY ~ Dawn Rafalski

### Ministry to Members

November 27<sup>th</sup>, following worship, we will have a “Souper Social” in the chapel. Come, warm up with some soup and make a holiday craft.

Our home communion teams are doing a good job of getting out to our shut-ins every month. If you would like to join in this very rewarding mission talk to Dawn Rafalski.

We have seven college students this year. It’s nice to send them cards to let them know we are thinking of them and supporting their studies.

### Men’s News

The next Riverside Men’s Breakfast will be on Saturday, November 19th at 8:15 a.m. at Springfield Baptist Church, 184 N. Norwinden Dr., Springfield, PA

### MEMO FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**PLEASE NOTE:** When issuing a check to the church, please remember to fill in the “pay to the order of” line on your check. There have been some instances where it was blank and I filled it in; however, it should be in the handwriting of the payer.

If I miss it when making the deposit, the bank will not take the deposit.

## 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. We serve an average of 10 children each week. In addition to our “regulars” we’ve been blessed to welcome several kids who are new to VBS. They became acquainted with our church this summer through the Summer Lunch Program. Thank you to each one of our volunteer cooks and to all who so faithfully help every week.

Please remember our VBS program in your prayers.

## **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.

## **Bible Study**

Bible Study group meets on Thursdays, at 10 AM. We continue with our study of 1 Samuel. Come and join the group.

The group will not meet on Thursday, 11/10.

## **Small Groups**

Small Groups are reading "*Crazy Stories...Sane God*" by John Alan Turner. These stories, taken straight from the Scriptures, are crazy! They're full of peculiar details that make you wonder why God included them in His Word! Mr. Turner's sharp insight into the lives of these characters and the lessons their crazy stories tell us about our God makes for a fascinating "read" and lively discussions!

There's still time to join a group. These are the dates:

**Tuesdays:** November 1 and 15; December 6. 2017: February 7 and 21; April 4 and 18; May 2 and 16.

**One group meets at 12:00 noon.** Bring your lunch. We'll supply dessert. **The other group meets at 7:00 P.M.** Dessert will be served.

## **COMMUNICATIONS ~ John Kofroth**

### **Website**

Our church website archives the last 12 issues of The Spire. Just go to [www.Uplandbaptist.org](http://www.Uplandbaptist.org) and press the "Spire" button. Each of the last 12 months is listed on the left side of the page. Just press the one you want to see.

Each Sunday's Worship Service Bulletin is posted on Thursday.

Please let me know if there is anything special you might like to see on our website. If you have any photos you would like to share, send them along and I will post them.

### **Facebook *Private* Group Devotional**

Each morning a devotional reading and scripture reference from "Our Daily Journey" is posted on our Upland Baptist Facebook group page. Along with the reading there is a "food for thought" question that asks us to share how the lesson and scripture might apply to us and what's happening in our lives. This is a very good opportunity for us to share our thoughts---to listen and learn from each other.

This is not a public page. Only members can see it. We have 19 members. Keep in mind---there are no right or wrong answers. The questions are never meant to be a test or a platform.

You need to be on Facebook and just ask Pastor Brenda or John Kofroth to be part of the group.

## OUTREACH ~ Joan Decker

Monday night dinner program is back along with a bible story. Come join us in the church chapel from 6-7 pm.

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary is going well. The church family has been great with items that were collected during the summer for the children to use in the classrooms.

If someone is interested in running Grocery Bingo, please call the church office and leave your phone number with the secretary. I will get back to you with the details.

Remember the Food Bank with canned goods and other items such as cereal, boxed dinners and pasta. Also, if anyone is interested in helping out at the Food Bank please call the church office at 610-874-7474.

Our Christmas "Giving Tree" gifts once again will be with the residents of Belvedere,

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Plan Ahead . . .

- November 13 Pledge Sunday
- November 20 Bells Play during Worship
- November 26 Decorating the Church
- November 27 Church Social and Activity
- December 18 Giving Tree & Christmas Cards begin
- December 18 All Church Christmas Program
- December 18 Bells Play during Worship
- December 18 Last Day for Christmas Cards
- December 19 *Night of Music* - No VBS Night
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
- December 25 Christmas Day Service
- December 26 No VBS Night
- January 2 No VBS Night



## ADVENT ENVELOPES

This year, the congregation's Advent Offering will be split between two of our church's ministries.

Half of the money from the Advent Offering will go to our children's programming which reaches children in the Church and the community. This includes Sunday School during worship service and our Monday Night VBS program. Materials are expensive. The other half of the offering will go to our work with Main Street Elementary School. This includes recognizing students with awards and treats, stocking the Friday Recognition Cart, providing refreshments for parent gatherings and student programs.



## **CHRISTMAS CARD FUND**



Are you sending Christmas cards this year? Be sure to include your friends at Upland Baptist Church by adding a card to the Church's Christmas tree. By giving one card, you can send Christmas wishes to the entire congregation and provide funds to one of our children's programs. You can bring in your cards starting **November 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please put your card and donation in the boxes at the back and front of the Church by **December 18<sup>th</sup>** so your name appears in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Church Bulletins. Your name will also appear in the January *Spire*. All donations will go to our Summer VBS Activities and Lunch Program. Donations will be used to purchase more books for our lending library, craft supplies, and some additional board games. Your donations will be appreciated.

### **Home and International Missionary birthdays for November**

Ms. Jeni Pedzinski 11/2  
P.O. Box 29  
Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand

Email: [jeni.pedzinski@internationalministries.org](mailto:jeni.pedzinski@internationalministries.org)

Rev. Stan Slade                      11/16  
2 Lenape Circle  
Royersford, PA 19468

Email: [stan.slade@internationalministries.org](mailto:stan.slade@internationalministries.org)

Mrs. Ruth Fox                      11/24  
P.O. Box 64 – A Muang  
Chiang Mai 57000 Thailand

Email: [ruth.fox@internationalministries.org](mailto:ruth.fox@internationalministries.org)

### **November Birthdays**

1      Ruth Jaworsky  
3      Jack Robert Murphy  
13     Dawn Rafalski  
15     Betty Hamilton  
18     Patricia Irace  
22     Brian Klimek  
23     Sara Mason  
27     Helen Rhoads

There are no Anniversaries in November

Thank you everyone who supported Cub Scout Pack 493 by purchasing popcorn. I really enjoy the camping trips the popcorn sales pay for. Thank you for helping me earn an overnight camping trip to the USS New Jersey. I am really excited about the trip.

Stephen Shaw

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We would like to thank all of our church friends for their visits, calls, food and cards over the past few months. A special thanks to Dawn & Iris for bringing home communion every month.

God bless you all.

Love,  
Herb & Florence Osborne





## IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS!

Please use the order form below. The order deadline is **Sunday, November 20, 2016**. Turn in your order by placing this form and payment in the offering plate, or by dropping your order off at the church office. Payment must be received at time of order. Please make all checks payable to Upland Baptist Church.

If you have any questions, call Angela in the church office 610-874-7474. (Note: Miller Greenhouse's prices have not changed in six years.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Small Red (6" size, 4 to 6 blooms, \$7.50)

\_\_\_\_\_ Large Red (7" size, 10 to 14 blooms, \$13.25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Large White (7" size, 10 to 14 blooms, \$13.25)

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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