

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## November 2018

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# Having a Grateful Heart

November is notional gratitude month. It is a time where we focus on everything we have to be thankful for. We gather with family and friends to give thanks together. Scripture tells us that we should be a people who give thanks.

## **Philippians 4:6-7**

**6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **1 Chronicles 16:34**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

## **Psalms 106:1**

**1** Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

As we talk about the future of Upland Baptist Church and look at our finances, it can begin to feel as if there is not much to give thanks for, but we know that this is not true. We only need to look around at the ministry that is happening. How many times have we encouraged our Police Department? How many ways have we supported our Fire Department? How many children have we feed, physically and spiritually? How many times have we shown the love of God to others? We have much to be grateful for as God continues to love us and allow us to share his love with others.

We must be people who give thanks if we are going to live out our faith. We need to cultivate a grateful heart. There is always something to be thankful for, even during difficult times. I am including a Gratitude calendar and am challenging you to use it for the month of November. Each day it will ask you to give thanks for something, maybe something you have not thought to be grateful for before.


Let us be intentional about giving thanks for what we have been given. Let us be intentional about giving thanks for what we are able to give. Let us be intentional about giving thanks for the God who loves us. Let us be grateful people.

When we have a heart full of gratitude, even the most difficult days have joy, hope and peace. God wants to give much to us. Are we ready to receive with grateful hearts?

*Pastor Brenda*

# grat·i·tude:

the quality of being thankful;  
readiness to show appreciation  
for and to return kindness.

				<b>1</b> <b>What are you grateful for? Spend 5 minutes making a list.</b>	<b>2</b> <b>What is your favorite part of every season? Why?</b>	<b>3</b> <b>List 5 smells you love and how they make you feel?</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Why are you thankful for today? Find at least 10 things.</b>	<b>5</b> <b>What elements of nature are you most grateful for?</b>	<b>6</b> <b>List a current struggle you are facing. What are some positive things that can come from it?</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Why are you grateful for the place you grew up in?</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Write about your parents or caretakers and why you are thankful for them.</b>	<b>9</b> <b>List three things you love about yourself.</b>	<b>10</b> <b>List 3 things you dislike about yourself, then list something positive about each quality.</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Write a letter to someone in your life you are grateful for.</b>	<b>12</b> <b>How has technology enhanced your life? Use it to say thanks.</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Describe a trip that you are grateful for and how it changed you.</b>	<b>14</b> <b>What part of your day are you most grateful for?</b>	<b>15</b> <b>What have you learned lately?</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Think about your life a year ago, what are the differences. What are you grateful for?</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Find 5 ways to show gratitude towards other people.</b>

18 What have you witnessed lately that has reminded you that people are kind.	19 Think about the last time you laughed.	20 What puts you in a good mood? Be grateful for those things.	21 How many of your basic needs do you not need to think about meeting today?	22 What is one thing you recently experienced that gave you a sense of awe and wonder?	23 How have your spiritual practices fulfilled you recently?	24 Who really listens to you when you talk? Take time to listen to them.
25 Think about something you do every day. Be grateful for it.	26 What is something you take for granted every day?	27 How has modern medicine improved your life?	28 What is the most beautiful thing you have seen today?	29 What is the kindest thing someone has done for you lately?	30 How has being intentional about being thankful impacted your daily life?	

Rejoice ALWAYS  
Pray CONTINUALLY  
Give Thanks  
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

1 THESS. 5:16-18



# CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katelyn DeVecchis** is married! She married Anthony Pomponio in October and is honeymooning in Bermuda. Congratulations to the newlyweds!
- **Sammy DeVecchis** is volunteering at Valley Forge National Park. His application was accepted for Alternative Spring Break. He will do service projects, build homes, storm clean up, etc. His destination has yet to be determined.
- **Katie Boyer-Mason and Sara Mason** enjoyed a trip to Linvilla Orchards to celebrate fall!
- **Matthew Shaw** sold over \$2000.00 in popcorn to help his Cub Scout pack have lots of adventures this year! He is dressing up as a campfire for Halloween.
- **Stephen Shaw** is enjoying Running Club at Northley and camping with the Boy Scouts.
- **VBS Night on Mondays** has had some fluctuations in attendance this year, but, throughout the fall, we have had some children who have been our “core group” and have been very faithful attending either every week, or only missing one Monday night. We would like to recognize the following children for their faithful attendance.

- **Autumm**
- **Quinn**
- **Darren Scott**
- **Joyce Scott**
- **Precious Scott**
- **Matthew Shaw**



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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

- Prepared the first draft of the 2019 Proposed Budget
- Changed Pledge Sunday to November 18, 2018

### **Legal Corporation Highlights (October 24)**

- Reviewed and discussed the finances of the Church,
- Approved the Stewardship Letter to be sent out to church members – please read it carefully;
- Approved the 2019 Proposed Budget;
- Discussed the repairs that have been completed and those that still need to be done,
- Noted that the bushes in front of the church sign have been removed;
- Sign in front of the Church will be painted and new plantings will be added;
- Noted that a tree had been removed in the side front yard;
- Approved the distribution of moneys for the Advent Offering and Christmas Cards; and
- Approved the distribution of the money for the Lenten Offering.

### **Ministry Council Highlights (October 24)**

- Discussed the finances of the Food Bank;
- Discussed appointing a nominating committee, and
- Discussed upcoming events and activities with more information elsewhere in the *Spire*.

## PASTOR APPRECIATION

Thank you to everyone who participated in the worship service on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Pastor Appreciation – **Katie Boyer-Mason, Linda Cook, Joan Decker, Frank Kulp, Sue Kulp, and Priscilla Mills**. Thank you to **Dawn Rafalski** for her help with recognizing our Regional Pastors. Finally, thank you to the members of the Ministry Council who supplied the food and drink for the Sunday Social after the worship service.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>**.

Please put your card and donation in the boxes at the back and front of the Church by **December 16<sup>th</sup>** so your name appears in the Christmas Eve Day and Night 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.

## ADVENT ENVELOPES

This year, the congregation's Advent Offering will be split between two of our church's ministries- Children's Programs and Main Street.

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.





# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Plan Ahead . . .

- November 11 No VBS Night
- November 18 Pledge Sunday
  - Bells Play during Worship
- November 25 Giving Tree Begins
  - Christmas Cards Begin
  - Fellowship Lunch and Craft
- December 1 Decorating the Church
- December 9 Blessing of the Giving Tree –
  - All Gifts should be under the tree!
- December 16 Last Day for Christmas Cards
- December 17 *Night of Music*
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
  - No VBS Night
- December 31 No VBS Night
- January 5 Undecorating the Church
- January 7 Annual Reports Due
  - VBS Night
- January 14 VBS Night
- January 21 No VBS Night
- January 28 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

# **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**

### **Worship at Belvedere**

Sunday, November 25 at 2:30 pm. Please let Pastor Brenda know if you can go.

We plan to use our Giving Tree at Christmas to provide gifts for these residents.

### **Abundance of Blessings**

Take time to share your blessings on this month of Thanksgiving on the board at the back of the church. Make a donation to provide a turkey or a meal to the needy in our church community, if you are able.

### **Joyful Noise Bell Choir**

The Joyful Bell Choir enhanced our worship service on October 21. The group will play again on November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful to have such dedicated members provide us with special music.

### **Nursery**

Nursery is available during worship on an as needed basis. Let one of the greeters know if you need this service so we can find a member to be there for your child.

### **Christmas Night of Music**

Reserve Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for a special service of music, hymns and carols. There is a rumor that Santa Claus will be making an appearance. Bring your friends, neighbors, and grandchildren so they can enjoy celebrating the Christmas Season with music. Join us in the Chapel afterwards for refreshments. We will be asking for donations of decorated/iced cupcakes.



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

What a good time of fellowship we had celebrating Pastor Brenda in October. The bake sale was terrific and made approximately \$185 to be given to our ABCOPAD Regional Staff in appreciation for all that they do for us.

It's taco lunch time again. The next fellowship lunch will be on November 25<sup>th</sup> following worship. We will be doing a craft after lunch so come out and join in the fun.

Aaron Johnston is nearing the end of his deployment and has expressed his appreciation for all the boxes of goodies we have sent. He mentioned how much his troops looked forward to opening the boxes. The Monday night VBS children wrote notes thanking all of Aaron's unit for their service and will be included in the last box we are sending this month.

## **DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston**

### **Sunday School**

There is an ongoing need for volunteers to teach Sunday School. Teachers are needed for October, November and December. 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.

## **OUTREACH – Joan Decker**

### **Worship**

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

### **Food Bank**

The Food Bank is always in need of help. The Food Bank will be collecting pre-packaged stuffing and plastic bags for the month of November. Please support the food bank in any way. Drop off donations at the church. Pray for the food bank and the workers who give their time in helping the community. The food bank continues to need canned goods as well as monetary donations. A little history about the food bank, did you know that the food bank has been in our community for over 55 years. At one time it was run from Camp Upland and now it is at Upland Baptist Church. Some of the people who ran it are Axel Williams and Walter Rhoads, Louise Sauk has been there for six years. The volunteers work hard loading the grocery bags each week to the regular resident and every two weeks to the seniors and those that are disabled.

## **Monday Night VBS**

Come join us in the church chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 PM for dinner and a Bible story.

## **Halloween Trunk-or-Treat**

Please join us on Wednesday, October 31 at 6:00 pm for Trunk-or-Treat.

## **Main Street Elementary**

Main Street Elementary School has members of our church giving their time to help with class rooms. Jane and John Kofroth are working in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Sandy Kushner is working in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Thank you for helping.

## **Abundance of Blessings**

Join us as we celebrate the *Abundance of Blessings* we have received. Beginning Sunday, October 7, 2018 there will be an opportunity to share the abundance of our blessings through making Thanksgiving dinner happen for a family in need. A \$10 donation will purchase a turkey and \$30 will provide a thanksgiving meal for a family in need through the Upland Baptist Food Bank. We invite you to make a donation and write something you are grateful for and place it on the board in the back of the sanctuary. God has given us much, let us give much in return.

## **Christmas Tree Giving Gifts**

Our Christmas Tree Giving Gifts once again will be with the residents of Belvedere.

# HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR NOVEMBER 2018

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## **November Birthdays**

7      Herb Koziol (Nov. 7, 1928)  
13     Dawn Rafalski  
18     Patricia Irace  
22     Brian Klimek  
23     Sara Mason  
27     Helen Rhoads

## **November Anniversaries**

None



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

Please use the order form below. The order deadline is **Sunday, November 18, 2018**. 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 Lori in the church office 610-874-7474. (Note: Miller Greenhouse's prices have not changed in seven years.)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Small Red (6" size, 4 to 6 blooms, \$7.30)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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