

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

November 2019

Upland Baptist Church
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Chapter 7: Do Not Worry

Abraham and I continued to listen as Jesus taught. The more I heard, the more confused I became. There were so many lessons that Jesus shared that seemed impossible to live out. I wasn't sure what to do. So, I just kept listening and writing in my journal, trying to take it all in, trying to learn what Jesus was teaching.

"Malachi, do you think we worry too much?" Abraham asked one afternoon.

We had just listened to Jesus tell us not to worry. He started off by saying that no one can serve two masters. I understood that all too well! When I was back at home, I found myself in the position when my dad wanted me to do one thing, but my uncle wanted something completely different. They were supposed to be working together, so it was difficult to know what to do. There wasn't a way to make them both happy. When Jesus said you can't serve both God and money that made sense to me.

Then Jesus went on to say that we should not worry about our lives, about what we eat or drink, nor should we worry about our bodies or what we will wear. After all, the birds don't plant or harvest, but they have plenty to eat. And the lilies don't labor or spin, but they are beautifully dressed.

Jesus finished by saying something I had written down in my journal just as he said it: *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

This is what I was thinking about as Abraham asked me his question. I shook my head to clear my thoughts before I answered him.

"What do you mean?" I responded to Abraham.

"Well, Malachi, it seems that everyday we scurry around hunting something to eat. Wondering what we will find. Hoping we aren't noticed as we forage. We seem to spend a lot of time worrying about what we are going to eat," Abraham said.

I didn't answer right away, and Abraham didn't push. He could tell I was thinking about what he had said. He asked a good question. We did spend a lot of time working to get food and wondering where we would find our next meal. Were we worrying too much, was Jesus asking us to trust him more?

I finally shook my head in confusion and said that I simply didn't know. We spent the rest of the afternoon gathering some food and thinking.

That evening as we sat in the firelight watching and listening to the disciples discuss their day, I turned to Abraham and said, "I've been thinking about what you asked earlier. Maybe we are worrying too much."

“What should we do? We have to eat. Are we supposed to wait for food to drop in our laps? What does it mean not to worry about our lives, what we will eat or what we will wear?” Abraham said in frustration.

“Look at this,” and I showed him what I had written in my journal: *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* “I think Jesus is trying to tell us that we need to put God first. Instead of worrying about ourselves and what we need, he is asking us to trust him with all our needs.”

“Does that mean we shouldn’t forage for food?” Abraham asked skeptically.

“I don’t think so. I think it means that we should trust that God will provide. He will show us where the food is. He will be with us. Even on days when there isn’t much to eat, God is still present and watching over us. I think God is asking us to put him first in our lives,” I answered.

“Not as easy as it sounds,” Abraham said quietly.

I nodded, because honestly, I didn’t think it sounded very easy. There were so many unknowns in life. Would one of the disciples find us in their bags? Would we get stepped on as we walked with them? Would we find food? Would we get left behind? Would we ever see our families again? There were so many questions, so many things I worried about in the quiet of the night. Yet, Jesus had said do not worry.

As I continued to contemplate Jesus’ words, I focused on his words to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. There would always be questions. There would always be uncertainties. Life was full worries. It wasn’t that they would go away, but instead of focusing on them, God calls us to place our focus on him. It helps to put things into perspective. Abraham and I would still need to be careful and hunt for food, but we could trust that God was taking care of us in the midst of our days.

That night as Abraham and I settled in to sleep, I quietly committed myself to God. I asked him to help me trust in him. I went to sleep knowing there would be difficult times ahead but resting in the joy of placing my faith in God. Following Jesus was the best choice I had ever made.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 6:24-34.

There are always things in which we can worry. The challenge becomes placing our trust in God instead of focusing on what could go wrong or on what we need. *Seek first his kingdom* and everything else will fall into place. When we put Jesus first, then the rest of life comes into perspective.

Pastor Brenda



CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Oliver Kulp** is enjoying being in Cub Scouts. He, too, is selling popcorn. Oliver has been reading books to his sister, Harlow. He likes first grade!
- **Matthew Shaw** sold lots of popcorn this year to help his Cub Scout Pack go on lots of adventures. He has already read over 750,000 words this year. He is well on his way to making his goal of over a million words this year.
- **Stephen Shaw** advanced to Second Class in Boy Scouts. He is excited that he was able to start his own fire at the last campout. He is running Cross Country again this year and improving his time.
- **VBS Night on Mondays** has had great attendance this school year, and we have some children who have been our “core group.” They 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.

Perfect Attendance

- **Arryonna Byrd**
- **Autumm Irvin**
- **Quinn Irvin**
- **Darren Scott**
- **Precious Scott**
- **Matthew Shaw**
- **Stephen Shaw**
- **Savannah Worrell**

Missed One Week

- **TJ Cosgrove**
- **Melanie Krapf**
- **Joyce Scott**



Also, welcome to **John Gallagher** and **Theresa Rowan** who have joined us as helpers on Monday nights!

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Budget Committee Meeting (October 9)

- Prepared the first draft of the 2020 Proposed Budget

Legal Corporation Highlights (October 22)

- 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 2020 Proposed Budget;
 - Discussed completed repairs,
 - Noted that the secretary's annual review was completed'
 - Noted all the work that was completed on Work Day on Saturday, October 18th. Both of the cemeteries were cleaned up, the shed was repaired, the large room on the 1st floor of the Chapel and the closets in it were cleaned out, the former office in the Chapel was cleaned and straightened, and the flower beds around the church were winterized. Thank you to **Linda Cook, Dave Geveke, Frank Kulp, Charlene Miller, Dan Miller, Florence Osborne, Dawn Rafalski, Pastor Brenda Shaw, and Matthew Shaw.**
 - Approved the distribution of moneys for the Advent Offering and Christmas Cards; and.
 - Voted to call a Congregational Meeting on November 17th
- ## **Ministry Council Highlights (October 22)**
- 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 20th for Pastor Appreciation – **Linda Cook, Joan Decker, Dave Geveke, Kathy Geveke, Frank Kulp, and Sue Kulp.** 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 24th**.

Please put your card and donation in the boxes at the back and front of the Church by **December 15th** 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 towards supporting our Bell Choir members for all their extra time and efforts. One suggestion was to have a Bell Choir "Thank You" Dinner. Your donations would go towards purchasing the food and supplies needed to prepare the dinner.

ADVENT ENVELOPES

The Advent Offering can be turned in anytime during the Advent season. **This offering is over and above your usual envelope giving.** Please pray for our Advent offering as our contributions have gone down the last two years since we have switched to envelopes.

This year, the congregation's Advent Offering will go towards Outreach to Children. This includes our ministry to children on Monday nights through the Monday Night VBS program and Main Street School. As our attendance grows on Monday nights, crafts and food become costly. We also want to continue our work with Main Street Elementary School and be able to offer more support to the school. This includes recognizing students for their academic achievements with awards and treats, stocking the Friday Recognition Cart, providing refreshments for parent gatherings and student programs and special activities like Field Day.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- November 11 No VBS Night
- November 17 Pledge Sunday
Giving Tree Begins
Congregational Meeting
- November 24 Bells Play
Christmas Cards Begin
- November 30 Decorating the Church
- December 1 Fellowship Lunch and Craft
- December 8 Blessing of the Giving Tree –
All Gifts should be under the tree!
- December 15 Last Day for Christmas Cards
(If you want to be listed in the Spire)
- December 16 *Night of Music*
VBS Night – Dinner and *Night of Music*
- December 23 No VBS Night
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
- December 30 No VBS Night
- January 4 Undecorating the Church
- January 6 Annual Reports Due
VBS Night
- January 13 VBS Night
- January 20 No VBS Night
- January 27 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
- February 1 Miniature Golf at Linvilla followed by Dinner

PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

No Property Report this month.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 17, 2019

The Upland Baptist Church Board of Directors has called for a special meeting of the entire Church and the Legal Corporation on Sunday, November 17. The meeting will be held directly following the Worship Service. The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss suspending the bylaws in regard to upcoming nominations for the Legal Corporation and the Ministry Council. Please make an effort to attend the meeting.

UBC Church Camera/Broadcast

It's great to hear that folks are watching Church service in their homes. Additional camera operators are always welcomed. The learning curve is short. Please e-mail the church or give the office a call if you're interested.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Veteran's Day

Sunday November 10th. Be sure to look for the display of the Veterans who are active in our church, Veterans from our church families, and the Veterans who have passed away. American Veterans embody the ideals upon which America was founded. We thank them for bravely doing what they were called to do so that we can safely do what we are free to do.

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

The Joyful Noise provided special music in church on October 27th. They will play again on November 24th. Don't miss the music they have to offer. We are thankful for the dedicated members who spend extra time to enhance our Worship services.

Worship at Belvedere

Sunday November 24 at 2:30pm. We plan to use our Giving Tree gifts again this year to make Christmas brighter for the residents at Belvedere.

Christmas Night of Music

Reserve Monday December 16th at 6:30 pm for a special service of hymns, music and carols. Bring your neighbors, your friends, your children and your grandchildren so they can celebrate the Christmas season with music and a story for the children. Join us in the chapel afterwards for refreshments and fellowship. We are asking for donations of decorated/iced cupcakes. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church.

As we approach Thanksgiving, think about all the blessings that you have received in the last year. Find new ways to express your gratitude and show the love of God in everything that you do.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

Pastor Appreciation Sunday and Bake Sale to benefit ABCOPAD as well as fellowshiping together was a good time. The proceeds from the bake sale were a little over \$150.00. Thank you to Jackie and Courtney for organizing and setting up the bake sale as well as all the people who donated baked goods, etc. for the sale.

Attendance is growing at our monthly worship service at Belvedere. The residents are so happy to see us. We will be going on November 24th. Please see Pastor Brenda if you would like to join us.

Our next Sunday Social will be Taco Sunday on December 1st with a craft activity for The Night of Music invitations.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Happy November! Children's Church is back in full swing. We are always looking for adults in our congregation to share their love of our Lord on Sunday mornings. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to participate.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

VBS Night

Come join us in the chapel on Monday nights from 6 – 7 pm to help with dinner, the Bible story or the activity.

Main Street Elementary

There are volunteer opportunities available at Main Street Elementary. Please call the church office for more information 610-874-7474 if you would like to help.

Food Bank

The Food Bank received a thoughtful and bountiful donation of 179 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable items from the Delaware/Philadelphia Counties PSEA-Retired Members. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by those served at the Food Bank. We are grateful for the much-needed additions to our shelves.

Please remember the Food Bank with **monetary donations** for the month of November. The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods as well as plastic bags. Please support the food bank in any way by dropping off donations at the church. The Food Bank is always in need of help. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

Abundance of Blessings

Join us as we celebrate the *Abundance of Blessings* we have received. Beginning Sunday, October 27, 2019 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 place it in the designated envelope. 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.

Worship

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

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR NOVEMBER 2019

All cards for International Missionaries are to be sent to the following address:

International Ministries
1003 W. 9th Ave., Suite A
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Ms. Jeni Pedzinski 11/2
Email: jeni.pedzinski@internationalministries.org

Rev. Dr. Stanley Slade 11/16
2 Lenape Circle
Royersford, PA 19468
Email: stan.slade@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Ruth Fox 11/24
Email: ruth.fox@internationalministries.org

November Birthdays

13 Dawn Rafalski
19 Doug Scott
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 17, 2019**. 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 eight years.)

Name: _____

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

_____ Large Red (7" size, 10 to 14 blooms, \$13.50)

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____