

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## October 2018

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# Hiking with God

One morning while on vacation in Indiana, I got up early to drive my nephew to work. His vehicle was in the shop and my sister was going to work very early, so I offered to be his driver. Since I was going to be in Danville, I decided to take my morning walk in Ellis Park. I was vaguely familiar with Ellis Park. As a child I had attended summer day camp there. As a young adult I had attended concerts in the park. In recent years, we had stopped and let the boys play on the playground.

Upon arriving, I parked and just began following the path. I had no idea where it was going to take me. I soon discovered that I was not the only person walking in the park early in the morning. There seemed to be a whole community of people who walked and a very nice paved path for the purpose. I walked until the end of the path and realized that I had not walked nearly far enough. I thought I might need to walk in the neighborhood surrounding the park. As I neared the end of the paved path, I realized that it crossed the road and continued.

I was very curious about where the path would lead. It quickly turned from paved, to packed dirt, to grass. I found myself walking around the perimeter of a large field. I wasn't thrilled as my feet were getting wet from the damp grass. Before I could convince myself to turn around, I discovered a hiking trail.

The trail was wonderful. I hiked for about 2 miles along a stream, through the trees, up and down hills. As I hiked I found myself experiencing the presence of God in a way that was inspirational.

I had no map of the hiking trails in Blanton Woods. I did not even know I was in Blanton Woods until I happened upon a sign that told me I was at the sound entrance. There were some moments of unease, even a little fear that I would get turned around and not be able to find the van again. I knew that I could not retrace my steps, I had made too many turns. As I worried about being lost, I remember that God calls the lost to him. One of my favorite hymns is *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. Read the words to verse 2 and 3.

This is my glad commemoration, that 'til now I've safely come  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God  
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts above

This hymn allows us to sing of the joy of being found. God searches us out when we are lost. He looks for us and he is pleased, thrilled even when we are safe at home with him. As I walked through the woods, not sure where I was, I rejoiced that God had found me and called me his own.

When I got to a place where I had to make a choice, I felt God speak to me again. There was a very distinct place in the trail where I had to choose, go left, go right. I had no idea where either direction would take me. I had no idea if one direction would be safer, an easier walk, or take me back towards my van. I simply had to make a choice and see where the path took me.

Life is so often life that. We have choices in front of us, but we can't know how one choice will affect the rest of our days. We must make a choice and see it through. As I walked through the woods I came to a place where there was a *do not enter* sign and just past it a sign reading *enter*. I thought how much easier life would be if there were such clear signs on the direction we were to take. Being people of faith, means that we often must step out, not knowing exactly what will befall. We must trust that God will go with us, even when we are not 100% sure of the destination. Sometimes we go, only because we feel compelled to keep moving, completely unsure what lies ahead.

I was grateful that I continued walking, I saw wonderful sights. I entered a pasture where 3 deer were grazing. They seemed unaffected by me as I stopped and watched them. I walked to the edge of a cliff to gaze down at the tiny creek that meandered by. I heard the morning songs of birds and watched as countless insects made their way across my path. There were many joys on my journey, joys that were unexpected, but wonderful.

Throughout the woods there were several benches. I did not take advantage of many of them but was reassured there were places to rest if I needed them. As I passed them I was reminded about how Jesus took time away to spend time with the Father. He purposefully found time to be alone, to rest, to pray. Those benches reminded me of the gift of being in God's presence, of being intentional about slowing down and seeking out God.

There was also a fallen log lying at the edge of the path where I walked. As I passed it I heard God remind me that sometimes we grow weary and need a rest. There are times in our day to day life that we grow tired, sometimes we are physically tired, sometimes we are tired of the drama, the games that people play, sometimes we are tired because of the hurt we experience. In those moments, we often find ourselves without the strength to go another step. And even in those moments, God speaks to us and makes a place of rest for us.

The familiar words of Psalm 23 speak to us about quiet places of rest.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

As I was making my way around the field once again to begin my trek back to civilization, I paused to look at some flowers growing beside the trail. They were lovely yellow Black-eyed Susans. What struck me as I looked at them was how different they appeared the closer I was to them. From far away, I only saw some yellow dots in amongst the green vegetation. As I got closer, the flowers began to appear. Up close, I could see the different shades of each petal. Each perspective was beautiful in its own way.

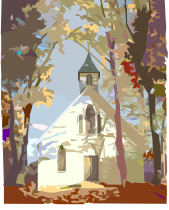
In that moment, I heard God calling me to be sure that I wasn't focused on my perspective. It is so easy to see the world through my own eyes and not to see as God sees, not to have any perspective but my own. Those black-eyed susans reminded me that perspective is helpful as we look at this world. Things are often not as they seem at first.

My walk that morning was completely unexpected. I had no idea that Blanton Woods even existed. God used that walk to remind me of His presence, to nurture my spirit and to encourage my walk. It was an inspirational morning for me.

As I walked, I took some pictures on my cell phone. I have several of them framed and hanging on my office wall. They are what I look at each day while I am sitting at my desk. Those pictures remind me of the lessons God taught as I walked that July morning. You are invited to drop by the office and see the photos for yourself. It is my hope that they speak to you as they have to me.

*Pastor Brenda*





## **PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY**

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> will be Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We will mark Pastor Brenda's 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as the Pastor of Upland Baptist Church. Then, join us in the Chapel after the Worship Service for some social time and a BAKE SALE. You will be able to personally thank our Pastor for her caring, dedication, and ministry to the congregation of our Church. If you wish to bring a card, there will be baskets available as you walk into Church and also in the chapel.



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

### **Legal Corporation Highlights**

- Reviewed the finances and investments of the Church. Thank you to everyone who has been fulfilling their pledges.
- Reviewed the repairs that have been completed around the Church including the chair lift and tree removal.
- Discussed the repairs that still need to be completed including continued work on the soffit and the Chapel roof. Both are very **costly** repairs.
- Discussed the yearly review for our church secretary, Lori Waser held on September 5<sup>th</sup> with Linda Cook, Frank Kulp, and Pastor Brenda. Lori is doing an excellent job as our secretary!
- Approved adding Columbus Day and Veteran's Day as paid holidays. The office will be closed on those days.
- Budget Meeting: Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00.

### **Ministry Council Highlights.**

- Reviewed programs and events that occurred during the summer months – including the Activities for Children and Summer Lunch Program and Home Communion.
- Each Team Leader discussed upcoming events.

## **UNICEF**

In 1950, a small group of kids in Philadelphia created Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. They decorated milk cartons and collected \$17 on Halloween to help children left vulnerable by World War II.

Now celebrating its 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has raised more than \$170 million - funds that have made a critical difference in the lives of millions of children and families.

Every day, an estimated 25,000 children die from preventable causes – because they lack simple things like access to clean drinking water, basic childhood medical attention, sufficient nutrition, or immunizations that can protect them against deadly diseases. One in four children in the world are undernourished.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF raises funds to help save children's lives in over 190 countries and territories through immunization, education, health care, nutrition, clean water, and sanitation. UNICEF has always put children first, helping to save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization. UNICEF cares about making the world better for kids. That's why, when you donate to the U. S. Fund for UNICEF, they make sure that 91.2 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to help children.

### **What Your Donation Can Buy**

- \$1 gives a child 40 days of clean, safe water.

- \$5 feeds a malnourished child for 5 days.
- \$10 vaccinates 280 children.
- \$100 protects 100 kids from malaria.

## What Can You Do To Help?

Contribute by putting your donation in the box at the back and front of the church and/or putting your extra change in the box a child in your neighborhood might be carrying. When you support UNICEF, you help children throughout the world lead better lives.



## RECOGNITION

- **Katie DeVecchis**, who is getting married in October, and her fiancé adopted a young cat named Cowboy who has already lassoed their hearts!
- **Megan DeVecchis** just had her mid-year review at Caesars, and it was “nearly perfect!”
- **Sammy DeVecchis** is a senior in college and is volunteering at Valley Forge National Park. He is also arranging his next study trip abroad.
- **Matthew Shaw** is enjoying second grade and reading! He is playing soccer and selling Boy Scout popcorn.
- **Stephen Shaw** has joined the Running Club at Northley Middle School. He is really enjoying camping with his Boy Scout Troop. His goal is to read **4 million** words this year!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Plan Ahead . . .

- |               |                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • October 7   | Blessing of the Animals                                              |
| • October 8   | <b>No</b> VBS Night                                                  |
| • October 14  | Pastor Appreciation Sunday<br>Bake Sale for ABCOPAD<br>Sunday Social |
| • October 21  | Bells Play during Worship                                            |
| • October 31  | Trunk or Treat                                                       |
| • November 11 | Pledge Sunday                                                        |
| • November 18 | Bells Play during Worship<br>Giving Tree                             |
| • November 25 | Fellowship Lunch and Activity                                        |
| • December 1  | Church Decorating                                                    |
| • December 17 | Night of Music                                                       |

# **MONDAY NIGHT VBS**



If you know someone who is 5 – 12 years old, invite them to join us at VBS Night on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. The hour is filled with dinner, a Bible story, an activity, and a craft. We started out our first week with eight children, but are now up to 12! We have many of the same children back from last year but some new faces have joined us this year. We have two girls who have joined VBS Night that attended the Summer Activity and Lunch Program this year! It is good to see familiar faces but would welcome more children from the community to join us!

During the month, we serve English Muffin pizzas, Chicken Casserole, Spaghetti, and Hotdogs and Mac and Cheese. Children take home a piece of fruit each week. Thank you to our volunteers who prepare the food, serve, teach, and assist with the lessons. In addition to our volunteers, many in the congregation have made monetary donations to our Monday VBS Night program. Your generosity is appreciated and has helped towards the purchase of food and program materials. In addition, we have had donations of food, and it is also greatly appreciated.

## **Here's how you can help . . .**

- Pray for the program, the children who attend, and our volunteers in the kitchen and those who work for with the children every Monday evening.
- Invite a child to join us on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

**There is no VBS Night on October 8th.**

## **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**

### **Blessing of the Animals**

Sunday, October 7 at 2:00 pm. Encourage your friends and neighbors to come to Upland Baptist with you and their pets to receive God's blessing with Pastor Brenda. Dogs should be on leashes and cats in carriers.

### **Greeters and Ushers**

Thanks to all of you who continue to volunteer for this important service to our church. It is a good way to get to know our members and make our guests feel welcome. Please let Priscilla or Pastor Brenda know if you notice that there is a need for the nursery.

## **Worship at Belvedere**

Sunday October 28 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.

## **Joyful Noise Bell Choir**

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir is hard at work practicing new songs for our Worship Services and preparing for the Christmas Night of Music on December 17. The theme this year will be I Believe in Christmas. Welcome to the new members - Doug, Marsha and Monica, who have joined. Practice is on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. Please see John Shaw or Pastor Brenda if you are up for a challenge and want to be part of this music experience. Remember one of the top ways to prevent Alzheimer's is to learn something new.

## **Looking Ahead**

October 31 at 6:00 pm – Trunk-or-Treat.

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

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> is Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We will be having a bake sale and social time following worship to show our appreciation for Pastor Brenda. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to our ABCOPAD Ministries. Come join in as we celebrate how good God has been to us.

We will be taking a worship service on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm to Belvedere Nursing Home. If you would like to join us let Pastor Brenda or Dawn Rafalski know.

## **Men's News**

There will be no more men's breakfasts as Riverside Men is inactive at this time.

## **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 God's plan for them. Please contact Karen Johnston if you are interested.



## **Small Groups 2018 - 2019**

Small Groups will begin again this fall. We are excited about getting to know each other better and growing in our faith together. Please consider joining either the day or evening group. It is a great way to connect and to grow.

This year we will be reading...

### ***Unafraid Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton**

Join us as we take our lives back from fear. Groups will meet on Tuesdays.

The daytime group will meet from noon – 2pm, downstairs in the Chapel. Please bring your own lunch, we will sign-up to provide dessert.

The evening group will meet at Pastor Brenda and John's house, 4409 Chandler Drive, Brookhaven, PA, from 7:00-8:30pm. We take turns bringing snacks.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Chapters 1 and 2</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Chapters 3 and 4</b>
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Chapters 5 and 6</b>
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Chapters 7 and 8</b>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Chapters 9 and 10</b>
<b>January 22</b>	<b>Chapters 11 and 12</b>
<b>February 5</b>	<b>Chapters 13 and 14</b>
<b>February 19</b>	<b>Chapters 15 and 16</b>
<b>March 5</b>	<b>Chapters 17 and 18</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Chapters 19 and 20</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Snow date – makeup session</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Fellowship gathering</b>

Pastor Brenda has books available. The books are free. (If you choose, you can donate \$13 to help offset the cost of the books.) Please sign up and get your book today!

## **Thank You**

A heartfelt thank you to Jane Kulp for teaching Sunday School while I am recovering from knee replacement surgery. It is a blessing to know our children are in capable hands.

# 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 canned peas and plastic bags for the month of October. Please support the food bank in any way. Drop off donations at the church.

## Monday Night VBS

Monday Night VBS Program is back. Come join us in the church chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 PM for dinner and a Bible story.

## Halloween Trunk Or Treat

Tuesday, October 31 – Halloween Trunk or Treat at 6 PM for the children in the neighborhood in the church parking lot.

## 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 OCTOBER 2018

Mrs. Patricia Long 10/8  
1374 Los Coches St.  
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Email – [patti.long@internationalministries.org](mailto:patti.long@internationalministries.org)

## **October Birthdays**

- 1 Karin Lord
- 2 Parker Ferguson  
Peggy Rhoads
- 7 Aaliyah Harman  
Florence Osborne

## **October Anniversaries**

- 4 Pat & Tony Irace
- 10 John & Jane Kofroth
- 12 Florence & Herbert Osborne



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_