

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

September 2016

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

Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

Website: www.uplandbaptist.org

A New Start

A new start. September feels like a new start to me. With our new house, this September even more so than normal. Things change at church, different activities resume, people come back from their summer trips and time away, we get back to the normal routine. At home our schedule gets into a more normal routine. School days, soccer practice, homework all mean that our days are pretty organized and routine. Things feel new and fresh, a time to get organized and into a routine that makes things feel peaceful and joyful. In many ways, to me, September feels like the time to make resolutions instead of January 1st.

This year September began with a new start. The movers arrive on September 1st to begin the odious process of moving our stuff to our new house. This means lots of unpacking, lots of organizing and probably getting rid of more stuff. It is exciting to think about everything being in its place. It is also a little daunting to think about getting everything in its place.

This made me think about our spiritual lives (I guess that is a hazard of being a pastor). If we want to get to a new place in our spiritual lives, a deeper place then we often need to do some cleaning out and some reorganizing.

Take a minute to think about your spiritual goals. Where do you want to be? What do you want to happen in your spiritual life? Do you want to spend more time in prayer? Are you interested in feeling more comfortable praying out loud? Do you want a deeper understanding of the Bible? Do you want to do more acts of kindness and service? What do you want to change about your spiritual life? We need to be intentional about setting goals for our spiritual lives.

Once we have a goal in mind (if you don't have a goal, pause and pray about how God would like you to grow spiritually), then we need to make a concrete plan. We need to think about how to reach the goal.

When it came time to pack, a couple of people told me to start with what was on the walls. You don't need the pictures and knick-knacks in order to keep the house running smoothly so they can be packed early without any problems arising. It was good to have a place to begin.

We all need a place to begin, because it can be overwhelming to even know where to start. Sometimes it is the first box that is the most difficult. We just need to get started and do something. So as you think about your spiritual goals, make a plan and do something. Spend 5 minutes in prayer. Pray out loud in the shower. Attend a Bible Study (we start on Thursday, September 15th at 10am). Do something. Take a step in the right direction.

One of the gifts of moving is getting rid of stuff. Packing is a good time to donate, throw away and unclutter. Sometimes we need to be ruthless in our separating of what to keep and those things we need to let go of. As you take inventory of your spiritual life, there may be some practices that have outgrown their usefulness. There may be some practices that are actually unhealthy and you need to get rid of them. We need to discern what is helpful and what is not. We need to unclutter our life and make room for practices that will bring growth to our spiritual lives.

I don't enjoy packing or moving. It is not much fun at all. But the outcome is worth it. Being settled in our new home, enjoying our big backyard, playing games in the family room, hanging coats in the coat closet. All of these things are worth the work to get there. We will soon be settled in our new home. The goal we have been working towards for years has been achieved.

It may take some time to be where you want to be, but with a plan and some faith I believe your spiritual life will benefit from the work involved. Growing is not easy, but without growth we will not thrive.

As always my door is open. If you want to talk about your goal, if you are stuck, if you simply want someone to cheer you on as you work to meet your goal, come and see me. I would love to walk beside you and encourage you, and guide you in any way I can. This is an important journey. Don't put it off. There is no better time than today to begin growing your spiritual life.

Pastor Brenda

WORSHIP ~ Sue Kulp

- During our Planning Meeting, we decided to perform the Animal Blessing Service on Sunday, October 2nd at 3:00 pm.
- The Ministry Council continues to consider having a Thanksgiving Eve Service.
- A Night of Music celebrated before Christmas is a blessed event and the details are being prepared.

If you have any suggestions for these events or if you would like to help plan and assist, please contact me.

*"We must never rest until everything inside us worships God."
(A. W. Tozer)*



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Legal Corporation/Ministry Council Highlights

- The Board of Directors has continued to monitor the finances and investments of the Church throughout the summer.
- The Board of Directors has handled repairs needed around the church during the summer months.
- The Ministry Council has offered outreach programs to the children in the community throughout the summer that have been successful.
- Summertime Sunday socials offered a time to fellowship with members of the congregation after worship.
- Completed the calendar for September 2016 – August 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

October 9, 2016

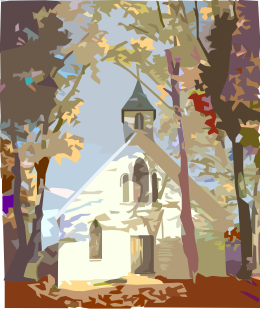
*Celebrate Pastor Brenda's 16th Anniversary
at Upland Baptist Church*



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Tom Geveke** passed his driver's license permit test. Tom was a volunteer for the Summer Activities and Lunch Program.
- **Gavin James** is looking forward to being a 2nd grader, and when he returns to school he will be tested for the Gifted Seminar class. Gavin has made so much progress he will not need the state services he has been receiving! Gavin celebrated his birthday in August.
- **Casey Klimek** enjoyed dance and volleyball camp this summer and plans to dance and play volleyball this fall as she starts 7th grade.
- **Cameron Klimek** loved participating in a musical theater camp and Acro classes this summer and will start gymnastics this fall. She is entering 3rd grade.
- **The Mason Bunch** is having a fun filled summer. Both **Katie and Sara** have enjoyed live music, swimming, nature hikes, beach trips, etc.
- **Matthew Shaw** had a good summer building Legos and working on his reading. He is looking forward to playing soccer this fall. He is excited to begin All Day Kindergarten at Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School.
- **Stephen Shaw** enjoyed a fun summer of baseball and Cub Scout and summer camp. He was most excited to spend a month in Indiana. He has already started playing soccer for the fall and looks forward to starting 4th grade at Coebourn Elementary.
- Good Luck to **Katie DeVecchis, Megan DeVecchis, Sammy DeVecchis, Anna Geveke, Billy Lord, Kyle Lord, and Stephanie Pysher** as they head off/return to college this fall.
- Good Luck to **Jesse Kulp** as he takes college classes at night, after working all day.

VBS NIGHT



Monday Night VBS will resume for a new season on September 12th. Pray for this program and that we will bring children into our Church from the community so they can learn about God's love for them. Ages for the program are 5 – 12.

We will continue to serve dinner to the children and then have a lesson, activity, and craft. **Help is needed in the kitchen to prepare and serve dinner and also to supervise children during the rest of the evening's activities.** Contact either Jane

Kofroth, Brenda Shaw or Linda Cook if you would like to help with VBS Night or make a donation.

Monday Night VBS
6:00 – 7:00 pm

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY

The Fruits of the Spirit was the title of the program, written by Pastor Brenda, and presented on Sunday, June 12th for Children and Youth Sunday. The program celebrated the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Also during the program, we recognized all our graduates and Sunday and Monday Night VBS teachers and volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the program.

Linda Cook, Brigid Culloty, Anna Geveke, Dave Geveke, Hans Geveke, Kathy Geveke, Tom Geveke, Cameron Klimek, Casey Klimek, Courtney Klimek, Jane Kofroth, Sandy Kushner, Frank Kulp, Sue Kulp, Dawn Rafalski, Brenda Shaw, Stephen Shaw, and Jackie Wright.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Plan Ahead for the Upcoming Year

- October 2 Blessing of the Animals
- October 9 Pastor Appreciation
- October 31 Trunk or Treat
- December 18 All Church Christmas Program
- December 19 Night of Music

MINISTRY ~ Dawn Rafalski

Ministry to Members

We have had a couple of Sunday Socials this Summer that gave everyone a chance to catch up with members and how their Summer has been.

For an outing a group went to a Blue Rocks baseball game in August and had a great time.

We will be moving worship back to the sanctuary on September 11. Remember the time will stay at 10:00 a.m.

There will also be a Welcome Back Social following worship out on the bricks, weather permitting.

Home communion continued through the Summer with visits to our shut-ins. We can always use more people to help with this endeavor. See Dawn Rafalski if you can help.

Men's News

The next Riverside Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, September 17th at 8:15 a.m. at Brandywine Baptist Church, Route 1, Chadds Ford, PA

From what I hear the ABMOPAD Men's Retreat in July was a great weekend of reflection and renewal.

DISCIPLESHIP ~ Jane Kofroth

VBS

The Monday night VBS kids will get together again on September 12. Dinner is at 6:00 followed by a Bible lesson and activity from 6:30 to 7:00. We hope that some of the youngsters who joined us for the Summer Lunch program will become part of the VBS group.

If you would like to volunteer to help, there's a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. We hope you will also continue to lift this program up 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. Special thanks to Anna Geveke who has been such a faithful assistant. We'll miss her!

There is a sign-up sheet for volunteer teachers for the months of September.

Bible Study

Bible Study group meets on Thursday, September 15 at 10 AM. We will continue with our study of 1 Samuel. Come and join the group.

Summer Lunch Program

2016 Summer Lunch sputtered to a start on July 5...4 kids showed up. Our numbers began to increase on the blistering hot Monday of the next week---that was the day “water games Monday” was born!

Craft days were messy, colorful, chaotic and lots of fun

Regional ABCOPAD pastor Kevin Walden taught the kids to sing “Dare to be a Daniel” and challenged them to be brave, too. Rev. Jeff Johnson taught the kids a powerful lesson by using origami to make his point.

Several extraordinary students from Upland’s Joan’s Dance Studio joined us to demonstrate their talents---they wowed us! The kids tried break dancing. It’s not as easy as it looks.

The Seeing Eye Puppy Raisers brought two “puppies in training” and explained how Seeing Eye Dogs help blind people lead happier, safer lives.

Neville, a retired helper dog from Canine Partners, charmed everyone as his handler explained how he helped his handicapped owner.

Our largest attendance was on Seeing Eye puppy Thursday when 31 kids joined us! After the first “water games Monday”, our average attendance was 18.

Thanks to all of our faithful volunteers (Pastor Brenda, Norma Jean Colby, Linda Cook, Joan Decker, Hans Geveke, Tom Geveke, Jane Kofroth, John Kofroth, Sue Kulp, Priscilla Mills, Diane Ogram, Dawn Rafalski, and Betty Vandergrift.) who to helped serve lunch, clean paint brushes, play board games, fill water balloons...and most important, forge loving relationships with the kids in our community.

Love God! Love Others!

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. Approximately 12 view the devotional each day, but only 4 or 5 regularly post their thoughts. Keep in mind---no right or wrong answers. The questions are never mean 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.

Thank you John for getting up early and posting the devotional each day.

COMMUNICATIONS ~ John Kofroth

This Summer I helped 2 more food bank volunteers get their clearances.

I continue to post the daily devotion on the Upland Baptist secret Facebook group. The response is consistent with mostly the same members responding to the questions posed by the devotion.

I believe I have lost my backup for the worship service live broadcast. I'm especially concerned about the coverage during the time Jane and I will be out of town: Sunday October 9th and December 4th, 11th and 18th. If you would like to volunteer to help with our on-line ministry, let me know.

OUTREACH ~ Joan Decker

The summer nearing to an end and our fall activities will be starting up. Hope you can join in the fun.

We will be doing Trunk or Treat on Halloween on October 31, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the church parking lot. Bring your candy and chairs and come share with the children in our community.

Monday night dinner program is back starting in September along with bible story. Come join us in the church chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

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

Remember the food bank with canned goods.

MAIN STREET SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

During the months of July and August, the congregation was asked to donate highlighters, boxes of 24 crayons, and pencils for Main Street Elementary. Monetary donations were also gratefully accepted. Because of your generosity through donations of money and supplies we have collected **over 900 pencils, over 300 crayon boxes, and over 475 highlighters.**

Home and International Missionary birthdays for September

Mrs. Marie Ketly Pierre 9/1
Apartado 21
LaRomana Dominican Republic
Email: ketly.pierre@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Carole Sydnor 9/7
910 Mennonite Rd.
Royersford, PA 19468-3019
Email: carole.sydnor@internationalministries.org

Mr. Bruce Borquist 9/11
42 Hirpoi St.
Newtown, Wellington 6021
New Zealand
Email: bruce.borquist@internationalministries.org

Rev. Dwight Bolick 9/25
1321 Upland Dr. #3373
Houston, TX 77043-4718
Email: dwight.bolick@internationalministries.org

September Birthdays

3 Doris Moody
9 Florence Cage
11 Louise Sauk
13 Betty Singley
15 Diane Lord Ogram
18 Dave Miskowic
20 Bill Lord Sr.
22 Sybil Scott

September Anniversaries

7 Akky & Hans Geveke
14 Charlene & Dan Miller