

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

September 2017

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Crayons? Which is better New or Old?

Summer is over for another year. Personally, I had a great summer. We joined the Brookhaven Swim Club and Stephen and Matthew really had a good time swimming and playing with their friends. We enjoyed our vacation. We relaxed, painted my mom's living room and dining room, went to the Indiana State Fair, and the big highlight was seeing the total eclipse. It was breathtaking.

The other exciting activity this summer was the activity and lunch program at the church. We had a great group of kids, many of them quickly became regulars. It is nice to get to know them. We made marshmallow shooters one rainy Monday morning and shot marshmallows all over the Chapel. The kids made lightning bugs, wind chimes and planters. We played games, heard stories and generally had a great summer. I am grateful for all the volunteers that welcomed the kids, cleaned up spills and generally shared the love of God with our neighbors.

The other task for the summer was getting ready to go back to school. At my house that meant finishing our summer reading, getting school supplies together and making sure we had shoes that still fit our feet. Here at church we collected school supplies for Main Street Elementary School. I loved seeing all the crayons, pencils and highlighters pile up as we brought in items for the children at Main Street.



I don't know about you, but I love a new box of crayons. I love looking at the colors all lined up so perfectly. I get very excited about the points and how sharp they are. There is nothing better than a new box of crayons. We decided this summer to refresh the crayons that we use on Monday nights. Some of the boxes no longer have a good mix of colors and the crayons are worn. So, we purchased new crayons.

It made me wonder if God would like a box of new crayons or a box of used crayons more. (I know only a pastor would wonder such a thing!) I thought about this for a while. Here's what I decided.

I think God loves a new box of crayons. He loves it when someone decides to follow him. I think he gets very excited when a person makes the decision to call God their Lord and Savior. I imagine that God loves a new believer.

But I don't think God wants the crayons to stay new. You can't keep a box of crayons looking pristine unless you never use them. They will get out of order, the points will get worn down, and some may even get broken. If you use the crayons, they will show it. That is how I believe God wants us to live. He wants us to use the gifts he has given us. He wants us to get our hands dirty sharing his love with the world. He doesn't want us to stay new and shiny. He wants us to live our lives following him.

So, it seems to me that while God loves a new crayon, a new believer, he also loves the old crayon, the person who has followed him for a long time. I think God cherishes the crayons that are dirty and that the point has been worn down. Those still work. They color just as well as the new crayons, sometimes maybe even a little better.

My hope is that this year we will all work to follow God with our whole lives. No matter how long we have been following God, there is still more to do, more to learn, more to experience. God wants us to use every day as an opportunity to serve him. The only purpose of a crayon is to color. The only purpose of a believer is to serve God. And just like crayons, each one colors differently, we all are called to follow in our own unique ways.

Trust that God loves you and wants you to follow him. Know that you are never too old, too experienced, too ordinary to make a difference in the Kingdom of God.



He
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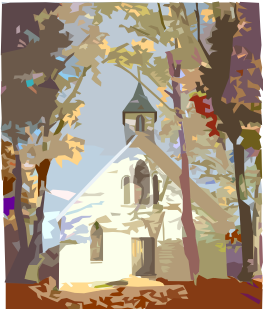
Pastor Brenda



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- **Katie DeVecchis** passed her RN licensure exam and started working at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) in July.
- **Megan DeVecchis** began her communications/marketing/PR career with the Caesar's Corporation in Atlantic City.
- **Sammy DeVecchis** traveled the USA and Canada this summer and just returned from Costa Rica on a student trip/study abroad trip as a teaching assistant.
- **Anna Geveke** was a volunteer for the Summer Activities and Lunch Program.
- **Tom Geveke** passed his driver's test and received his license. Tom was a volunteer for the Summer Activities and Lunch Program.
- **Katie Boyer and Sara Mason** have enjoyed their summer at the beach. **Katie** took a painting class and **Sara** went to two museums.
- **Matthew Shaw** cannot wait for first grade to begin. He has been reading and enjoying his summer. He worked hard to improve his swimming skills over the summer. He has already started soccer practice for the fall.
- **Stephen Shaw** is excited about starting 5th grade at Coebourn Elementary. He is practicing his trumpet and reading in preparation for a great year. He had a great summer of Cub Scout camp, baseball camp, computer coding camp and lots of pool time. He really enjoyed going to Grandma's by himself.
- Good Luck to **Sammy DeVecchis, Anna Geveke, and Kyle Lord** as they return to college this fall. Good luck to **Jesse Kulp** as he continues to work full time and take college courses. Good luck to **Ben Geveke** as he heads off to Graduate School in California.

MONDAY NIGHT VBS



Monday Night VBS will resume for a new season on September 11th. Pray for this program as we start our new year in hopes 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. Contact either Linda Cook or Brenda Shaw if you would like to volunteer or make a donation.

Monday Night VBS
6:00 – 7:00 pm

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY

Thank for our Workers was the title of the program, written by Pastor Brenda, and presented on Sunday, June 11th for Children and Youth Sunday. The program celebrated the many workers and volunteers we have in our congregation, and during the program, we recognized all our college graduates.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the program.

Linda Cook, Brigid Culloty, Anna Geveke, Dave Geveke, Hans Geveke, Kathy Geveke, Tom Geveke, Jane Kofroth, Sandy Kushner, Frank Kulp, Sue Kulp, Priscilla Mills, Dawn Rafalski, Brenda Shaw, John Shaw, Matthew Shaw, Stephen Shaw and Jackie Wright.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Plan Ahead for the Upcoming Year

- October 8 Blessing of the Animals
- October 15 Pastor Appreciation
- October 31 Trunk or Treat
- December 18 Night of Music



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, including the soffit.
- The Personnel Committee interviewed 6 applicants for Church secretary on July 18 and 19. The committee then conducted follow-up interviews, the following week, with 2 of the applicants. After the follow-up interviews, the committee hired Lori Waser as our new Church secretary.
- The Ministry Council has offered outreach programs to the children in the community throughout the summer that have been successful.
- The Summertime Sunday Socials offered a time to fellowship with members of the congregation after worship.
- The Ministry Council completed the calendar for September 2017 – August 2018.
- The Ministry Council would like to thank **Florence Osborne** for taking care of the flowerbeds this summer.

Mark Your Calendars!
Pastor Appreciation Sunday
October 15, 2017
Celebrate Pastor Brenda's
17th Year
at Upland Baptist Church!

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 1078 pencils, over 255 crayon boxes, and over 103 highlighters, plus 4 notebooks.**

Thank you for your continued generosity!

MEET OUR CHURCH SECRETARY



Lori Waser has been hired as our new Church secretary. Lori lives in Broomall and is a graduate of Marple Newtown High School and Albright College in Reading, PA. She was the Executive Secretary to the President/CEO of Service Credit Union in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and prior to that was the Executive Secretary to the Executive Vice President of SCU and Secretary to the VP of Member Services of SCU. Lori relocated to

Pennsylvania in order to take care of her elderly parents.

Lori started working at the Church on August 28th and will be working four days a week from 9 AM– 1 PM, Mondays through Thursdays. We look forward to Lori's employment with our Church and hope that you will stop by and say hello and welcome.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND FREE LUNCH PROGRAM

Our mornings started with an activity period from 11:00 to 11:45 before we served lunch from 11:45 to 12:15. We ran the program four days a week for seven weeks! We believe we were successful as our attendance increased and was more consistent, the children seemed to enjoy themselves, and we got to know some of the families in the neighborhood. We averaged about 20 children daily. This year the children earned "dollars" for memorizing Bible verses and for being on time. They had the opportunity to spend their dollars shopping at "our store" twice during the summer.

On Mondays, we played outdoor games; on Tuesdays, the children completed a craft; on Wednesdays, they played board games or bingo; and on Thursdays, we had a guest reader and the children could check out books. Kudos to Jane Kofroth for the great crafts she completed with the children! Guest readers included fire fighters, the mayor, an EMT, Musicopia, volunteers who brought animals from the Providence Animal Center, Pastor Brenda, and one of our Area Ministers, Kevin Walden.

Thank you to all the other church volunteers who were there to help as well – Pastor Brenda, Linda Cook, Joan Decker, Hans Geveke, Anna Geveke, Tom Geveke, Jane Kofroth, John Kofroth, Priscilla Mills, Dawn Rafalski, and Betty Vandergriff.

Communications Team Leader – John Kofroth

I took a survey this summer to find out if the members of our Facebook group might like to try a different daily devotional. At the same time, I posted “Our Daily Bread”. The 3 people who voted said they liked “Our Daily Bread” better. So, I began publishing both devotionals.

The “Our Daily Journey” discussion topics sometimes seem very personal and people may be reluctant to respond. However, it’s still there along with “Our Daily Bread.”

The Weekly Worship Bulletin is posted on our web site on Thursdays.

A video slide show of all the activities of our Summer lunch program is posted on our web site. I know Facebook is making websites obsolete, but if you have any pictures I would be glad to post them for you.

Worship – Sue Kulp

We return to the Church for worship on Sunday, September 10th. Communion will be served.

Please continue to donate to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" for those in TX needing help from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

"Blessing of the Animals" will be the second Sunday of October. More info to follow.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46)

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

There will be a Sunday Social on Welcome Back Sunday, September 17th following worship. Join in with water ice on the bricks.

With the help of Joan Decker we have taken Home Communion monthly to six of our shut-ins this summer. The visit is always enjoyed and appreciated by our members who can no longer come to church.

Men's News

Although this year's annual Men's Retreat began on a very rainy Friday, that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of any of the 160 attendees.

The Praise Band, led by Rev. CG Coats, kicked off Friday night's program leading the men in singing some great inspirational songs. During the fellowship time, Dr. Jeffery Johnson facilitated several interesting bonding exercises among the men. His theme was *Superman*.

On Saturday our Keynote Speaker, Steve Etner challenged us with part one his message "Are you a Superman?". After the morning program, we had the opportunity to attend workshops on subjects like *Navigating Social Media* and *Godly Relevant Men*.

Our Layman of the year, Galen Ryder, was announced on Saturday night. An hour later, the picture of Galen with his family that was posted on our Face Book page received 600 likes.

Steve continued the second part of his *Superman* theme message with "Oh that Stupid Kryptonite". The service ended after we shared communion together.

During the Sunday morning service, Steve concluded his message with part three, "Will The Real Superman Please Stand Up?" A number of Men committed to forming groups across the state to do an 11 week Bible Study based on Steve's book *Are You a Superman?*

The retreat was a wonderful experience---a time of rest and spiritual renewal enjoying the support and fellowship of our brothers in Christ.

There will be no Riverside Men's breakfast in September.

The next Riverside Men's breakfast will be in November - watch the Spire for the date.

DISCIPLESHIP – Jane Kofroth

Sunday School

Sunday School class for children meets on Sunday mornings during the worship service. Our class is small in number, but full of enthusiasm for Jesus! Please encourage the children in your life to join us. If you would like to volunteer teacher, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Bible Study

Bible Study begins meeting again after our summer hiatus on Thursday, September 7 at 10:00 AM. Bring your Bible! Join us to consider how God's Word can---and does---guide and direct our lives. There's always good company and a lively exchange of ideas.

Small Groups

Small Groups starts its' new season on Tuesday, October 3. The daytime group gets together from noon till 2PM. Bring your lunch. The evening group meets from 7:00 until 8:30... pretty sure there will be snacks!

Everyone is welcome. You can always count on an inspiring read, an interesting exchange of ideas and good fellowship.

Which book will be our new project? Stand by!

Monday Night VBS

We are eager to welcome all the neighborhood kids back to VBS night on September 11. Dinner is at 6:00 PM. They have a Bible lesson and creative activity from 6:30-7:00.

Thanks to all the volunteer cooks!

We are blessed to be able to offer hospitality and friendship to the kids in our community. Please continue to keep this program in your prayers.

Outreach – Joan Decker

Main Street Elementary

A heartfelt thank you to all who gathered and donated school supplies for Main Street Elementary. The much needed supplies were delivered to the school on August 31, 2017.

October 31, 2017 – Trunk or Treat

Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm – Trunk or Treat

AB Women's Fall Retreat

October 14, 2017 at Lancaster First Baptist

Rev. Luminitza Nichols, new pastor at Lancaster First, will be sharing her story of imprisonment in Romania as a result of her Christian faith and how God brought her to the US to study for the ministry.

Rev. Mary Lewis is the pastor at Parkesburg Baptist Church. Pastor Mary is a former president of ABCOPAD. Her delightful sense of humor and deep love of the Lord will also inspire you to a deeper walk with the Lord.

Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5, payable at registration. All registrations should be called in to Sue Fitzgerald, 570-916-0859 or e-mailed to Sue at suefit@gmail.com by Monday, Oct. 9, 2017. This retreat is open to all churches in our region. All are welcome!

Home and International Missionary Birthdays for September

Mrs. Marie Ketly 9/1
Apartado 21
La Romana, 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
- 11 Louise Sauk
- 13 Betty Singley
- 15 Diane Lord Ogram
- 18 Dave Miskowic
- 20 Bill Lord Sr.

September Anniversaries

- 7 Akky and Hans Geveke
- 14 Charlene and Dan Miller