

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

January 2019

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

Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

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Snowflakes

Linus and Lucy are with a few friends in the snow in a Charlie Brown Christmas. It is suggested that they try to catch snowflakes on their tongues. Linus says the snowflake he catches needs sugar. Lucy haughtily says that it's too early, she never eats December snowflakes. She waits until January.



Well, it is almost January 2019 and I am confident we will have the opportunity to catch some snowflakes before the month is over. Some of us are excited about snow arriving and others tend to wish for warmer days.

A snowflake is a single ice crystal that has achieved sufficient size. As it falls through the atmosphere it collects water droplets that freeze in crystal form. Complex shapes develop as they move through different temperatures of the atmosphere. Each snowflake is unique, though often have a similar shape to one another. They are made of clear ice, but often appear white.

Snowflakes are beautiful. Even when we don't enjoy them collecting into inches and feet of snow on our driveways, sidewalks and roads, we can appreciate the single snowflake. They are perfect, even when they aren't completely symmetrical. They are amazing as the sun glints off them and they appear to sparkle. Snowflakes individually are wonderful.

Snowflakes have a lot we can learn from them...

Be Unique

Psalm 139:14: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Just as every snowflake is unique so should we be. Each of us has special gifts and talents that God has entrusted to us. These should be used with joy. We are unique creations and should celebrate that in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Work with Others

1 Corinthians 3:9: For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Though we may catch a glimpse of one snowflake, never does one fall all alone. Snowflakes work together to cover the ground, create a blizzard and turn our world into a winter wonderland. We need to work together to make a difference in the name of Jesus. When we all join together, we are able to do so much more than we could ever do alone.

Take Your Time

Psalms 37:7: Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Snowflakes are often seen drifting to the ground. They don't always fall fast and furious. There are times when we need to pause, be patient and take our time. Often when we slow down, we experience gifts we would have missed otherwise.

The Destination may Change

Luke 22:42...not my will but yours be done.

Snowflakes do not always reach the ground. They may get caught in a tree, on a windshield or in your hair. We often make plans on how and where we are going. We think we know what is best. We believe we know where we are going. Those plans often need to change. We need to be open to God's will, his direction, allowing him to change our direction and guide us to his destination.

Bring Happiness to Others

Psalms 145:5: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

Yes, snow can be dangerous, but it also brings out the joy in most of us. Building snowmen, sledding, snowball fights and walking in the snow all help us to experience winter happiness. We, too, should work at bringing happiness to others. Often it is just a smile, a phone call, a note that will do the job. When we take time to care about others, we spread happiness.

Life is Short

Psalm 144:4 Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

Sure, there are snowflakes that last for weeks, but other times they melt as they hit the ground. We have no idea what tomorrow will bring. We need to treasure each moment of the journey. Every day is a gift and we want to treat each day as such.

Snowflakes have a lot to say. May their lessons to us bring us closest to the people that God has called us to be.

Pastor Brenda

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir is gathering to celebrate another successful Christmas Season. Please join us if you have ever played in the bell choir or are related to someone who has played in the bell choir.

*You are cordially invited to the
Joyful Noise Bell Choir dinner*

*Saturday, January 12
6pm
Upland Baptist Church Chapel*

RSVP to Pastor Brenda, in person, brendaabshaw@gmail.com or
610-453-8317



CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS

Peggy Albany
Arthur Colby
Normajean Colby and Family (Megan, Katelyn, and Sammy)
Linda Cook
Doris and John Fraim
Dave and Kathy Geveke
Frank and Sue Kulp
Dick Ladd
Monica Manerchi
Iris Messick
Charlene and Dan Miller
Priscilla Mills
Florence and Herb Osborne
The Pysher Family
Dawn Rafalski
Peggy, Helen and Cheryl Rhoads
Doug and Marsha Scott
The Shaws – John, Brenda, Stephen, and Matthew
Bobbie Jean Simcox, Colleen Walker, and Madison Hahn
Betty Singley
Darlene and Henry Strunk
Denise Sweeney

LOOKING AHEAD . . .



*Plan to attend the February Brunch on
Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 11:15 AM
Snow Date is February 17, 2019 at 11:15 AM*



Our Valentine's Get Together will follow the Worship Service, so we will be having a brunch. The Brunch is FREE and it's a wonderful

time to fellowship with other members of the congregation. Look for the sign-up sheet in January in the back of the Church.



CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Stephen Shaw** continue to play with the *Joyful Noise* and do a wonderful job! **Tom Geveke** has

volunteered to play with the *Joyful Noise* during his winter break from Penn State!

- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Sara Mason** enjoyed seeing the Nutcracker Ballet. Also, they both volunteered to spread some Christmas joy at a local nursing home.
- **Matthew Shaw** slept on the Battleship New Jersey with his Cub Scout Pack as a reward for selling over \$1000.00 of popcorn.
- **Stephen Shaw** received Distinguished Honor Roll for his first marking period at Northley Middle School.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| • January 7 | Annual Reports Due |
| • January 21 | No VBS Night |
| • January 22 | Small Groups Resume |
| • January 27 | Annual Business Meeting and Lunch |
| • February 2 | Miniature Golf at Linvilla and Food |
| • February 10 | Valentine's Brunch |
| • February 18 | No VBS Night |
| • March 6 | Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 pm |
| • March 17 | Sunday Social |
| • April 21 | Easter Services |
| | Egg Hunt for children in the Church |



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Neither the Legal Corporation nor the Ministry Council met in December, but we continue to monitor finances and take care of needed repairs. Please take the time to look over the Proposed Budget for 2019 that is included with the *Spire*. The amount needed through pledges decreased almost \$18,000.00 from last year. We have no increases in salaries, and most of the other categories have remained the same or were decreased. We will vote on the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting in January.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Church and of the Legal Corporation will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, January 27, 2019 after the Worship Service. We will hold the Business Meeting first and then have lunch. Lunch will be provided.

PLEDGE UPDATE

The Proposed Budget for 2019 is enclosed with this month's *Spire*. The total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2019 budget is **\$131,031.00**. As of Sunday, December 16, 2018, we have received **36 pledges for \$80,782**. Thank you to all who have pledged.

If you haven't turned in your pledge yet, you can place it in the offering basket or mail it to:

Dawn Rafalski,
c/o Upland Baptist Church,
325 Main Street,
Upland, PA 19015

Disbursements:		
Benevolences:	2018	2019
Unified Mission Budget ABC*	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Baptist Home / White Cross - UBC Women's Union	\$100.00	\$100.00
Riverside Association \$ Local Ministries	\$150.00	\$50.00
Upland Fire Company	\$350.00	\$350.00
Center for Pastoral Counseling	\$200.00	
Total Benevolences	\$8,800.00	\$8,500.00
<i>*The Unified Mission Budget ABC is 10% of pledges - this number will be adjusted after the Stewardship Campaign is completed. \$1,000 to go to Partners in Ministry</i>		
Personnel / Salaries:	2018	2019
Pastor's Salary	\$38,934.00	\$38,934.00
Pastor's Housing / Utilities	\$25,956.00	\$25,956.00
Pastor's M & M (Retirement)	\$10,167.00	\$10,167.00
Pastor's SS / Medicare Offset	\$3,245.00	\$3,245.00
Secretary	\$11,776.00	\$11,776.00
Financial Team Leader	\$4,460.00	\$4,460.00
Financial Secretary	\$1,445.00	\$1,445.00
Sexton / Cleaner	\$14,853.00	\$14,853.00
Music - Vocalist	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Social Security Expenses	\$3,615.00	\$3,615.00
Pastor's Vacation Substitute	\$700.00	\$700.00
ADP Fees	\$2,730.00	\$2,800.00
Total Personnel / SalarJes	\$124,381.00	\$124,451.00
Educational / Organizational:	2018	2019
Outreach Ministry	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
discipleship	\$600.00	\$1,000.00
VBS (summer only)	\$800.00	\$800.00
Ministry to Children (Monday Night/Sunday during scho	\$900.00	\$0.00
Ministry to Members	\$600.00	\$800.00
Worship team	\$1,000.00	\$800.00
Church Baby Nursery	\$810.00	\$810.00
Music Licensing	\$200.00	\$150.00
Organist	\$11,745.00	\$11,745.00
Total Educational / Organizational	\$18,155.00	\$17,605.00

Disbursements (cont.):		
Property	2018	2019
Fuel Oil (Heating)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Gas, Water, Electric, Sewer	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Telephone / Internet	\$3,600.00	\$3,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Alarm Services	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Office Supplies, Contracts and Janitorial Supplies	\$9,500.00	\$8,500.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$1,700.00	\$1,500.00
Bell Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
<i>Total Building Services / Maintenance</i>	<i>\$66,100.00</i>	<i>\$64,300.00</i>
General Program:	2018	2019
Pastor's Car & Cell Phone Allowance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Convention Expenses	\$700.00	\$500.00
Book Allowance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Church Envelopes	\$500.00	\$250.00
Auditing Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
<i>Total General Program</i>	<i>\$12,200.00</i>	<i>\$11,750.00</i>
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<i>\$229,636.00</i>	<i>\$226,606.00</i>
Income:		
Other Income:	2018	2019
Plate Collections	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Non-pledged giving through envelopes	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Special Offerings (Holiday envelopes)	\$1,400.00	\$1,000.00
Envelope Reimbursement	\$75.00	\$75.00
Memorial Fund	\$30,000.00	\$45,000.00
Property Fund	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
<i>Total Other Income</i>	<i>\$80,675.00</i>	<i>\$95,575.00</i>
Total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2019 budget:		\$131,031.00

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

I hope everyone enjoyed all the special activities during the month of December.

- Christmas decorations with wreaths, and candles in the sanctuary windows
- Christmas Giving Tree with cards from our congregation and presents beneath for Belvedere Residents.
- Lighting of the Advent Candles for Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the Christ Candle
- Nativity Creche at the front of the church with Baby Jesus placed on Christmas Eve
- Joyful Noise Bell Choir played on December 17, 23, and 24th
- Christmas Night of Music on December 17 with a story for the children "Twas the Evening of Christmas" by Glenys Nellist, a visit from Santa, and a Christmas decoration to take home. Don't forget the cupcakes!
- Christmas Eve Candle Light Service and Communion
- Taking a Christmas message to Belvedere on December 23rd
- Continuing the tradition of singing the Upland Carols during worship, this year accompanied by John Shaw on trumpet.

Thank you to everyone who helped enhance our Christmas Worship experience.

Looking ahead to January - Communion will be on January 6 and services at Belvedere will be on January 27 at 2:30 pm.

Start your New Year off with Worship at Upland Baptist and consider volunteering for our many opportunities to give service.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

We are looking ahead to a bowling activity sometime in February. Sounds like a fun time so keep looking for information in the church bulletin and Spire.

Christmas gifts were taken to Belvedere for some of the residents who had needs. We are also taking ornaments for the residents who attend our monthly church service.

Our homebound church members are very appreciative of monthly communion being taken to them. Please let Dawn Rafalski know if you would like to help with this service.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

It's true that we are a small group on Sunday mornings but it's an opportunity to share God's love for us. Please give thoughtful consideration to joining us downstairs during worship and sharing your experience with our children.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

Monday Night VBS

Monday night dinner program will start up again in January from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The program is doing well at the church chapel.

Night of Music

The Night of Music was December the 17 at 6:30 PM. It was a wonderful, festive night. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments after the program. Santa made it extra special for all in attendance.

Giving Tree

Belvedere Nursing Home was chosen to be the recipient of our Christmas "Giving Tree" again this year. We received a list of 50 residents along with gifts that they would like. The Church family came through with the gifts, which were delivered on December 19, 2018. The staff and Santa will distribute the gifts on Christmas day. Thanks to all in the congregation for their generosity in donating these gifts, which made Christmas special for the Belvedere residents.

Food Bank

Please remember the food bank with canned goods. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474, if you are interested in helping at the food bank.

Worship

Please join us on Sunday morning for worship at 10:00 AM.
May you have a wonderful and blessed New Year.



***The large red poinsettias are
given in Loving Memory of:***

Gary R. Bennett by Rozanne Bennett & Family

Alice Dryden by Lee Dryden & Family

Elton Dryden, Sr. by Lee Dryden & Family

Robert Divins by Becky Dryden & Family

Madora Crossan by Lee Dryden & Family

Carol Ferguson by Parker Ferguson

Carol Ferguson by Lori and Bruce Wood

Elsie Ferguson by Parker Ferguson

Joseph Ferguson by Parker Ferguson

Charlie Jensen by the Furniss Family

Roman Minchak by the Furniss and Minchak Families

Earl & Mildred Parris by Richard W. Parris & Rozanne Bennett & Family

Catharina Petri by Akky and Hans Geveke

Charles & Elinore Ottey by Dawn Rafalski

Robert Singley by Richard Parris & Family

John, Elsie, Jack & Abby Fallin by Denise Fallin Sweeney





***The small red poinsettias are
given in Loving Memory of:***

Morris Albany by Peggy Albany
Richard Sr. & Amelia Arscott by Carol & Dick Arscott
Richard Jr. & Margaret Arscott by Carol & Dick Arscott
Janet Booth by Carol & Dick Arscott
Dorothy Fegley by Carol & Dick Arscott
Mary Feury by Carol & Dick Arscott
Walter & Janet Hinkel by Carol & Dick Arscott
Frank & Betty Phillips by Carol & Dick Arscott
Gary Phillips by Carol & Dick Arscott
George & Dorothy Wilkinson by Carol & Dick Arscott
George & Frances Wilkinson by Carol & Dick Arscott
Joanne Wilkinson by Carol & Dick Arscott
Millie Bolli by the Bolli Family
Jean Grant Colby by her husband Art Colby
Irene Colby by her granddaughter Normajean Colby
Jean & Jack Cook by Linda, Bob, David and Mary Cook
Jean & Jack Cook by their grandson, Patrick Cook
John Cook, Jr. by Linda, Bob, David and Mary Cook
Joseph & Elsie Ferguson by John & Doris Fraim
Elmer J. & Blanche Fraim by John & Doris Fraim
Oliver, Alice & Tink Furniss by the Furniss Family
Preston & Charlotte Jenson by the Furniss Family
Nana & Papa Rinehart by The Gevekes
Our Grandparents by The Gevekes
Buddy Bersheim by Nicole Geveke
Walter and Mae Billings by Kimberlee Kalichak
Patsy Bailey by Stephen Kalichak
Christopher Michael Leach by Amie & Rudy Koontz
Our cousins, Lanny Kulp and Stephen Piasecki by the Klimek Family
Our cousins, Emma & Lily Moore by Casey & Cameron Klimek
Our dad, Robert Wright by daughters, Dena, Courtney & Robin

Our parents by John & Jane Kofroth
Cynthia L. Leber by Ray Leber
Our parents, Jack & Lillian Lord by daughters, Diane Lord &
Jackie Wright
My husband, Herb Ogram and my son, Carl Kulp by
Diane Lord Ogram
Ken Mason by Christy, Katie & Sara Mason
Our family in Heaven by Christy, Katie & Sara Mason
Julian & Hattie Messick, my in-laws, by Iris Messick
Julian Messick, Jr. by wife, Iris Messick
Milton & Lena Howett, my parents, by Iris Messick
My husband, Earl K. Moody by Doris Moody
My mother, Amelia Hulton by Doris Moody
Carlton M. Ottey by Dawn Rafalski
Selma Parris by Richard W. Parris & Rozanne Bennett & Family
Sybil, Arthur Sr. & Arthur Jr. by Charlene, Darlene, Douglas &
Joane
Wilma, Norman, Lo-Lo & Andrea by the Pysher Family
Walter Rhoads by his wife, Peggy Rhoads
Elizabeth Kondracki by the Scott Children
Papaw Bud Bartee by John, Brenda, Stephen & Matthew Shaw
Pop-Pop Jack Shaw by John, Brenda, Stephen & Matthew Shaw
Those who have gone before us by John, Brenda, Stephen &
Matthew Shaw
My husband, Robert Singley by Betty Singley
The Parris Family by Betty Singley
The Singley Family by Betty Singley
My father, Leonard, by Darlene & Henry Strunk
Swallow Family by Parris & Bennett Families
My granddaughters, Emma & Lily Moore by their Nan, Jackie Wright
My nephew, Lanny Kulp by his aunt, Jackie Wright

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY 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

Rev. Ann Borquist 1/11

January Birthdays

2 Jane Kofroth
6 Casey Klimek
27 Andrew Harmon
Herb Osborne

January Anniversaries

28 Doris and John Frain