

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

January 2018

Upland Baptist Church
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Work in Progress

2017 brought a great many changes to my life. It was January of 2017 when I was diagnosed with diabetes. This caused some radical changes. My diet has certainly changed. I had no idea cauliflower could be eaten in so many ways! It was a vegetable I avoided at all costs, now I eat cauliflower, riced, mashed and as breadsticks. I had no idea it could be so tasty.

In August, I began walking, but was not very smart about it. I started walking as if I was 20 years old instead of my mid- 40's and hurt my knee. Eventually, I stopped walking to let me knee heal. Now my knee feels great, but I haven't gotten back into the routine of walking again.

I think I am healthier today than I was a year ago, but I haven't reached all of my goals. There are also days when things are easier. Some days eating appropriately is really a challenge. Some days monitoring my blood sugar feels like a huge imposition. Other days it feels normal and routine. I am a work in progress.

I wish it were just managing my health that was a work in progress, but it really is all aspects of life. There are things about parenting that I continue to work on, days when I take a step back and am pleased with myself as a mom and days when I need work. My relationship with God is also something that continues to ebb and flow. I confess that there are days when I am very connected to my Lord and Savior, and days when I go about my business like he isn't even there. All of life is a work in progress. There is growing, maturing, and learning that needs to be done all the time. We are never finished.

At this time of year we often take time to think about the places in our lives that we want to grow. We often make a list of things we want to do differently. Here is a list of resolutions that people often make.



Stay fit and healthy	37%
Lose weight	32%
Enjoy life to the fullest	28%
Spend less, save more	25%
Spend more time with family and friends	19%
Get organized	18%
Will not make any resolutions	16%
Learn something new/new hobby	14%
Travel more	14%
Read more	12%

My guess is that we have all made at least one of these resolutions at one time or another. They are all good things to do in our lives. The truth is that for most of them we continue to work on achieving them all our lives.

It made me smile when I read that 16% made the resolution that they would not make any more resolutions. We often do this because we don't want to make a resolution because we know we will probably break it before long. People don't tend to keep the resolutions they make. It is believed that 80% of New Year resolutions fail before February. This is rather disheartening.

Instead of making a New Year's resolution, it seems to me that we need to acknowledge that we are works in progress. There are days that I will succeed; there are days I will fail. All of those days make up who I am. Failing one day, does not make me a failure. Instead, it helps me evaluate what is important and look at what I want to do differently.

I think the most discouraging part of living the diabetes lifestyle has been other diabetics. I can name the people who have told me I won't succeed, the ones who said I would never be able to maintain this diet, the ones who told me it isn't possible. It has been very discouraging to listen to them tell me it can't be done.

What we need are people in our corner who tell us it can be done. People who are encouraging, people who are willing to walk with us on good days and difficult days. I feel very encouraged when we have snack at Small Group and someone intentionally brings something they know I can eat. It is encouraging to hear other people share their stories and to have people say they notice a change.

Just as we need encouragers in our lives, we need to be encouragers for others. We want to notice what others are going through and encourage them to succeed. We want to nurture changes in their lifestyles and their relationship with God. We want to help others succeed. We want to be the cheerleader as someone else works to make their life closer to what God intended for them to be.

I don't think it is about New Year resolutions. Instead I think it is about sitting with God and seeking his direction for our lives. What does God want for you? How does God believe things could be better? What changes do you need to make to live as God desires?

When we can answer those questions, then we can begin living as God intended for us to live. All of us have things we could change. All of us are works in progress. May God bless your days. May God give you hope on the most challenging of days. May God show you what he desires from you. May God give you courage to live as he desires you to live.

Pastor Brenda

Pray!

New Year Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brands new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,

CHAIRPERSON ~ Linda Cook



CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS

Arthur Colby
Normajean Colby and Megan, Katelyn, and Sammy
Linda Cook
Parker and Carol Ferguson
Doris and John Fraim
Dave and Kathy Geveke
Deloris Hanley
The Klimek Family – Brian, Courtney, Casey, and Cameron
Frank and Sue Kulp
Iris Messick
Dave and Rachel Miskowic
Charlene and Dan Miller
Priscilla Mills
The Pysher Family
Dawn Rafalski
Florence and Herb Osborne
Peggy, Helen, and Cheryl Rhoads
The Shaws – John, Brenda, Stephen, and Matthew
Bob and Betty Singley
Denise Sweeney

LOOKING AHEAD . . .



*Plan to attend the February Brunch on
Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 11:15 AM
Snow Date is February 18, 2018 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 the back of the Church towards the end of January.



CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Tom Geveke** continue to play with the *Joyful Noise* and do a wonderful job! **Stephen Shaw** has also joined the *Joyful Noise* and is doing a wonderful job!
- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Sara Mason** enjoyed seeing the Nutcracker Ballet.
- **Tom Geveke** is on an Ultimate Frisbee Intramural team at Sun Valley High School.
- **Matthew Shaw** has begun wearing glasses. He has really enjoyed opening and reading his advent calendar. He is very excited about Pajama Day in first grade.
- **Stephen Shaw** played a duet at his Christmas Concert. As a member of the Compost Club, he recently read at an assembly at school where Coebourn Elementary was awarded the Green Ribbon for environment awareness.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| • January 8 | Annual Reports Due |
| • January 15 | No VBS Night |
| • January 28 | Annual Business Meeting and Lunch |
| • February 6 | Small Groups Resume |
| • February 11 | Valentine's Brunch |
| • February 14 | Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 pm |
| • February 19 | No VBS Night |
| • March 11 | Soup Social |
| • April 1 | Easter Services |
| | Egg Hunt |



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 2018 that is included with the *Spire*. As you will see, we have some increases in salaries, but most of the other categories have remained the same, or were decreased. We will vote on the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Church and of the Legal Corporation will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, January 28, 2018 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 2018 is enclosed with this month's *Spire*. The total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2018 budget is **\$148,961.00**. As of Sunday, December 17, 2018, we have received **31 pledges for \$77,996**. 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

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER – John Kofroth

You can access the current devotionals on your own at these links:

http://www.uplandbaptist.org/NEWS_FLASH.php?page=157

Our Daily Bread <https://odb.org/>

Our Daily Journal <https://www.ourdailyjourney.org/> of Advent.

On December 3, the first day of Advent, I will start posting our Advent devotional.



The Advent Devotional is entitled "*The Season of Advent*" and is available on Amazon, Amazon Kindle and Amazon Nook.

I want to let you know that I had problems with the Live Broadcast again. This is caused by a Wi-Fi signal that seems to drop out in the Sanctuary. I will be taking steps to correct this situation.

WORSHIP – Sue Kulp

Fourth Annual Night of Music December 18, 2017

Theme- “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

On December 18th, we celebrated Night of Music. It was a wonderful night of singing, playing bells, and a solo trumpet player! There were 102 people in attendance including attendees from VBS Night. What a great showing! After the service, refreshments were served in the chapel. Night of Music will be a lasting tradition.

“God, as a loving Father, will stretch our soul at times. The soul is like a violin string: it makes music only when it is stretched.” Neal A. Maxwell

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

Offering envelopes are in the back of the church for 2018. If you no longer wish to receive envelopes please let Dawn Rafalski know. As a cost saving measure we have reduced the number of boxes of envelopes. We have re-numbered those over #45, so check for your new number when you pick up your envelopes.

Don't forget the annual meeting and lunch on January 28, from 11:00 to 1:00.

Men's News

The next Men's Breakfast will be at New Hope Christian on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 8:15 a.m.

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 meets on Thursdays, at 10:00 AM.

Join us as we continue to study the book of Romans and consider how God's Word can--- and does---guide and direct our lives. There's always good company and a lively exchange of ideas.

We will not meet on Thursday 12/28.

Small Groups will be on hiatus until February

Stay tuned for information on our new Small Groups book and meeting dates.

The daytime group gets together downstairs in The Chapel from noon till 2PM. Bring your lunch. You can count on having a delicious dessert, too.

The evening group meets at The Shaw's House from 7:00 until 8:30. Don't worry—snacks will be served so you won't go hungry!

Monday Night VBS

VBS meets every Monday night for Dinner at 6:00 PM and a Bible lesson and creative activity from 6:30-7:00.

Sometimes only 6 or 8 kids come by....and sometimes there are 18! But, we can always count on a lot of energy and laughter and a certain amount of chaos. Feeding "guess how many kids?" is a challenge for our volunteer cooks—but they always come through and even keep smiling. Thank you all!

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.

We will not meet on Monday 1/15

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

Giving Tree

A big thank you to all of the elf's who took Christmas tree tags. There were fifty tags that were made up. A list came from Belvedere as to what the residents wanted or needed. The gifts were delivered on December 18 by Santa's elves and the activity staff at Belvedere will give the gifts to the residents on Christmas day. Thanks to all who took tags to make for a special Christmas.

Food Bank

The Food Bank is always in need of food items, paper bags and plastic bags. You can place these items in the box at the back of the church. Happy Holidays to all.

Worship

Please pray for our outreach programs and come join us on Sunday morning for church at 10:00 AM.

Thanks to all the Elves who helped decorate our church on December 2, 2017: Hans Geveke, Joan Decker, Frank Kulp, Dawn Rafalski, Pastor Brenda Shaw, John Shaw, Stephen Shaw, Matthew Shaw and Denise Sweeney.

Iris Messick

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY

Rev. Ann Borquist 1/11
42 Hirpoi St.
Newtown, Wellington 6021
New Zealand

Email: ann.borquist@internationalministries.org

Ms. Carmella Jones 1/26
9525 Franklin Ave.
Seabrook, MD 29796

Email: carmella.jones@internationalministries.org

January Birthdays

2 Jane Kofroth
6 Casey Klimek
27 Andrew Harmon
Herb Osborne

January Anniversaries

28 Doris and John Frain

**Upland Baptist Church
Proposed Operating Budget
Calendar Year 2018**

Disbursements:		
Benevolences:	2017	2018
Unified Mission Budget ABC*	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Baptist Home / White Cross - UBC Women's Union	\$100.00	\$100.00
City Team of Chester	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside Association \$ Local Ministries	\$150.00	\$150.00
Upland Fire Company	\$350.00	\$350.00
Center for Pastoral Counseling	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Benevolences	\$8,800.00	\$8,800.00
<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:	2017	2018
Pastor's Salary	\$37,800.00	\$38,934.00
Pastor's Housing / Utilities	\$25,200.00	\$25,956.00
Pastor's M & M (Retirement)	\$9,800.00	\$10,167.00
Pastor's SS / Medicare Offset	\$3,150.00	\$3,245.00
Secretary	\$11,590.00	\$11,776.00
Financial Team Leader	\$4,330.00	\$4,460.00
Financial Secretary	\$1,445.00	\$1,445.00
Sexton / Cleaner	\$14,420.00	\$14,853.00
Music - Vocalist	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Social Security Expenses	\$3,525.00	\$3,615.00
Pastor's Vacation Substitute	\$700.00	\$700.00
ADP Fees	\$2,600.00	\$2,730.00
Total Personnel / Salaries	\$121,060.00	\$124,381.00
Educational / Organizational:	2017	2018
Outreach Ministry	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
discipleship	\$600.00	\$600.00
VBS (summer only)	\$800.00	\$800.00
Ministry to Children (Monday Night/Sunday during school)	\$900.00	\$900.00
Ministry to Members	\$600.00	\$600.00
Worship team	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Church Baby Nursery	\$810.00	\$810.00
Music Licensing	\$200.00	\$200.00
Organist	\$11,745.00	\$11,745.00
Total Educational / Organizational	\$18,155.00	\$18,155.00

**Upland Baptist Church
Proposed Operating Budget
Calendar Year 2018**

Disbursements (cont.):		
Property	2017	2018
Fuel Oil (Heating)	\$21,000.00	\$15,000.00
Gas, Water, Electric, Sewer	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Telephone / Internet	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Alarm Services	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00
Office Supplies, Contracts and Janitorial Supplies	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,700.00
Bell Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Building Services / Maintenance	\$72,600.00	\$66,100.00
General Program:	2017	2018
Pastor's Car & Cell Phone Allowance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Continuing Education	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Convention Expenses	\$700.00	\$700.00
Book Allowance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Church Envelopes / Folders	\$500.00	\$500.00
Auditing Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Total General Program	\$12,000.00	\$12,200.00
Total Disbursements	\$232,615.00	\$229,636.00
Income:		
Other Income:	2017	2018
Plate Collections	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Non-pledged giving through envelopes	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00
Special Offerings (Holiday envelopes)	\$1,700.00	\$1,400.00
Envelope Reimbursement	\$75.00	\$75.00
Interest & Dividends	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Property Fund	\$10,500.00	\$45,000.00
Total Other Income	\$47,475.00	\$80,675.00
	\$185,140.00	\$148,961.00
Total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2018 budget:		\$148,961.00



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

Joe & Elsie Ferguson by Carol & Parker Ferguson
Martha & Jack Wright by Carol & Parker Ferguson
Alice, Howard & Tink Furniss by Mark & Lori Furniss
Mr. & Mrs. A. Foster Williamson by Connie & Doug Harris
Dr. Carol Williamson by Connie & Doug Harris
Anna C. H. Petri by Akky and Hans Geveke
John, Elsie, Jack & Abby Fallin by Denise Fallin Sweeney



***The large white poinsettia is
given in Loving Memory of:***

Emma and Lily Moore by their parents and brother,
Robin, Matt and Adam Moore



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

Richard & Amelia Arscott by Carol & Dick Arscott
Richard & 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 by Carol & Dick Arscott
Jean G. Colby by her husband Art Colby
Irene Colby by Normajean Colby
Jean G. Colby by grandchildren Megan, Katelyn & Samuel
DeVecchis
Jean & Jack Cook by Linda, Bob, and Dave and Mary Cook
Jean & Jack Cook by their grandson, Patrick Cook
John Cook, Jr. by Linda, Bob, and Dave and Mary Cook
Joseph & Elsie Ferguson by John & Doris Fraim
Elmer J. & Blanche Fraim by John & Doris Fraim
Charlotte & Preston Jensen and Henry & Fran Johnson
by Mark & Lori Furniss
Nana & Papa Rinehart by The Gevekes
Granny & Grandfather Geveke by The Gevekes
Bob Bersheim by The Gevekes
Lawrence I. Smith, Jr. by his wife, Beatrice Smith
Lawrence I. Smith, Jr. by his daughter, Pat & Tony Irace
Annina Irace by son, Tony & Pat Irace
Our cousins, Carl "Lanny" Kulp and Steven Piasecki
by the Klimek & Moore Families
Our cousins, Emma & Lily Moore by Casey & Cameron Klimek
Our dad, Robert Wright by daughters, Dena, Courtney & Robin
Robert Wright, my brother-in-law, by Diane Lord
Our parents, Jack & Lillian Lord by daughters,
Diane Lord & Jackie Wright
Carl Lance Kulp Jr. by mother Diane Lord Ogram & children
Emma & Lily Moore by Aunt Diane Lord
Herbert Ogram by wife Diane Lord Ogram & family
Kenny Mason by Christy, Katie & Sara Mason
Our family in Heaven by Christy, Katie & Sara Mason

Loretta MacIntosh by Gregory MacIntosh
Julian & Hattie Messick, my in-laws, by Iris Messick
Julian Messick, Jr. by wife, Iris Messick
Milton & Lena Howett, my parents, by Iris Messick
Judith & Darrell Miskowic by Dave Miskowic
My husband, Earl Moody and my mother, Amelia Hulton,
by Doris Moody & Family
Charles & Carlton Ottey by Elinore Ottey
Charles & Carlton Ottey by Dawn Rafalski
Sybil Scott by her grandchildren, grand-children &
great grand-children
Andrea Williams by The Pyscher Family
Norma & Wilma Pyscher & LoLa by David & Darlene Pyscher &
Family
Walter Rhoads by his wife, Peggy Rhoads
Arthur G. Scott, Sr. & Jr. by Charlene, Darlene, Doug & Joan
Betty Kondracki by The Scott Family
Papaw Bud Bartee by John, Brenda, Stephen & Matthew Shaw
Pop-Pop Jack Shaw by John, Brenda, Stephen & Matthew Shaw
The Parris Family by Robert & Betty Singley
The Singley Family by Robert & Betty Singley
My granddaughters, Emma & Lily Moore by their Nan,
Jackie Wright
My nephew, Lanny Kulp by his aunt, Jackie Wright

