

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

Summer 2019

Upland Baptist Church
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Chapter 4: A New Friend

I found myself sitting quietly trying to digest everything I was hearing and seeing. It wasn't that long ago that I was at home with my family never having traveled very far from where I was born. Now here I was in places I had never heard of, traveling with a man I did not completely understand, but wanted to hear more of his teachings and experience the way he interacted with others. I was tired, but I knew this was a once in a lifetime journey.

As I sat quietly, I realized that I was feeling lonely. There hadn't been much time to sit and think. I was too busy listening and making sure I did not get discovered or left behind. When you are my size and traveling with humans, you must be extremely careful, getting stepped on is a huge risk. I knew if they found me, I would be run off, or worse. I missed my brothers and sisters. At home there was always someone to talk to, someone to share the excitement of life with, but here I was all alone. I found myself wishing for someone with whom to share this journey.

Jesus was talking about murder. Everyone knows it is not OK to murder. Even though humans don't understand that mice should fit into that category. I was disappointed that Jesus did not say anything about killing mice is murder, but what he did say was shocking. He said that anyone who is angry with another is subject to judgment. It isn't just about acting on that anger, it is holding the anger in your heart that puts you in jeopardy. He encouraged us to seek reconciliation with others.

I must admit this made me even sadder. I knew that there were some things that I should have settled with my brothers, one in particular. I had left things undone, when I left so suddenly. That evening, I sat down to pen a letter, asking for forgiveness and offering forgiveness. I felt so much better, even though I did not know how my brother would respond.

As I sat in the quiet, looking up at the stars, I heard a small voice, "Excuse me, are you traveling with Jesus?"

I was surprised, and quickly looked around. I saw a mouse about my size, looking expectantly at me. I answered that I was with Jesus and he came closer.

He said, "I have been listening all day. I could not leave once I heard him speak. I heard Jesus talk about how we should treat each other. How we need to love and care for each other. When he said it wasn't just acting on our thoughts, but our thoughts that were sin, I was shocked. Then he said that we should not make oaths, but our yes should be enough and our no, should mean no. That should be enough. I just had to hear more. Then I caught a glimpse of you and wondered if you were listening to."

I quickly introduced myself, "My name is Malachi and I have been traveling with Jesus and these men since they started. I saw Jesus teaching and healing and I wanted to see and learn more, so I left home and followed Jesus."

"That is amazing. You must have seen and heard so much. Have you really seen Jesus heal someone?", he asked.

We talked long into the night. I told him about everything I had seen and heard. We were still talking when the sky began to lighten signaling a new day about to begin.

I was sorry to have to leave my new friend, but I knew the time was growing near. "Abraham, I must go. I have to get hidden in case Jesus and his men decide to move on today. I don't want to get left behind."

"Malachi, can I go with you?", Abraham asked.

I was very excited to have a friend on this journey, especially a friend who was as interested in what Jesus was about as I was. I quickly encouraged him to come along. He raced off to tell his family where he was going and promised to write to them as soon as he could. When he returned, we snuggled down in the bottom of a sack and waited to see what would happen next.

Abraham and I spent the next couple of days listening to Jesus teach. When Jesus taught that it wasn't enough to love those who love you, but we are to love our enemies, we both got very quiet. It is difficult to imagine loving my enemies, those who want to harm me. Jesus was clear, we are to love those who are our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. I don't know what Abraham was doing, but I know that I spent some time praying for people I had never prayed for before that moment.

As Jesus continued to teach, I gave thanks for my new friend. It was good to have someone to talk to about all these new ideas. Abraham did not understand any more than I did, but together we tried to remember everything we heard and to follow the teachings of Jesus. I was glad to have a friend on my adventure.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 5:21-48

Having a friend to pray with, talk to and share this journey of faith is a gift. We all need people who encourage us, challenge us and help us keep the faith. Following Jesus is a challenge. It is easier when we are not alone.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Pastor Brenda



Great News to Share . . .

- **THANK YOU** to **Katie Boyer-Mason and Stephen Shaw** who played in the *Joyful Noise* Bell Choir.
- **Cameron Klimek** made the travel team for Penn Fusion Soccer Academy.
- **Casey Klimek** just finished a successful freshman track season at Henderson High School.
- **Matthew Shaw** earned his Wolf badge in Cub Scouts. He is looking forward to a week at Cub Scout Day Camp when school gets out in June. He is also looking forward to the Reading Counts celebration. Matthew is one of only 4 second graders to have read a million words this year! Wow!
- **Stephen Shaw** performed in the Jazz Band concert at Sun Valley recently. Maybe we can get him to play a solo in church this summer. He is working on his prerequisites for his merit badges before he goes to Boy Scout Camp this summer.



VBS Night

A **BIG Thank You** to our VBS Monday Night Volunteers:

Brenda Shaw

Jane Kofroth

Charlene Miller

Joan Decker

Linda Cook

John Kofroth

Hans Geveke

Betty Vandergrift

Dawn Rafalski

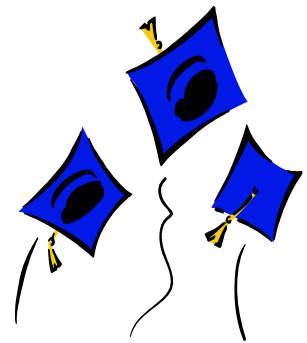
We would also like to give a **BIG Thank You** to everyone in the congregation who has supported the VBS Night with monetary and food donations. We could not afford the program without your support. Thank you for your prayers, too!

congratulations!

This year we celebrate with one of our young adults who has graduated from Widener University!

Let's give a cheer and a round of applause to . . .

Sammy DeVecchis





From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

At the May Meeting, we . . .

- Discussed Church finances and reviewed expenses;
- Discussed a proposal from a Day Care to rent the Chapel, but unfortunately there was disagreement on the cost of utilities for the building, so they turned down our counter-offer;
- Discussed scheduling a Work-Day during the summer and decided to pick a day or two at the Planning Meeting;
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel;
- Discussed a flooding issue in the basement of the Chapel, which caused damage to the floor;
- Each of the Team Leaders reported on various items they were working on and/or hoping to initiate. Their reports can be found in this issue of the *Spire*.

Our Church **Planning Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 18th at 7:00 pm** for all members of the Ministry Council.

The Legal Corporation would like extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to the **Furniss Family** for their continued donations of paper goods, including toilet tissue, paper towels, and Kleenex! It is greatly appreciated!



School Supplies For Main Street Elementary School

During the months of June, July, and August, we will be collecting **marble composition books, pencils, and boxes of 24 crayons** for students in Main Street Elementary School. There will be a basket in the back of the Chapel for your donations. Monetary donations will also be accepted and can be given to Linda Cook or Pastor Brenda. Watch for sales this summer and stock up! Many students cannot afford to buy school supplies or replenish them and it is left to the teachers to purchase the needed supplies. Our donations will help the children be ready for school and throughout the year!



PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

No Property Report this month.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

We have received feedback on the Church broadcast and appreciate it. Please continue to let us know how your experience watching the broadcast at home is going. You can email the church or give the office a call.

Two people were recently trained to operate the camera during the church service. Camera operators are always welcomed and appreciated. Please email the church or give the office a call if you're interested. It's very simple to learn to operate the church camera. You can operate the church camera if you can take a picture with your phone.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Sunday, June 9

We will honor those who have had a donation made to the Memorial Fund in the last year at the Volunteer Recognition lunch after Worship. The Memorial Fund at Upland Baptist is used to support our church budget and take care of unexpected expenses. Anyone can donate to the fund when they want to remember their loved ones.

Sunday, June 16

Father's Day will be celebrated by honoring all fathers and men of faith in our church, past or present. Pick up a frog or gecko tag as you come into church and write the name(s) of those you would like to honor.

Sunday, June 16

Worship will move to the air-conditioned chapel for the summer. Worship will return to the Sanctuary on September 8th.

Sunday, June 23

Worship at Belvedere at 2:30pm.

Please remember that you can continue Worship through our daily Face Book page and/or the church services on the internet as you go about your plans for the summer.

God's direction is always best. He will be our guide. Psalm 48:14.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

The AB Men's Retreat is July 26-28, 2019 at Shippensburg University. The theme this year is "Nothing is Impossible With God So Let your Light Shine for Jesus to All." The Keynote Speaker is Rev. Michael Kelley who is Director, Groups Ministry, LifeWay Christian Resources Conference & Retreat Speaker. He is also the author of 3 books.

The Volunteer Recognition Brunch will be on Sunday, June 9th following worship.

We will be moving worship to the wonderfully air- conditioned chapel for the summer on June 16th.

We will be taking our monthly worship service to Belvedere on June 23rd. Please see Pastor Brenda if you would like to join us.

The next Sunday Socials will be in July and August. Watch for the dates in the bulletin.

We are planning a trip to a Blue Rocks game complete with fireworks in late August on a Friday night.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Welcome Summer 2019! I hope everyone has a safe and fun filled summer break. We will not have Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month going forward beginning in July. This will give our children the opportunity to be present for communion and grow in faith as they fellowship with the congregation.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Picnic was Monday May 27, 2019. Thank you to all who helped with this endeavor. This was one of the church's biggest outreach projects. A lot of work goes into making this event successful. Hope everyone had an enjoyable time.

Main Street Elementary

Volunteers are still active with the Main Street Elementary School until the end of the school year. The school will be closed for the summer. Volunteer opportunities resume in September.

Food Bank

The Food bank is in need of:

June – Ramen Noodles

July – Pork and Beans

August – Peanut Butter and Jelly

The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods as well as plastic bags. Please support the food bank in any way by dropping off donations at the church. The Food Bank is always in need of help. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping out at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

Worship

Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM.

Have a nice summer. Thank you to everyone who did something to help with our outreach programs. Activities will start up in the Fall.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR SUMMER 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. Yamina Apolinaris 6/2
Corporacion Milagros del Amor
P.O. Box 6445
Caguas, PR 00726-6445

Email: yapolinaris.corma@gmail.com

Rev. Rick Bunker 6/2
Philadelphia Park
P.O. Box 1000
3001 Street Rd.
Bensalem, PA 19020-1000

Email: rbunker@rtca-pa.org

Mr. Philip Smith 6/8
Email: philip.smith@internationalministries.org

Rev. Vital Pierre 6/15
Vital.pierre@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Kelly Bunker 6/22
Address same as above

June Birthdays

- 6 Colleen Walker
- 7 Adam Robert Moore
- 8 Henry Strunk
- 23 Madison Hahn

June Anniversaries

- 11 John and Rev. Brenda Shaw
- 22 Darlene and David Pysker
- 30 Frank & Sue Kulp

July Birthdays

- 2 John Frain
- 7 Linda Cook
- 8 Billy Lord
- 10 Karen Johnston
- 13 Grace Miles
- 16 Betty Vandergrift
Christy Mason
- 18 Jesse Kulp
- 28 Harold Hampton
- 30 Stephen Shaw
- 31 Charlene Miller

July Anniversaries

- 7 Bill & Karin Lord

August Birthdays

- 1 John Kofroth
- 6 Carol Arscott
- 15 Doris Frain
- 21 Cameron Klimek
Lucas Charles Gervase
- 22 Ava Noelle Harman (2014)

August Anniversaries

- 2 Henry & Darlene Strunk