

# THE SPIRE

*Love God! Love Others!*



*Upland Baptist Church, 1851*

## February 2020

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

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Dear Friends,

Let me share a secret with you...I am a planner. I like things neatly organized and scheduled out. I like to know what is going to happen before it happens. I love a to-do list and watching items get marked off as completed. Going with the flow hardly ever describes me.

Here is the rub, according to Hebrews 11:1: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* Living a life of faith means that we can't always know what is coming; we can't make our own plans.

This has become increasingly real to me as I have delved farther into the reading and discussion for this Metro Urban Certificate program. I don't know where it is going to lead. I don't know what is going to happen. There is no 5-year plan. There isn't even a plan for the rest of this year. We are flying, not by the seat of our pants, but by faith.

Going in faith means that we must trust that God will lead us. We don't have to know what the destination is because we are walking each step with God. Will you join me on this journey?

- Will you commit to praying for our community?
- Will you commit to praying for our church?
- Will you participate in our Small Group discussions?
- Will you be open to different expressions of church?

I don't know where this will take us. I don't know how we will get there. I don't know what I will need to learn to make this happen.

What I do know though is more important. I know we have a God who loves us. I know we have a God who loves Upland. I know we have a God who will walk with us, stretching us, growing us, transforming us.

It is a risk. It is a challenge. It will push us to trust more, to deepen our faith, and to intentionally let God lead us.

Are you ready? Are you willing?

I am hopeful. I am excited. I am nervous. I am intimidated. I am faithful. I am trusting God. I am going forward. Let's go together and see what God is going to do.

*Pastor Brenda*



## CHILDREN and TEEN NEWS



- **Cameron Klimek** is selling Girl Scout Cookies.
- **Harlow Kulp** loves Elmo and Sesame Street. She loves her brother, Oliver, too!
- **Oliver Kulp** was Student of the Month for December at Coebourn Elementary School. He joined Jitsu with his dad.
- **Matthew Shaw** is working to earn his Whittling Chip in Cub Scouts. He has learned about knife safety and is working on his first soap carving.
- **Stephen Shaw** has been invited to join the Junior National Honor Society at Northley Middle School. He will be inducted later this month. Stephen is completing his time in the Southern Delaware County Middle School Band.



## **JOIN US FOR A VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH**

*Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 11:15 AM.*

*Snow Date is February 23, 2020*

Our **Valentine's Get Together** will follow the Worship Service, and we will be having a brunch. The Brunch is FREE and it's a wonderful time to fellowship with other members of the congregation. There are sign-up sheets in the front and the back of the Church. Hope to see you there!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **Plan Ahead . . .**

- |               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| • February 16 | Valentine's Brunch             |
| • February 17 | No VBS Night                   |
| • February 26 | Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 PM |
| • March 15    | Sunday Social                  |

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

### LEGAL CORPORATION/MINISTRY COUNCIL

- Welcome to Theresa Rowan who will be working as a Co-Team Leader for Outreach along with Joan Decker!

At the January 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Legal Corporation . . .

- Discussed the Church parking lot;
- Discussed the finances and investments of the Church;
- Discussed repairing the Chair Lift in the Chapel;
- Discussed the phone lines not working;
- Reviewed changes to our Insurance Policy with Brotherhood;
- Voted on the Lenten Offering; and
- Voted on letting Girl Scout Troop 579 use the Chapel twice a month on Tuesday evenings.

The Ministry Council . . .

- Discussed upcoming programs for February and March.

## LENTEN ENVELOPES

The Lenten Offering can be turned in anytime during the Lenten season. **This offering is over and above your usual envelope giving.** Please pray for our Lenten offering as our contributions have gone down the last two years since we have switched to envelopes.



This year, the congregation's Lenten Offering will go towards Outreach to Children. This includes our ministry to children through Sunday School, the Monday Night VBS program and Main Street School. As our attendance grows on Monday nights, crafts and food become costly. We also want to continue our work with Main Street Elementary School and be able to offer more support to the school. This support includes recognizing students for their academic

achievements with awards and treats, stocking the Friday Recognition Cart, providing refreshments for parent gatherings and student programs and special activities like Field Day.

## **PROPERTY – Frank Kulp**

No Property Report this month.

## **COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke**

### **Church Broadcast**

Three people were trained to operate the camera to enable streaming of the Church services over the Internet in 2019. They operated the camera several times and it was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the following for setting up the broadcasting system, operating the camera, and troubleshooting technical problems last year: Hans Geveke, Kathy Geveke, John Kofroth, Frank Kulp, Steven Shaw and John Shaw. There wouldn't have been any broadcasts without their assistance.

## **WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills**

- Lenten Services start with Ash Wednesday on 2/26 at 7:30 pm. Reserve the evening on your calendar. The Lenten Devotional this year will be *By His Wounds We Are Healed* by Paul Scheidt. Look for it in the near future.
- Joyful Noise Bell Choir will play on Sun 2/2. They have some new music to learn this year and are already practicing.
- Evening Prayer meeting is Tuesday 2/11 at 7:30 pm.
- Worship at Belvedere is Sunday 2/23 at 2:30 pm. New faces are always welcome.
- Everyone is welcome at the Valentine Brunch on Sunday 2/16. Join us as we extend Worship with fellowship and good food.

## **MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski**

The Offering envelopes are on the table in the back of the church. Please pick yours up if you haven't already done so.

We are going to Linvilla on February 1<sup>st</sup> to play miniature golf at 3:00 pm. We will go to Famous Dave's for dinner after.

The Valentine's Day Brunch will be on February 16<sup>th</sup> following worship.

The next Sunday social will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> following worship. Come join us for Soup Sunday.

# **DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston**

## **Sunday School**

We are looking for a few more volunteers for Sunday School. We will be meeting briefly after worship on Sunday, February 9, 2020 to discuss curriculum and scheduling. Please come to this meeting if you feel God calling you to help teach our children.

We are going peanut-free in an effort to make Sunday School on Sunday mornings a safe and friendly environment for all attendees. All snacks that are served during Sunday School will be peanut-free. There is a list of approved snacks available for teachers and volunteers.

## **Small Groups**

We are postponing the completion of the current book Daring to Draw Near even though we have been enjoying reading it.

We will begin exploring the Gospels and discussing what Jesus really came to do as a way to define our own sense of what God has in store for us as a church starting on Tuesday, February 4.

Please consider joining one of the groups. Tuesday at the church from noon to 2 pm or at the Shaw's home from 7-8:30 pm.

# **OUTREACH – Joan Decker/Theresa Rowan**

## **VBS Night**

Come join us in the chapel on Monday nights from 6 – 7 pm to help with dinner, the Bible story or the activity.

## **Main Street Elementary**

There are volunteer opportunities available at Main Street Elementary. Please call the church office for more information 610-874-7474 if you would like to help.

## **Food Bank**

Please remember the Food Bank with Cup of Soup for the month of February. The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods. You can place the items in the box at the back of the church. 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 at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

## **Memorial Day**

Our next big event coming up is the Memorial Day Parade in May. There will be more information available in the coming months.

## **Worship**

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

# HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY 2020

International Ministries  
1003 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite A  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Mrs. Nancy James            2/17  
Email: [nancy.james@internationalministries.org](mailto:nancy.james@internationalministries.org)

Mrs. Barbara Bolick        2/29  
Email: [barbara.bolick@internationalministries.org](mailto:barbara.bolick@internationalministries.org)

## **February Birthdays**

11    Frank Kulp  
13    Stephanie Pyscher  
14    Megan DeVecchis  
      Katelyn DeVecchis Pomponio  
16    Ray Leber  
20    Joan Decker  
      Mary Lowe  
21    Janet Peterson  
24    Iris Messick  
27    Susan Kulp

## **February Anniversaries**

17    Dave and Kathy Geveke