

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

January 2020

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

Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

Website: www.uplandbaptist.org

Chapter 9: Ask, Seek, Knock

Over the next few days Abraham and I spent more time listening to Jesus teach. I knew that Abraham was struggling, trying to decide to go home or to stay. Though I really wanted him to stay, I did my best not to try to sway his decision. Though quietly I was praying that he would decide to keep traveling with me and the disciples as we followed Jesus.

I really wanted to wake up to a big show. I wanted Jesus to do something miraculous, to heal someone, to drive out a demon, I wanted something spectacular. Instead I found myself listening to Jesus teach again.

This time his teaching seemed rather obvious. Jesus said that if you look for something you will find it, if you knock the door will be opened and if you ask you will receive. This seemed like ordinary information to me. The only way to get in a locked door is to knock. The only way to find something is to look for it. I was a little disappointed in Jesus. I wanted something splashier if Abraham was going to continue on this journey.

Even as I was feeling frustrated about what Jesus was doing and feeling confident that Abraham would be packing his bags that day to head home, Abraham came up to me to talk about what we had been hearing.

“Malachi, did you hear what Jesus said,” Abraham asked me.

I just nodded. I couldn't even bring myself to answer.

“Well, after today I am staying! I couldn't leave now. I have to see what happens next.”

I was speechless. How could Abraham say that he was going to stay when all Jesus had done was continue to talk and talk. He hadn't done anything miraculous; he hadn't shown what he could do. Before I could gather my wits, Abraham began to talk again.

“I have been wondering if Jesus was really someone worth following, but today he showed me that he was.”

“Abraham,” I began carefully, “how did Jesus show you he was worth following? He hasn't done anything.” I asked him.

“Malachi, weren't you listening? Didn't you hear what Jesus said?” Abraham asked me.

I had to admit to Abraham that I wasn't really listening. I was so worried about him leaving that I was paying much attention to what Jesus was saying. Instead I was complaining that Jesus wasn't doing anything spectacular.

Abraham just shook his head at me and began telling me what Jesus had taught. “Jesus said, *“Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't*

*think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So, don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?"*¹

I listened carefully as Abraham retold what Jesus had been teaching. I will admit that I didn't see what was so important that it changed Abraham's mind and he was going to stay. I must have looked puzzled because Abraham continued.

"Malachi, God loves me. He loves me and wants me to know him that is why he sent Jesus, that is why we are here. We get to experience the gifts that God is giving. He wants us to learn how to give those gifts to others. He wants us to do to others what we want them to do to us."

All of a sudden, things began to make sense. Jesus had done something miraculous that day. It wasn't as showy as I would have liked, but it was incredible nonetheless. Fortunately, Abraham was paying attention. Jesus had reminded us that he was a gift from God and all we needed to do was seek and we would find. He would give us every good gift, if we would only turn to him.

"Abraham, I am glad you were paying attending today. Jesus was teaching us about loving our neighbor and I was so worried about myself that I forgot to do just that. Thanks for reminding me how important it is to listen to Jesus' teachings and to live them out."

This journey is not what I expected it to be. I thought there would be more excitement, more drama. Instead I am learning about who God wants me to be. I never thought that God paid much attention to a small mouse like me, but now I can see that God loves me and wants me to share his love with others. I am going to learn all I can so that I can make God proud.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 7:7-12.

We are called to ask, seek and knock. God promises when we do that he will answer. He will show us the way. He will give us the courage and the wisdom to love others the way we want to be loved.

Pastor Brenda

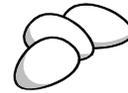
¹ Matthew 7:7-11 from The Message



CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS

Peggy Albany
Normajean Colby
Linda Cook
Doris and John Fraim
Kathy and Dave Geveke
Sharon and Jim Jackson
Sue and Frank Kulp
Monica Manerchi
Iris Messick
Charlene and Dan Miller
Priscilla Mills
Doris Moody
Florence and Herb Osborne
The Pysher Family
Dawn Rafalski
Peggy, Helen and Cheryl Rhoads
Rosie Richardson
Marsha and Doug Scott
The Shaws – John, Brenda, Stephen, and Matthew
Betty Singley
Denise Sweeney

LOOKING AHEAD . . .



*Plan to attend the February Brunch on
Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 11:15 AM
Snow Date is February 23, 2020 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 and front of the Church in January.



CHILDREN AND TEEN NEWS



- **Katie Boyer-Mason** and **Stephen Shaw** continue to play with the *Joyful Noise* and do a wonderful job!
- **Oliver Kulp** enjoys Scouts. He built and painted a birdhouse. Oliver likes spending time with Pop-pop and Mom-mon Kulp and playing board games. His teacher gave his parents a good report at conference time and said that he was the kindest kid in the class.
- **Matthew Shaw** is working to help his class reach 4 million words before Christmas.
- **Stephen Shaw** has been invited to participate in the Southern Delaware County Middle School Band. They will practice in January and hold a concert at the end of the month.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- January 4 Undecorating the Church
- January 6 VBS Night
Annual Reports Due
- January 13 VBS Night
- January 20 No VBS Night
- January 26 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
- February 1 Miniature Golf at Linvilla followed by Dinner
- February 16 Valentine's Brunch
(Snow Date is February 23)
- February 17 No VBS Night
- February 26 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 pm
- March 15 Sunday Social





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 2020 that is included with the *Spire*. The amount needed through pledges decreased almost \$12,000.00 from last year. We have few 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 26, 2020 after the Worship Service. We will hold the Business Meeting first and then have lunch. Lunch will be provided. We will be voting on the Annual Reports, the Proposed Budget, and a Proposal from the Borough of Upland regarding the Church parking lot.

PLEDGE UPDATE

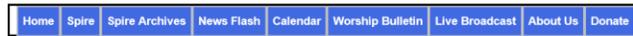
The Proposed Budget for 2020 is enclosed with this month's *Spire*. The total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2020 budget is **\$119,038.00**. As of Sunday, December 10, 2019, we have received **32 pledges for \$76,935.00**. In December 2018 we were at 36 pledges for \$80,782.00.

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

UPDATE: As mentioned in last month's article Upland Baptist Church offers the availability for online donations. And I can finally say donations can be made directly through the <https://www.uplandbaptist.org>

website. All you need to do once on the website is click donate in the top banner. One of the advantages of making donations through the website, is whether you choose the PayPal or debit/credit card method you can make it a reoccurring monthly transaction. Set it up once and you'll never have to worry about bringing checks again. Also, as with the direct PayPal method mentioned last month, you can make note of your online donations to direct it any of Upland Baptist's missions as well as any tides and offerings.



Upland Baptist Church

325 Main Street
Upland, PA 19015
Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, Pastor
Church Office: 610-874-7474
e-mail: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

*Mark 12:29 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
The second command is this: Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Love God! Love Others!

You will be taken to another page that will ask you "If you would like to make a contribution to Upland Baptist Church use the buttons on the left:" Just click the yellow donate button.



Upland Baptist Church Giving Page



If You Would Like to
make a contribution to
Upland Baptist Church
use the buttons on the left:

It will then ask you how you wish to make your donations. If you select "Pay with PayPal" you will follow the directions from December's Spire. Or if you do not have a PayPal account you may also choose to "pay with Debit/Credit card".

**Donate to
Upland Baptist Church**

Purpose: Support Upland Baptist Church Programs

\$100.00

USD

Make this a monthly donation [?](#)

Donate with PayPal

or

Donate with a Debit or Credit Card

[Cancel and return to Upland Baptist Church](#)

If you select "Donate with a Debit or Credit Card" you will be asked to enter in your payment card information.

Upland Baptist Church

Purpose: Support Upland Baptist Church Programs

\$100.00

USD

Make this a monthly donation [?](#)

 Write a note (Optional)

Have a PayPal account? [Log in](#)

Donate with a debit or credit card

United States 

Card number

Expires

Security code

First name

Last name

Billing address

Street address

Apt., ste., bldg. (optional)

City

State 

ZIP code

Contact Information

Mobile 

Phone number

Email

Save this information for next time.

[View PayPal policies](#) and your payment method rights.

[Donate Now](#)

Click the blue "Donate Now" button and you are all set. Similarly, with the direct PayPal method a report each month will be given to our Financial Secretary and any Chair that may need the information of payments made and purpose.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
Brian Klimek
Upland Baptist Controller

Disbursements:		
Benevolences:	2019	2020
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	\$50.00	\$50.00
Upland Fire Company	\$350.00	\$0.00
Total Benevolences	\$8,500.00	\$8,150.00
<i>pledges - this number will be adjusted after the Stewardship Campaign is completed. \$1,000 to go</i>		
Personnel / Salaries:	2019	2020
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	\$12,192.00
Financial Team Leader	\$4,460.00	\$4,460.00
Financial Secretary	\$1,445.00	\$0.00
Sexton / Cleaner	\$14,853.00	\$15,000.00
Music - Vocalist	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Social Security Expenses	\$3,615.00	\$3,584.00
Vacation Substitute	\$700.00	\$700.00
ADP Fees	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
Total Personnel / Salaries	\$124,451.00	\$123,538.00
Educational / Organizational:	2019	2020
Board of Christian Education		
Outreach Ministry	\$1,500.00	\$800.00
Discipleship	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
VBS (summer only)	\$800.00	\$800.00
Ministry to Members	\$800.00	\$600.00
Worship	\$800.00	\$500.00
Church Baby Nursery	\$810.00	\$0.00
Music Licensing	\$150.00	\$150.00
Organist	\$11,745.00	\$12,000.00
Total Educational / Organizational	\$17,605.00	\$16,050.00

Disbursements (cont.):		
Property	2019	2020
Fuel Oil (Heating)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Gas, Water, Electric, Sewer	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00
Telephone / Internet	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
Insurance	\$10,000.00	\$11,000.00
Alarm Services	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
Office Supplies, Contracts and Janitorial Supplies	\$8,500.00	\$7,500.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Bell Maintenance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Building Services / Maintenance	\$64,300.00	\$58,300.00
General Program:	2019	2020
Pastor's Car & Cell Phone Allowance	\$1,500.00	\$1,200.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Convention Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00
Book Allowance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Church Envelopes	\$250.00	\$200.00
Auditing Expenses	\$8,000.00	\$5,000.00
Total General Program	\$11,750.00	\$8,400.00
Total Disbursements	\$226,606.00	\$214,438.00
Income:		
Other Income:	2019	2020
Plate Collections	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
Non-pledged giving through envelopes	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Special Offerings (Holiday envelopes)	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Envelope Reimbursement	\$75.00	\$100.00
Memorial Fund	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
Property Fund	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
Total Other Income	\$95,575.00	\$95,400.00
	\$131,031.00	\$119,038.00
Total amount of pledges needed to meet our 2020 budget:		\$119,038.00

PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

No Property Report this month.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

Church Broadcast

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

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

December was a month of opportunities for giving, service and celebration as we awaited the birth of Christ.

- Perhaps you helped decorate the sanctuary and the tree with Christmas cards from our church family, or donated in a card for funds to support the Joyful Noise Bell Choir
- Perhaps you took a tree or two to buy a gift(s) for the residents at Belvedere
- Perhaps you and a family member took part in lighting one of the Advent candles during worship for Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and the Christ Candle
- Or maybe you are in the Joyful Noise Bell Choir and played on December 16 Night of Music and on December 24 Christmas Eve while the rest of us enjoyed the sounds of the season
- Did you attend the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion and notice that the baby Jesus was placed in the Nativity Creche at the front of the church?
- Maybe you attended the Christmas message taken to Belvedere on December 22
- Did you enjoy our tradition of singing the Upland Carols during worship or looking at the Poinsettias that decorated the windows and front of the church?
- Perhaps you made an Advent offering to support VBS Night or a Christmas Eve offering to support the work of the church.
- Or did you help the children in VBS go to the sanctuary on the Night of Music to listen and enjoy a story and visit from Santa. I think they enjoyed the cupcakes afterwards too.
- I hope you came to Taco Sunday and made a wreath decoration to give with an invitation to the Night of Music.

So many ways to experience the Christmas season and the birth of Christ. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Worship a month to remember.

Looking ahead to January - Communion will be January 5th and services at Belvedere Jan 26 at 2:30.

Start your year off right with Worship at Upland Baptist and consider volunteering for our many opportunities to give service to the church and youth.

May you all Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

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.

The Annual Church Meeting and luncheon will be on January 26th following worship. Come and see all that we are doing and all that we are in the eyes of God.

The Valentine's Day Brunch will be on February 16th following worship.

The next Sunday social will be on March 15th following worship. Menu to be decided on later. Any suggestions?

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Happy January! Children's Church is back in full swing. We are always looking for adults in our congregation to share their love of our Lord on Sunday mornings. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to participate.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

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 **manwich** for the month of January. 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.

Worship

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

A Note from Herb Osborne

Dear Pastor Brenda, members of the Joyful Noise Bell Choir and members who run the camera during the Worship Service,

Thank you all. I feel so blessed that I'm able to watch the service on TV. I would also like to thank everyone for their phone calls, cards and visits. A special thank you to our communion ladies. God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Herb Osborne



The large red poinsettias are given in Loving Memory of:

Nancy Scott Cowan by Kim Buffington
Susan Cowan DiMatteo by Kim Buffington
Stella K. Cowan by Herberta Kerestus
Lewis W. Cowan by Kathy Krisac
Carol Ann Ferguson by Parker Ferguson
Elsie Ferguson by Parker Ferguson
Joe Ferguson, Sr. by Parker Ferguson
Joe Probert by Parker Ferguson
Hendrik Geveke by Akky & Hans Geveke
Our Grandparents by Dave and Kathy Geveke
Mary Hampton by Harold A. Hampton
Charles, Elinore and Carlton Ottey by Dawn Rafalski
Robert Richardson by Rosemary Richardson & Family
Kenneth Richardson by Rosemary Richardson & Family
John & Elsie Fallin by Denise Fallin Sweeney
Jack & Abby Fallin by Denise Fallin Sweeney





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

William & Mary Kirby by The Bush's

Sandy Miazza & Jackie Kirby by Judy Bush

Pat Bush by The Bush's

Richard Jr. & Margaret Arscott by Carol & Dick Arscott

Richard Sr. & Amelia 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

Richard 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

Arthur & Jean Colby by their daughter Normajean Colby

Dr. Susan C. Mills by Dr. Normajean Colby

Jean & Jack Cook by their grandson, Patrick Cook

Jean & Jack Cook by Linda, Bob, David and Mary Cook

John Cook, Jr. by Linda, Bob, David and Mary Cook

Joseph & Elsie Ferguson by John & Doris Fraim

Sara Ferguson and Helen McKinney by John & Doris Fraim

Elmer J. & Blanche Fraim by John & Doris Fraim

Elmer A. & Shirley Fraim by John & Doris Fraim

Joyce Fraim by John & Doris Fraim

The Moor and Jackson Family by Sharon & Jim Jackson

My grandson Ian Kefalas by Mary Kefalas

My grandson John D'Amica by Mary Kefalas

Our cousins, Lanny Kulp and Stephen Piasecki,
by the Klimek Family

Our cousins, Emma & Lily, by Casey & Cameron
Kathy Brandon by the Klimek Family

Our parents by Jane & John Kofroth
Alice Callahan by Jane & John Kofroth

Vincent J. Long, Sr. by his wife Joanne Long

Shawn Patrick Long, Sr. by his mother Joanne Long

Kenny 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 his wife, Iris Messick

Milton & Lena Howett, my parents, by Iris Messick

Ted Mills, Sr. by Priscilla Mills

My husband, Earl K. Moody and My mother, Amelia Hulton by
Doris Moody & Family

Sybil, Arthur Sr. & Arthur Jr. Scott by Charlene, Darlene, Joan,
Doug Scott & their families

Norman & Wilma Pysher, Lois & Andrea by the Pysher Family

Morris Albany Jr. by The Scott Family

Arthur & Sybil Scott, Sr. by The Scott Family

Papaw Bud Barte by John, Brenda, Stephen & Matthew Shaw

Pop-Pop Jack Shaw by John, Brenda, Stephen & Matthew Shaw

Grandfather Bill Jamison by John, Brenda, Stephen
& Matthew Shaw

Robert C. Singley by Betty Singley

The Singley Family by Betty Singley

The Parris Family by Betty Singley

Our Dad, Robert Wright, by Dena, Courtney & Robin

My granddaughters, Emma & Lily Moore

by their Nan, Jackie Wright

My nephew, Carl "Lanny" Kulp by his aunt, Jackie Wright

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR JANUARY 2020

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
E-Mail: annborquist@internationalministries.org

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

E-Mail: carmella.jones@internationalministries.org

January Birthdays

2 Jane Kofroth
6 Casey Klimek
17 Stephen Kalichak, Sr.
27 Andrew Harmon
 Herb Osborne
 Theresa Rowan

January Anniversaries

28 Doris and John Frain