

The Spire

February 2024



"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

~ John 16:33

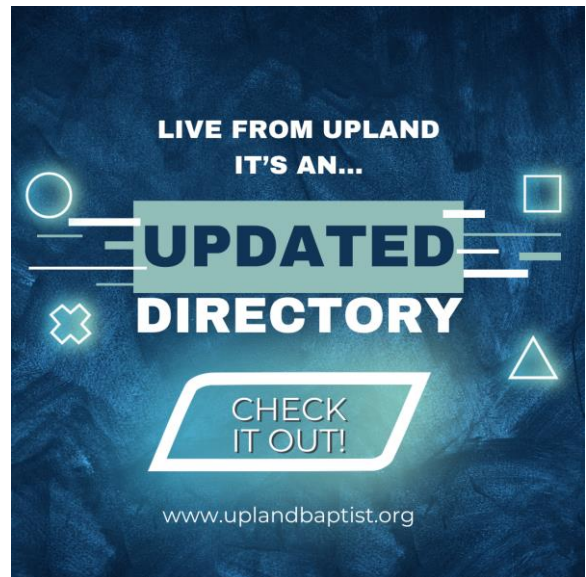
Updated Church Directory Is Now Live!

If you check out the directory on our website, you may notice it looks a little different. Last year, we began overhauling the directory portion of the website to streamline how the office stores information.

Everyone who completed a contact form and gave us permission is visible on the online directory. The directory is still password-protected (with the same password as before), so only those with the password have access to the information. Please call the office if you need the password.

If you don't see yourself in the directory, then the office does not have your permission to share your information. Please fill out the online contact form (link on the website) or call the office to give us permission.

A huge thank you to John Kofroth for ironing out all the technical kinks and working with the office staff to implement this change. Thank you, too, to Dave Geveke for reaching out to members for their permissions.



Using the New Directory

Once you type in the password, you have several different options to find congregants' names.

1. Type a name into the search bar on the top left of the page, and every person with that name will appear.
2. Click on a letter of the alphabet to see all members whose last names start with that letter.
3. Use the link above the search bar titled "PDF Version." This opens a new screen that shows the entire directory in one document.

If you have any questions about how to use the directory, please don't hesitate to call the Church office. (610) 874-7474

Small Group Resumes

Small Groups begin Tuesday, February 6th. We will be reading *Cast of Characters: Common People in the Hands of an Uncommon God* by Max Lucado. Please see Pastor Brenda to get your copy.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of a Small Group. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. You can attend at noon (bring a sack lunch) or at 7:00 PM at the Shaw's house where snacks will be served.

Bylaws Vote

At the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, the congregation voted to suspend the Bylaws and permit a third term for the Property Team Leader (3 year term) and Communication Team Leader (2 year term). With this vote, Frank Kulp will continue to serve as Property Team Leader and Dave Geveke will continue to serve as Communication Team Leader.



Join us on Sunday, February 11th in the Chapel for a Soup and Salad Fellowship lunch after worship. It's the perfect way to spend a chilly winter day. Please see the sign-up sheet in the back of the Church if you'd like to contribute to this event.



This year, we will again have a drive-up service for Ash Wednesday, February 14th from 7 to 8 PM. People will be invited to stay in their vehicles and receive ashes on

their foreheads or hands. Lenten devotional materials will be available for pick-up; they will also be available in worship.

We want to thank the Upland Fire Company for volunteering to bring lights and help with the evening.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for February and March

February Birthdays

- 1 Richard Ladd
Tommy Waltman
- 9 Priscilla Mills
Jim Levi
- 11 Frank Kulp
- 20 Joan Decker
- 21 Janet Peterson
- 24 Iris Messick
- 27 Sue Kulp



March Birthdays

- 3 Deborah Rider
- 10 Monnarae Fraim
- 15 Jimmy Machamer
- 20 Kieran Levi
- 22 Rev. Brenda Shaw
- 30 Normajeane Colby
Katie Boyer
Kevin McGonigle

February Anniversary

- 17 Dave and Kathy Geveke

March Anniversary

- 25 Jim and Brigid Levi

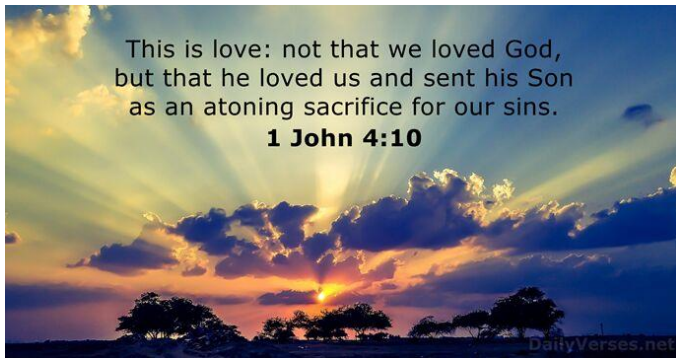
Soup & Salad Dinner at MacQueen Hall

Chase away your winter chill — support the Upland Borough Community Affairs Association with their annual "Soup & Salad Dinner" fundraiser scheduled on Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 4:00 PM–6:00 PM.

Tickets can be purchased at the borough office or contact Moira Crawford, Judy Bush, or Julie Kerns.

Homemade chili, chicken & dumplings, and/or vegetable soup served with salad bar, bread, dessert & beverage will be available for **All-U-Can-Eat-At-MacQueen Hall**. Cost is \$12 Adult, \$10 for senior citizens, and \$8 children under 12.

All proceeds benefit the Upland Borough Community Affairs Association.



Sump Pump Superheros

Many thanks to Frank Kulp and Brian Fisher for installing a sump pump in the Food Bank. It kept water from flooding in during the recent heavy storms we've had. We are grateful for their time and effort to keep our Food Bank operational in inclement weather.

Food Bank

The Food Bank item for the month of February is

Syrup & Canned Fruit

You may donate any time during the month.



Lenten Offering

The Lenten Offering will go towards expenditures for the Friends and Family Weekend planned for Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15, 2024. The planning for the weekend is still ongoing but the committee hopes to have a schedule of activities to distribute sometime in March or early April. Mark your calendars to join us on September 14th and 15th!

Devotional Thought...

It's February! Everywhere you look you see hearts. Love is in the air! Have you ever stopped to think about the greatest love in your life? Someone who loves you *without* judgement or conditions. Someone who loves you just as you are. That person is Jesus. Jesus not only loves us, but he also taught us *how* to love.

Think about what Jesus taught us in the first four books of the New Testament – Love God, love others, Love your enemies, Walk the extra mile, Turn the other cheek. What examples of love and how to live Jesus gave us!

Dr. Les Parrot says, “The Jesus model of love inspires us in following the best way to live, ‘the most excellent way’” (1 Corinthians 12:31b, NIV).

Parrot says if you want to love like Jesus, you've got to . . .

1. become more *mindful* — less detached;
2. become more *approachable* — less exclusive;
3. become more *graceful* — less judgmental;
4. become more *bold* — less fearful; and
5. become more *self-giving* — less self-absorbed.

While these may sound difficult, they are worth trying. Parrot says, “Jesus gives us practical steps to love in extraordinary ways. He calls us to embody these five qualities. Are they difficult? You bet. But not insurmountable. Will you and I fail in living them out? Absolutely. But don't be discouraged. For it's in our failed attempts that we learn to better travel the most excellent way.”

~Linda Cook

Love God  Love Others

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