

The Spire

January 2025



“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

~Isaiah 43:18-19

Thank You, Marge!

On behalf of everyone at Upland Baptist Church, we'd like to extend our gratitude to Marge Waltman, who seamlessly stepped in to accompany us on the piano for the past two years. We are grateful for the time Marge spent with us and for sharing her beautiful musical talents.

Thank you, Marge. You will always have a place at Upland Baptist.



Welcome, Beverly!

We'd like to welcome Beverly Kapanjie as our new accompanist with Upland Baptist. Beverly has extensive experience playing at churches, and as an unexpected bonus, she is an accomplished organist! We're excited to announce that our organ will once again be in use!

We're grateful for all Beverly will bring to our worship services.

2025 Verse of the Year

What was your verse for 2024? Did you memorize it? Is it hanging on the fridge? How did God use that verse to help you through 2024?

As we start the new year, I want to challenge you to ask God to give you a new verse for 2025. There are lists in the back of the sanctuary with Bible verses for inspiration. You may choose from the list or find one on your own.

What word is God planting in your heart this year? When you find your verse, I hope you will share it with me.

~Pastor Brenda



Annual Reports

All members of the Ministry Council should submit their reports to the church office no later than Monday, January 6, 2025.

Annual Reports will be available on January 14th. Anyone who wishes may pick them up during worship in the back of the church or from the church office by appointment. Financial Reports will be available at the Annual Meeting.



Annual Meeting

The Upland Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025. This meeting will occur immediately following worship.

Those who are attending worship will remain in the sanctuary for the meeting. Those who are worshipping with us virtually will be able to be a part of the meeting through our live streaming.

We will stop the broadcast when worship is completed and then start a new broadcast for the meeting. You will have to click on "live broadcast" again to enter the meeting. People who are participating virtually will be able to text Pastor Brenda at (610) 453-8317 with questions and even cast their votes.

Notice for Annual Meeting

At the January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting, a motion will be put forth to suspend the term limits for the position of Worship Team Leader.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for January and February

January Birthdays

- 2 Jane Kofroth
- 22 Marge Waltman



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



February Anniversary

- 17 Dave and Kathy Geveke

Christmas Card Greetings

These individuals and families sent a Christmas card to the church to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year.

We are excited that, through their donations, we will be able to provide a meal to the Upland Police Department and the Upland Fire Company.

Kim Buffington
The Bull Family
Normajean Colby
Linda Cook
Lori Furniss
Dave and Kathy Geveke
Frank and Sue Kulp
Dick Ladd
Joanne Long and Family
Iris Messick
Dan and Charlene Miller
Priscilla Mills
Minshall Shropshire Bleyler Funeral Home
The Pysher Family
Dawn Rafalski
Rosie Richardson
The Shaw Family
Denise Sweeney
Marge Waltman

Food Bank

Thanks to your donations and the Scouting for Food event, the Food Bank was able to provide Christmas Dinner bags for 47 residents!

If you'd like to donate something for the month of January, we'd love some **toothbrushes & toothpaste.**



Saturday, January 4

Church Undecorating 9:00 AM

Sunday, January 19

Sunday Social Brunch 11:00 AM

Join us for a time of fellowship after worship. If you'd like to provide anything, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

Sunday, January 26

Annual Board Meeting & Monthly Board Meeting 11:00 AM



February Small Groups

Small groups start again on Tuesday, February 4th. Our new book is *Lessons from a Sheep Dog*. In this classic, modern-day parable about a man and his transforming love for his dog, Lass, bestselling author Phillip Keller paints a vivid picture of God's love for the unlovable.

At our first meeting, we'll cover "The Story" and Lesson 1. Please see Pastor Brenda for your copy.

Devotional Thought...

I saw the following quote this week: "And just like that, Santa is gone until next year, but Jesus is still here with gifts that never end!"

What a wonderful reminder as we start the new year. Jesus is always there for us no matter the month, year, or holiday. He is a constant in our lives. Christmas may be over, but Jesus is always there! We just have to welcome Him into our lives.

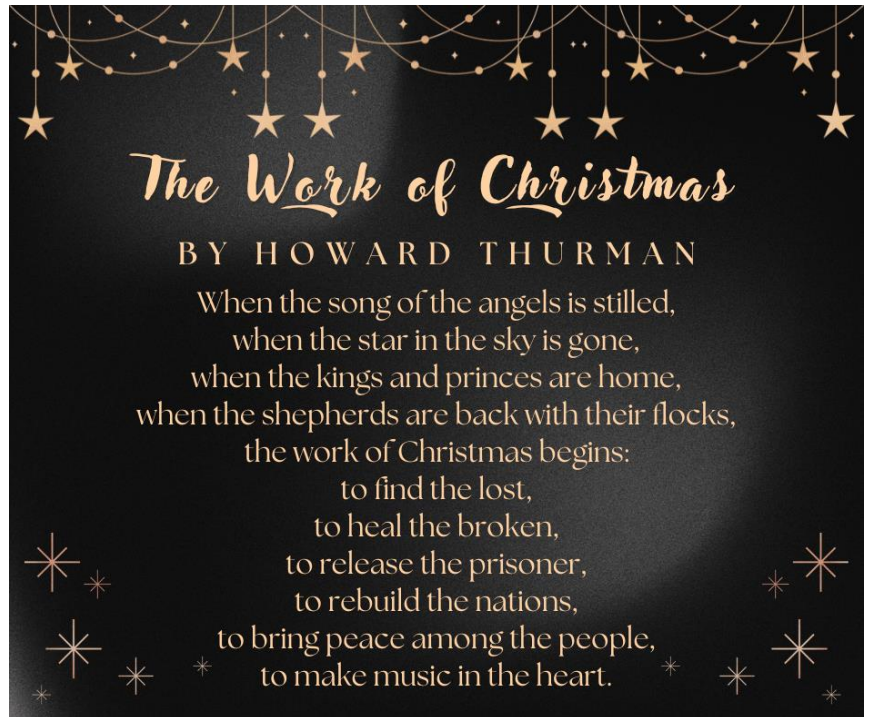
"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." ~Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

This Bible verse about new beginnings tells us the importance of operating in Jesus' name in all we do in our lives. Keeping Christ as the center helps everything else come together. That's a statement worth keeping in mind as we head into 2025, a year filled with opportunities to grow in faith and align our actions with His will.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." ~John 13:34-35 (NIV)

As we head into the new year, let's remember Jesus' commands: love God **and love others**. No matter what happened with friends and family in the past, look forward to new beginnings in 2025. Make a concerted effort to love others, regardless of how much you "like" them. Try to see others through God's lens.

~Linda Cook



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