

The Spire Lite

March 2023



Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

Cemetery Clean-Up and Game Night

Sunday, March 19th, we will gather to clean up the cemetery at 5:30 PM. Bring your gloves; trash bags will be provided. We will clean off Christmas decorations and pick up trash before the Easter holiday.

At 6 PM, we will gather in the Chapel for dinner: baked ziti, salad, and bread.

Following dinner, will we spend some time fellowshiping and playing games. You are welcome to bring a game to share, or we will have games available.

You are also welcome to bring a dessert or snack to share.

This should be a fun, casual evening. We look forward to spending it together.

Lenten Offering

This year, the Lenten offering will go to refurbishing the bells.

Every decade, the bells should be restored by a professional, but we have not done this for fourteen years. They will be repaired, polished, and general maintenance will be performed. This ensures that we can play our bells for years to come.

The cost is approximately \$2,500. All assistance towards this cost is greatly appreciated.



Sunday Social

After worship on Sunday, March 12th we will have a Sunday Social. Join us for a light brunch and time of fellowship.

Food Bank

During the month of March, the Food Bank is requesting the following:

Cookie Mix
(for the Easter dinner bags)

Laundry Detergent

Please donate anytime during the month.



Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday – April 2

10:00 AM Sunday Worship*

Maundy Thursday – April 6

7:00 PM Communion Worship*

Good Friday – April 7

7:00 PM Good Friday Worship*

Easter – April 9

6:30 AM Sunrise Service in the cemetery behind the church (*in-person only*)

10:00 AM Sunday Worship*

*Service is either *in-person* or *online*



Birthdays and Anniversaries for March and April

March Birthdays

15 Jimmy Machamer
20 Kieran Levi
22 Rev. Brenda Shaw
25 Rachel Miskowic
30 Normajean Colby
Katie Boyer
Kevin McGonigle

March Anniversaries

25 Brigid and Jim Levi

April Birthdays

2 Mary Kefalas
9 Sam DeVecchis
13 Dan Miller
15 Kimberlee Kalichak
24 David Pysher
Denise Sweeney
27 John Shaw
28 Stephanie Abbonizio
30 Anna Geveke

April Anniversaries

27 Jimmy and Liz Machamer



Joyful Noise Bell Choir

We are grateful to welcome Sandy Kushner to the bell choir for the Easter season. She will be with us as we prepare and play on Palm Sunday.



Church Directory

The Church Directory is available on our website: www.uplandbaptist.org. When we get a correction or update, the online directory is updated. It is password protected. If you need the password, please contact the church office or ask Pastor Brenda.

Make sure your information is correct. If changes need to be made, let the church office know.



We are looking for volunteers to help plan a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. As we continue to raise money to refurbish the bells, we are looking for some creative ways to close the gap. If you are interested, please see Pastor Brenda, or call her at 610-453-8317.

St. Patrick's Prayer

May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us
Against the snares of the evil ones,
Against temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.



Nursery Help Wanted

When is the last time you played cars or dinosaurs? Volunteer to help in the church nursery and enjoy play time once again.

Devotional Thought...

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13



John Newtoun was born in 1725. His mother taught him the Bible and prayed he would one day become a pastor. When he was only seven, she died of tuberculosis. At age eleven, he began the first of six sea voyages. He deserted the Royal Navy, was caught, put in irons, and beaten. He was then put to work on a slave ship. He had nothing to do with God and frequently shocked sailors with his language and behavior. "I sinned with a high hand," he later wrote, "and I made it my study to tempt and seduce others."

In 1774, he was working for the Captain of the *Greyhound* when a great storm threatened to sink the ship. The sailors worked for eleven days trying to pump water out of the battered and damaged ship. On the eleventh day, Newton was too tired to pump, and they tied him to the helm to try to keep the ship on course. While he was there with the storm raging around him, Newton began to reflect on the lessons his mother had taught him. That day at the helm, March 21, 1748, was a day Newton remembered ever after: "On that day, the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters."

After surviving the storm, he went on to captain several slave ships and grow his faith. It wasn't until 1764, at the age of forty-three, that he became a preacher. This began his forty-three years of ministry, and his mother's prayers were finally answered.

Newton penned the words to "Amazing Grace" because he knew God's amazing grace personally. God spoke to him and reminded him that even though he was a sinner, God's love and forgiveness were his.

What storms has God brought you through? Where have you experienced God's amazing grace? Be specific about what God has given you. Take time to be grateful for the gifts you have received from God.

Write a song, a prayer, draw a picture, spend some time thanking God for his amazing grace in your own life.

Pastor Brenda

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