

The Spire

March 2024



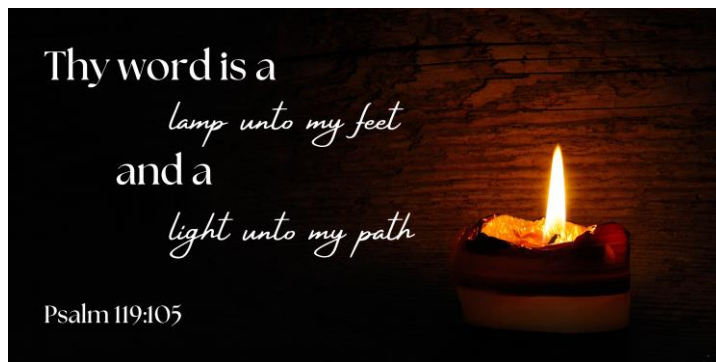
"And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

~ Mark 11:25

What's Your Verse for the Year?

We talk a lot about New Year's resolutions in January, and it's usually around this time that people start to lose steam. Pastor Brenda has given us a challenge: what if, instead of resolutions, we pick a Bible verse that speaks to us? What if we search God's Word for something we can hold on to for the year instead of (or in addition to) a resolution?

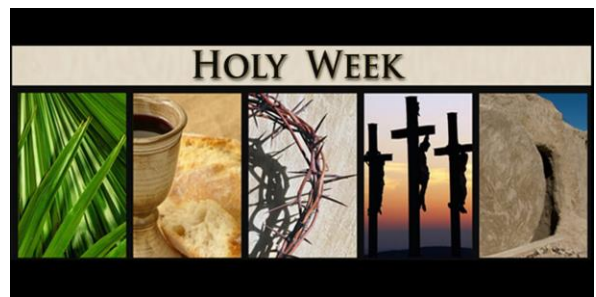
Most of the time, resolutions fail because we are forgetful, imperfect people. But God's Word will never fail us because He is unailing! Choosing a verse for the year — even in March — allows us to keep coming back to God when we inevitably stray.



Many members have already sent Pastor Brenda their verses, and she has been preaching on them for several weeks. Some people have found solace in the Psalms, others in the Gospels, and still others in St. Paul's letters.

Pastor Brenda encourages everyone to spend time in the Bible and share with her the verse that speaks most to your heart.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday – March 24

10:00 AM Sunday Worship*

Maundy Thursday – March 28

7:00 PM Communion Worship*

Good Friday – March 29

7:00 PM Good Friday Service*

Easter – March 31

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*

Church Clean-up Day

On Saturday, March 9th, we will have a church clean-up day starting at 9:00 AM. We'll be cleaning up the church grounds, so please dress accordingly. Bring gloves and any yard tools you'd like.

Our rain date will be the following Saturday, March 16th at 9:00 AM.

Easter Egg Hunt



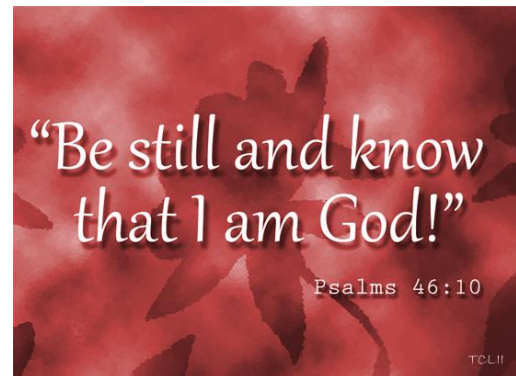
Following our 10:00 AM Easter worship service (3/31), we'll hold an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in our Church. Please join us for a fun Easter craft while our helpers hide the eggs. Then, we'll gather in the cemetery for the hunt! Bags will be provided.



This year, Daylight Savings is on Sunday, March 10th. We lose an hour in the spring, so don't forget to turn back your clocks to make it on time for Church!

Secret Place is Available

The March, April, and May Secret Place is now available for \$2.00. Pick up a copy in the back of the Church.



Birthdays and Anniversaries for February and March

March Birthdays

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



April Birthdays

- 3 Jean Giordano
- 13 Dan Miller
- 20 Angela Waltman
- 24 David Pysher
John Shaw
Denise Sweeney
- 27 Barry Armstrong
- 28 Stephanie Abbonizio

March Anniversary

- 25 Jim and Brigid Levi





Planning Underway!

Planning is well underway for our first annual Friends and Family Weekend. We're excited to offer this event to our community, and we hope that you'll join us — and bring some friends...or family! Here's a sneak peek at what we have planned:

Saturday, September 14

Car Show

Attic Treasure Flea Market

Antique Appraiser

Lunch for Sale

Sunday, September 15

Worship Service

Friends and Family Picnic

Stay tuned for more information on how you can help and/or participate!

Food Bank

The Food Bank item for the month of March is

Oatmeal

You may donate any time during the month.



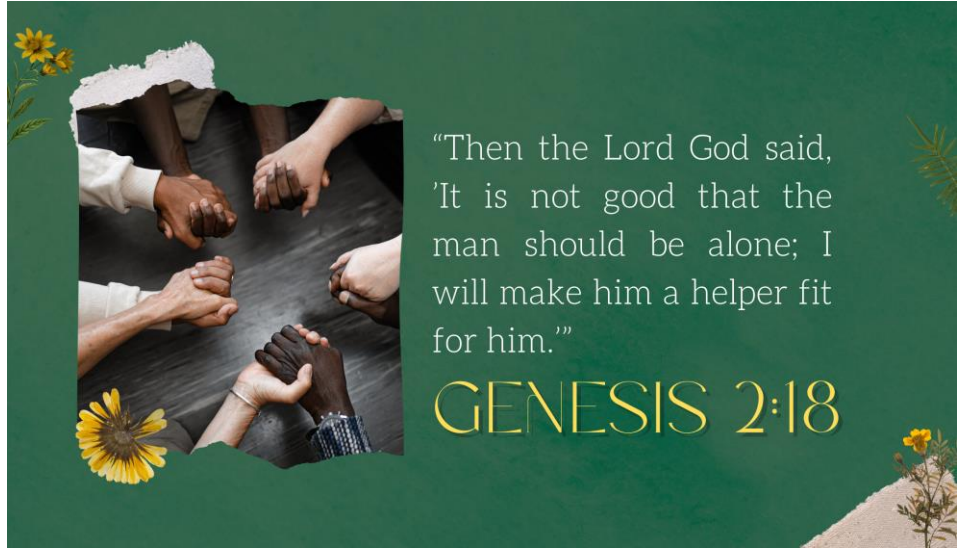
Thank You, Upland Firehouse!

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to the Upland Firehouse for their help in creating a safe environment for our distribution of ashes. We appreciate all they do for our Church community.



Devotional Thought...

Loneliness is an epidemic in our society and has been shown to be detrimental to mental and physical health. It can lead to increased risks of heart disease, dementia, stroke, and premature death. I have often struggled with an overwhelming sense of loneliness.



Many verses in the Bible tell us how God is with us through our tough times, and while I am glad that others have experienced that comfort, I have to admit that I have never felt it. God often feels the most far away on the days you feel unnoticed, unwanted, and alone.

How can someone withstand these lonely times? God has provided for us even when we do not feel His presence. Even in the very beginning, God knew we needed each other — and we do! An important part of being a believer is being in fellowship with each other. We are called to love others in not just an “I will pray for you” way, but in an “I see you; I know how you feel; I am here for you” way. So, let’s combat loneliness in our Church, in our neighborhoods, and in our families. Reach out to someone you haven’t spoken to in a while, join a club, or greet your neighbors. Be the helper fit to rid someone (even if it’s yourself) of loneliness.

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” ~Hebrews 10:24-25

~Kathy Geveke

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