

The Spire

November 2024



“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

~Colossians 3:15

Food Bank Thanksgiving Bags

We are grateful to be able to serve so many in our community with our Food Bank. With Thanksgiving around the corner, we would love to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to those we serve. Please consider donating any of the items below or help us with a monetary donation. We appreciate your support!

Items Needed:

Gravy, Cornbread Mix, Brownie mix

Thank you for supporting our Food Bank and those in our community who rely on our assistance.



Craft and Fellowship Lunch



Following worship on Sunday, November 17th, please join us for a craft making and lunch social in the Chapel. This is a great way to fellowship and get to know the new faces in our church family. A \$5 donation is suggested for each nativity you'd like to make. Please let us know you're coming by signing up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the office at (610) 874-7474.

Pledge Sunday

Sunday, November 17th is Pledge Sunday. We encourage everyone to be a part of the ministry at Upland Baptist through pledging a financial commitment. We believe that this commitment should be made prayerfully. Please consider what God is asking you to give and make a commitment to reflect that devotion.

You should have received a Stewardship letter and pledge form in the mail. You are invited to bring your pledge to worship on November 17th, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main St, Upland, PA 19015 or email: drafalski@verizon.net. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brenda or Linda Cook.

Veterans Day November 11, 2024

"America without her soldiers would be like God without angels." ~Claudia Pemberton

There are certain times we become more aware of the value of our precious freedoms and the blessings we enjoy because of sacrifices that have been made. Veterans Day is one of those times. It is especially important to thank and honor all Veterans and military personnel this year as increasing numbers of troops are being deployed in Eastern Europe, Iran, Syria, and the Red Sea. Prayers are needed to support them.

Upland Baptist Veterans

Dennis Decker

US Army 101st Airborne US Army

Parker Ferguson

Captain US Army

Richard Ladd

Spec 4 US Army

Upland Baptist Active Military Personnel

Major Aaron Johnston

US Army

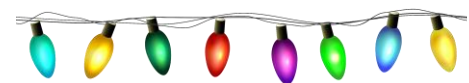
A1C Austin Bull

US Air Force

Thank you for being there when your country and all Americans needed you!



Giving Tree



We are adopting 40 residents from Fair Acres Nursing home for Christmas. The Fair Acres staff has provided gift suggestions for each resident. If you want to participate, please pick up your tag beginning Sunday, November 10th or contact Pastor Brenda at 610-453-8317 to be given a resident and gift suggestion. Sign your name next to the resident's name on the list provided on the table under the tag display. Please return gifts to the church no later than Sunday, December 1st. **All gifts must be returned in gift bags. Do not wrap any gift. Attach gift tag to gift bag for resident identification.** Please place your gift under the Christmas tree. Thank you for your help with this Outreach Ministry!

Birthdays for November and December

November Birthdays

- 13 Dawn Rafalski
- 19 Doug Scott
- 20 Kim Buffington
- 22 Brian Klimek
- 23 Sara Mason



December Birthdays

- 7 Deloris Hanley
- 16 Ben Geveke
- 26 Kathleen Geveke
- 27 Courtney Klimek
- 29 Jamie Levi



Christmas at Upland Baptist

Poinsettias

This year we continue our tradition of remembering loved ones with poinsettia plants by listing them in the Sunday, December 22nd and Christmas Eve bulletins. Use the enclosed form to reserve your poinsettia plant. All orders need to be placed by Sunday, November 17th.



SAVE THE DATE! The Night of Music will be Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 PM. Join us for an evening of caroling and special Christmas music presentations.

Church Decorating



We will decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, November 30th beginning at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to deck the halls.

Special Offerings

Advent Offering can be given at any time. It will be used to **offset** the staff Christmas gifts.



Christmas Card Fund. You are invited to send a Christmas card and donation. The card will be hung on the Church Christmas tree and the donation will be used to provide a meal for the Upland Police Department and the Upland Fire Company. Your Christmas greeting will be in the Sunday, December 22nd and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas card and donation by December 15th to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015 or leave them in the back of the church in the "mailbox."

Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will be at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve.



Christmas Devotionals

Instead of our traditional advent devotionals, we'll reflect during the Christmas season with a *12 Days of Christmas* devotional. This booklet takes us joyfully through the twelve days between Jesus' birth and the Epiphany with readings and reflections that keep us rooted in Christ even after the festivities end. These will be available near the end of Advent.

Staff Christmas Gifts donations will be accepted throughout November and December. They can be given to Linda Cook. **These donations are over and above your Advent offering.**

All these gifts can be mailed to the church, donated through the website, or placed in an offering plate. Please designate your donation in the memo or note section.

Devotional Thought...

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of the Heavenly Lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

~James 1:17 KJV

The pastor of the church we attended when I was growing up always began the "Call to Offering" by reciting the King James version of James 1:17. With arms raised toward heaven, Rev. McMahon declared that every good gift and every perfect gift comes from above...

Back then, those words just seemed very elegant and kind of mysterious to me.

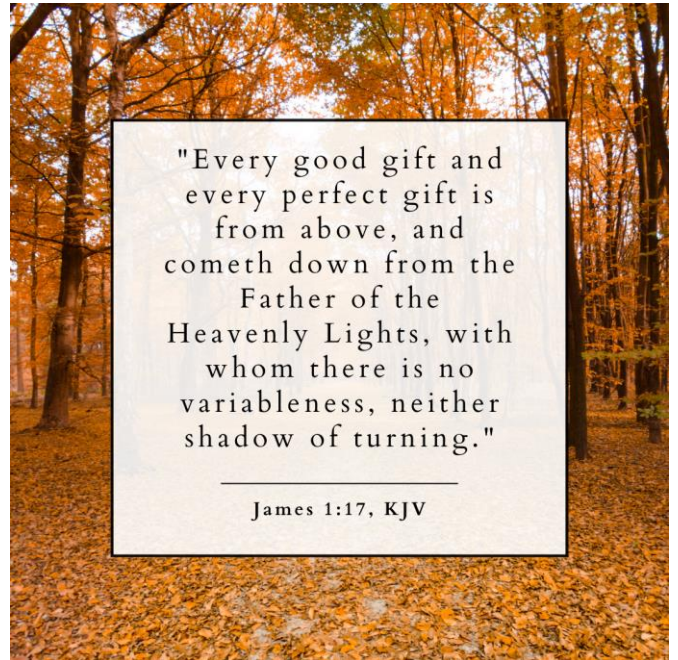
When I think of this verse now, it is a welcome reminder that by His grace alone, God gives me every good and perfect thing in my life. And because He is so kind, His generosity is never based on whether or not I deserve it. This quality of boundless mercy speaks volumes about GOD's character—and fortunately, nothing about my own!

This world is constantly changing. And sometimes, living here is a rough and scary ride. But James assures us that God always has, and always will, stay the same. The Father of the Heavenly Lights doesn't cast a shadow because He never shifts positions or changes His mind about the kindness He offers.

I'm sure the good man who introduced this scripture to me so long ago would be grateful—but not at all surprised—to learn it is still written on my heart.

Gracious God, Father of the Heavenly Lights, please help us to live each day with thankful hearts—never taking your grace for granted or underestimating the power of Your Holy Word.

~Jane Kofroth



Love God  Love Others

Upland Baptist Church

325 Main Street, Upland PA 19015

Ph: 610-874-7474

Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

www.uplandbaptist.org

Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, *Pastor*

Text or Call: 610-453-8317

brendaabshaw@gmail.com