

The Spire

November 2026

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

~Colossians 2:6-7

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. We appreciate your support!

Items Needed:

Cornbread Mix & Brownie Mix

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

Sunday Social and Ornament Making

Sunday, November 29, 2026 we will have a Sunday Social and Craft following worship. Join us for walking tacos and an easy ornament craft.



Angel Hotline



We are adopting 35 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 8th.

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 6th.

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!

Contact Sue Kulp at 610-212-5251 with any questions.

Veterans Day
November 11, 2026

Veterans are a National Treasure. The sacrifices made to serve America will always be in the hearts of those who love this nation.

Ways to celebrate Veterans Day:

- Spend time with Vets and listen to their stories
- Attend a Veterans Day event
- Support local veteran owned businesses
- Attend a Veterans Day Service

Upland Baptist is sending 150 Veterans Day Thank You cards to Delaware Valley Veterans Home.

Upland Baptist Veterans

Dennis Decker
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
Senior Airman Austin Bull
US Air Force

Pledge Sunday

What is a pledge? A church pledge is a promise of financial support that a congregant commits to giving over the course of the upcoming coming year. We believe that making a pledge is an act of faith. We listen to God and give based on what God calls us to generously, sacrificially give. Sunday, November 15th is Pledge Sunday. We encourage everyone to be a part of the ministry at Upland Baptist through pledging a financial commitment.

Please read the Stewardship letter carefully and reflect on how you can help our church. You are invited to bring your pledge to worship on November 15th, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main St, Upland, PA 19015 or email: drafalski@verizon.net.

Birthdays for November and December

November Birthdays

13 Dawn Rafalski
19 Doug Scott
21 Georgie Cassidy-Hicks
22 Brian Klimek
23 Sara Mason



December Birthdays

16 Ben Geveke
26 Kathleen Geveke
27 Courtney Klimek
29 Jamie Levi

December Anniversaries

18 Dick and Carol Arscott
31 Jason and Jen Tarbutton

Christmas at Upland Baptist



Poinsettias

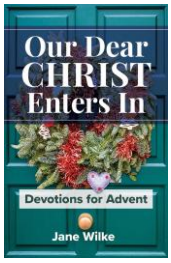
This year we continue our tradition of remembering loved ones with poinsettia plants by listing them in the Sunday, December 20th and Christmas Eve bulletins. Use the enclosed form to reserve your poinsettia plant. All orders need to be placed by **Sunday, November 22nd.**

Church Decorating

We will decorate the sanctuary on **Saturday, November 28th** beginning at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to deck the halls.



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



Advent Devotionals

Join us in reading Our Dear Christ Enters In this Advent season. In this daily devotional, we prepare our homes and our hearts for the coming of Jesus. He comes to make his home with us and abide with us forever. Each reflection focuses on an aspect related to home life in the story of Christ's birth or in the traditions of the season that we hold so dear.



SAVE THE DATE! The Night of Music will be **Thursday, December 17th at 6:30 PM.** Join us for an evening of caroling and special Christmas music presentations. *If you have a musical talent to share, please see Pastor Brenda.*

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 Emergency Responders. Your Christmas greeting will be in Christmas Eve bulletin and the December 27th bulletin. Please mail your Christmas card and donation by December 20th 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."

Staff Christmas Gifts donations will be accepted throughout November and December. They can be given to Linda Cook or Frank Kulp. **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…

Grateful Hearts



Ephesians 5:19-20
19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One nice summer day when I was about 12, we attended a family reunion picnic at World's End State Park. In those days we were a really big family. Everybody was there that day... aunts, uncles, Grandad, and cousins of all ages. So much fun. And so much to be thankful for!

Aunt Sarah and Uncle Jack were home for a rare visit from the wilds of Alberta, Canada, where Jack was a preacher. Their visits were special occasions! Naturally, Jack was asked to offer a thanksgiving prayer before lunch. I vividly remember standing there, head bowed, tummy rumbling, and eyes wide open, fixed on all that glorious food! But Jack turned what I thought would be a simple prayer of thanksgiving into a 3-part Sunday morning sermon. I was certain it would be suppertime before he ever got around to Amen"!

Usually, when the family gathered for a meal, our Grandfather prayed before we ate. He'd thank God for providing us with food and loved ones with whom to share it. Then we'd sing The Doxology together. Such a beautifully simple song calling on each of us to praise God as the giver of everything.

Paul encourages us to cultivate genuinely grateful hearts... to "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." It's easy, almost like a mental reflex, to thank Him for the big blessings—life's exceptional moments. But Paul urges us to notice every little bit of goodness we encounter, and to thank God, in Jesus' name, for all of it. Every time we recognize what God's infinite grace has done for us, our faith and trust in Him just grows and grows.



Jane Kofroth

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