

The Spire Lite

December 2020



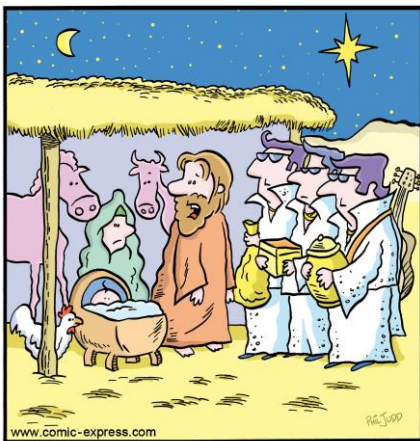
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Christmas Eve Service

There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7 pm on Christmas Eve. **The service will be live streamed.**

Due to the ever-changing circumstances, we will determine by Sunday, December 20, 2020 whether there will be an in-person component to the service. The protocols for the service will be announced during the December 20th worship service. Information will also be put on the church answering machine and website.



"They say they are three kings."

Advent Devotionals

Join us in reading Heavenly Peace by Sarah Thomas Tracy this Advent season. Copies of the devotional are still available.

Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who adopted a resident from Belvedere Nursing home for Christmas. Gifts should be at the church by *Sunday, December 13th*. If you need your donation picked up, please let us know.

Poinsettias

This year we will be continuing our tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones by listing them in the Sunday, December 20th and Christmas Eve bulletins. Instead of getting live poinsettia plants, you can order a handcrafted, wooden poinsettia ornament for each donation of \$8.00. Orders should be submitted by December 13 either by mail or to uplandbaptist@verizon.net. Checks can be made out to Upland Baptist Church.

Chairlift is Repaired!

We are very grateful to report that the Chapel Chairlift has been repaired. Through diligent work by Frank Kulp, he was able to find a repairperson, who could fix it.

Special Offerings

Christmas Card Fund. You are invited to send a Christmas Card and donation. The card will be hung on the Church Christmas tree and you will be listed in the bulletin. The donation will be used to provide a meal for the Upland Police Department and also the Upland Fire Company. Please mail your Christmas Card and donation by December 13th to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015 or leave them in the back of the church.

Staff Christmas Gifts donations will be accepted throughout December. Please give or mail your gift to Linda Cook.

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

We encourage you to give as you normally give to both the staff gift and the 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.



Church Decorators

Thank you to our church decoration elves: Joan, Betty, Denise, Dawn, Sue, Frank, John G., Linda, Brenda, John, Stephen and Matthew. The Church looks beautiful dressed for Christmas.



Birthdays and Anniversaries for December and January

December Birthdays

4 Bobbi Jean Simcox
7 Deloris Hanley
16 Ben Geveke
Cheryl Rhoads
24 Amanda Harman
26 Kathleen Geveke
27 Courtney Klimek

December Anniversaries

18 Carol and Richard Arcscott

January Birthdays

2 Jane Kofroth
6 Casey Klimek
17 Stephen Kalichak, Sr.
27 Theresa Gallagher
Andrew Harman

January Anniversaries

28 Doris and John Fraim

Pledges

We are grateful for the pledges that have been made.

As of November 22, 2020

26 for \$69,160

As of November 27, 2019

31 pledges for \$76,395

If you would like to submit a pledge, there is still time. Please email to drafalski@verizon.net or mail it to the church.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Pastor Brenda is taking off the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. There will be no in-person or live streaming worship that day. Everyone is encouraged to worship via an archived service. Simply go to the live stream tab on the website and click on the archived option. Pick your favorite week and enjoy your time with God.

Worship

Worshipping continues to be at 10 am whether in person or virtual. If you join us in the sanctuary, please maintain social distance and wear a mask.

You can also join us virtually through our website at www.uplandbaptist.org. If you are worshipping with us from somewhere outside the sanctuary, please text Pastor Brenda, 610-453-8317. We want to know you are worshipping with us.

Advent on Facebook

Join our Advent conversation in the Upland Baptist Church Facebook Group. Beginning December 1st, there will be a short passage and question for discussion posted. Please join the conversation as we journey through Advent together.

If you are not a member of the Upland Baptist Church Facebook Group, please let Pastor Brenda, Theresa Gallagher or John Kofroth know so that you can be invited to join.



Prayer Meeting

We will have zoom prayer meetings on Wednesday, December 2 and 16, 7 pm.

To join using zoom go to www.uplandbaptist.org and click on the praying hands.

You may also join by calling:

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 997 1621 0300

Password: 926257

Devotional Thought...

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."...

As I reflected on this passage, I thought about how difficult it must have been for the Wisemen to journey to Bethlehem with just a star for guidance. No GPS, no Mapquest or Google, just a star. The travel was going to be long and probably dangerous with robbers preying on travelers in those days.

Herod sent them with the assignment to find the child and report back to him so that he could go and worship him. They went on their way with just a star to guide them. When they saw the child, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they presented him with gifts. They were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they returned to their country by another route.

We are all on this spiritual journey with the Wisemen during Advent. With the pandemic this year, it is a very different journey. How is your spiritual journey going? What gifts and talents do you bring for the Christ child?
Dawn Rafalski

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be immediately following worship on January 24, 2021. Additional information will be in the January *Spire Lite*.

And the Angel said unto them,
FEAR NOT; FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU
good tidings of great joy...
FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY
in the city of David a Saviour,
WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.
Luke 2:10-11

Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris Cody said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

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