

# The Spire Lite

December 2021



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

## Thank you, Sandy

It with heavy hearts that we plan to say good-bye and thank you to Sandy after 30 years of sharing her musical talents with us. We are happy for her that she is moving on to something that brings her joy. We will be planning a celebration, sometime in the spring, to celebrate all the gifts that Sandy has shared with us over the years.

Dear Brenda,

*This letter serves as my notice that I intend to terminate my employment at Upland Baptist Church no later than Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. I am aware that finding a replacement will be a challenge for the congregation. Hopefully, your new organist will be perched at the console by mid-April.*

*Leaving my position after more than thirty years of service was a difficult decision. I have been honored to participate in your weekly serves. I fervently hope that my presence has enhanced the worship experience of all the congregants.*

*I have recently joined the Providence Friends Meeting in Media, PA. After many years of searching, Quakerism has become my spiritual home. I find the "silent waiting" of an unprogrammed meeting provides sustenance and enrichment to all aspects of my daily life. Unfortunately, first day meetings at Providence are at 11 AM, conflicting with the Sunday schedule of Upland Baptist.*

*As you can see, I had to make a choice – in some ways a heartbreaking choice for both the church and myself.*

*I pray that the members of the Upland Baptist Church continue their worship tradition and service to the surrounding community for many years to come.*

Sincerely,  
Sandra G. Kushner

## 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 also the Upland Fire Company. Your Christmas greeting will be in the Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas Card and donation by December 13<sup>th</sup> to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015 or leave them in the "mailbox" in the back of the church.

**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.*

## Prayer Meeting

Join us the first Wednesdays of each month for a Zoom Prayer Meeting. To join, go to [www.uplandbaptist.org](http://www.uplandbaptist.org) and click the prayer meeting link. We look forward to praying with you.



## Abundance of Blessings

We are feeling very blessed! \$1805 was donate to the Food Bank through the Abundance of Blessings. Thank you for your generous contributions.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for December and January

### December Birthdays

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

### December Anniversaries

- 18 Carol and Richard Arscott

### January Birthdays

- 2 Jane Kofroth
- 6 Casey Klimek
- 17 Stephen Kalichak, Sr.

### January Anniversaries

- 28 Doris and John Fraim

## Church Decorators

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



## Advent Devotionals

This year we will be reading Hark, The Herald Angels Sing by Stephenie Hovland. These daily readings for Advent and Christmas focus on the angel messages of the Old and New Testament. Copies of the devotional will be available at church, or you may call to request a copy be mailed to you. It is also available on Nook and Kindle.

## Pledges

We are grateful for the pledges that have been made.

As of November 28, 2021  
28 for \$76,587

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](mailto:drafalski@verizon.net) or mail it to the church.

## Giving Tree

We are grateful to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree this year. The gifts will be delivered to Fair Acres Nursing Home by December 7, 2021. Please make sure your gift is returned to the church by Sunday, December 5. If you have any questions or problems, please call Joan Decker.



## Christmas Eve Service

We are planning to have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7 pm on Christmas Eve.

## Annual Meeting

The Upland Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2021. This meeting will be held immediately following worship.

Those who are attending worship will remain in the sanctuary for the meeting. Those who are worshipping with us virtually will be able to be a part of the meeting through our live streaming.

We will stop the broadcast when worship is completed, and then start a new broadcast for the meeting. You will have to click on live broadcast again to enter the meeting. People who are participating virtually will be able to text Pastor Brenda with questions and even cast their vote.

# Devotional Thought...

## Faith is the Victory

"Because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith." 1 John 5:4 (CSB)

*Faith is the Victory* by John Yates is one of my favorite hymns. I'm terrible at remembering lyrics, but the chorus of this hymn is so simple that even I can remember it. And, it doesn't hurt that the tune written by Ira Sankey, D. L. Moody's song leader, is also catchy.

*Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory!  
O glorious victory, that overcomes the world.*

Everyone who is a born again believer is, by definition, an "overcomer" (1 John 5:5). Isn't that glorious?

-Dave Geveke

*Have yourself a Merry Little*



Where do snowmen keep money? *In a snow bank.*  
What's the best thing to put into Christmas dinner? *Your teeth!*  
What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!*  
How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? *Nothing. It was on the house.*  
Why is Santa so good at karate? *Cause he's got a black belt.*  
What's Santa's favorite candy? *Jolly ranchers.*  
What does the gingerbread man put on his bed? *Cookie sheets.*  
What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? *Ornamints.*  
What do you get when you cross a snowman and a dog? *Frostbite.*  
What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? *Freeze a jolly good fellow!*  
What goes "oh, oh, oh"? *Santa walking backwards!*  
What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas? *Sandy claws!*

Mason says to his mother: You can delete the train set from my Christmas wish list.

Mother: Why is that?

Mason: Yesterday, I found one in the closet.

### **Upland Baptist Church**

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