

# The Spire

December 2023



"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

~John 1:14

## Night of Music

Our annual Night of Music is approaching fast! Join us on **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**, for a casual celebration of Christmas music. We'll gather in the sanctuary to sing familiar carols, listen to the bell choir, and enjoy beautiful music presentations. A special guest from the North Pole might even stop by!



After the Night of Music program, we'll be decorating cupcakes in the Chapel. We kindly ask for volunteers to bake a batch of cupcakes for this event. In the back of the church, we've provided boxes of cupcake mix and liners. Please take one of each after church and bring the cupcakes (and a friend) with you to the Night of Music.

We look forward to sharing this magical night with you!

## Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will still have our regular 10:00 AM Sunday Service.

In addition, our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will be at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

**Please note these are two separate gatherings.**



## Food Bank

The Food Bank would like to extend our gratitude to all who helped collect and deliver donations from Scouting for Food.

We have an abundance of items from this event, but if you'd like to donate something for the month of December, we'd love some dish soap.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas card and donation by December 18<sup>th</sup> 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 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.*

## Annual Meeting

The Upland Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024. 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 votes.

## Notice for Annual Meeting

At the January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting, a motion will be put forth to suspend the term limits for the positions of Property Team Leader and Communication Team Leader.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for December and January

### December Birthdays

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



### January Birthdays

- 2 Jane Kofroth
- 22 Marge Waltman
- 29 Makenzie McGonigle

### December Anniversaries

- 18 Carol and Richard Arscott



## Communion Volunteers Needed

Would you consider preparing communion one month? All elements will be provided.

Please sign-up on the sheet in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please speak to Priscilla Mills.



## Looking Ahead

- **Church Undecorating**  
Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Annual Reports Due**  
Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Sunday Social**  
January 14<sup>th</sup> following worship. We will be having a mini brunch so watch for a sign-up sheet for items to bring.



## Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be in church for Christmas Eve. If you ordered poinsettias, you can take them home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service.



## Stewardship Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge. If you have not sent in your pledge yet, we are asking you do so before the end of the year. So far, \$65,316 has been pledged. Last year at this time, \$78,734 was pledged. As you can see, we are behind over \$13,000. We encourage everyone to be a part of the ministry of the Upland Baptist Church by sharing their talents and by making a financial commitment to the Church. Please consider what God is asking you to give and make a commitment to reflect that devotion.

You can bring your pledge to worship, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015, or email: [drafalski@verizon.net](mailto:drafalski@verizon.net). If you have any questions, please contact Linda Cook.

## Devotional Thought...

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ~Luke 2:10 - 11

One of my favorite holiday memories from childhood was when the *Sears Christmas Wish Book* was delivered. What fun it was to go through it and look at the wonderful things that I could get for Christmas! What a list I had! Then, I was told to pare it down to three items. Three items from my list of over 20 items! What dreams I had!

But there is no longer a *Sears Christmas Wish Book*. Are adult Christmas wishes now found in one of the many catalogs that have arrived in our mailboxes since the beginning of November? Or, as we have gotten older, have we realized that Christmas wishes aren't found in a catalog or even under a tree. I think the lyrics from a song by Amy Grant, *Grown Up Christmas Wishes*, is where we can now find our wishes, not only for Christmas, but year-round.

**As children we believed  
The grandest sight to see  
Was something lovely wrapped beneath our tree  
Well, Heaven surely knows  
That packages and bows  
Can never heal a hurting human soul  
No more lives torn apart  
Then wars would never start  
And time would heal all hearts  
And everyone would have a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end  
This is my grown-up Christmas list**



At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus who came to save us. What a gift! He taught us to Love God, Love Others! He taught us to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, help the needy, do good and share with others. He taught that we should forgive from our hearts and care for our children. If we follow His teachings, not only at Christmas but year-round, then maybe our "Grown Up Christmas Wishes" will come true! Jesus was the greatest Christmas gift we could ever be given. Who needs to wish for anything else!

~Linda Cook

### **Upland Baptist Church**

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