

The Spire

December 2025



"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

~ Isaiah 40:3



Our annual Night of Music is approaching fast! Join us on Tuesday, December 16th 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.

Afterwards, come to our Chapel for dessert decorating, light fare, and pictures with a special guest from the North Pole!

We look forward to sharing this magical night with you!

Advent Devotionals

Light shines everywhere this time of year, bringing beauty and joy to the Advent season. Yet, looming in the shadows are all the troubles of this world that often darken our spirits. The daily Advent prayers in this booklet help us look to Jesus, the Light of the World, who overcomes all darkness with his gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Please see Pastor Brenda for your copy or pick one up in the back of the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Services

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



Poinsettias in Church



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

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 21st and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas card and donation **by December 14th** 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. **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 25, 2026. This meeting will be held immediately following worship.

Notice for Annual Meeting

At the January 25, 2026 Annual Meeting, a motion will be put forth to suspend the term limits for the position of Financial Chairperson, Communications Team Leader, and Ministry to Members Team Leader.

Spirit Store Is Open!



Our Church Spirit Store is open again until Sunday, December 14th. We have some new colors and style choices for anyone looking to update their Upland Baptist attire. Order new spirit wear here: <https://starschooluniforms.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=317>

Birthdays for December and January

December Birthdays

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



January Birthdays

- 2 Jane Kofroth
- 22 Marge Waltman



Stewardship Pledges

Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge. If you have not sent in your pledge yet, we are asking you to do so before the end of the year. So far, \$87,265 has been pledged for 2026. We are ahead of where we were last year, but still need \$25,000 to meet our 2026 budget. The closer we get to the amount needed to meet our budget, the less we have to take from our investments. 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. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Cook.



Chicken or Rib Dinner



On Saturday, January 31st from noon to 3:00 PM, we're holding a Chicken or Rib Dinner fundraiser. \$20 chicken or rib platters include your choice of meat, mac and cheese, cowboy beans, a dinner roll, and dessert. All platters are individually portioned.

Orders must be placed in advance by Wednesday, January 21st. Order online at www.uplandbaptist.org or call the office at (610) 874-7474.

This is a dine-in or takeout event. If takeout is ordered, you can call from the parking lot, and your food will be delivered to your car.

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 **soap of all kinds** (dish soap, hand soap, bar soap, etc.).



Looking Ahead

- **Church Undecorating**
Saturday, January 3rd
- **Annual Reports Due**
Tuesday, January 6th
- **Sunday Social**
January 18th following worship. We will be doing an activity for Fair Acres.
- **Chicken or Rib Dinner**
Saturday, January 31st

Devotional Thought...

2 Corinthians 9:15: "Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!"

What if Santa should decide it's time to retire...

He IS a very old guy, and that job of his must be exhausting!

He might just move to some island paradise to live in a cozy cottage on the beach—just him and Mrs. C.

That would be such a jolly life!

But, hey! What about us? Aren't we the good boys and girls Santa promised to reward with lots of presents? We've been very good all year—and he promised!

When we were little and whined about all the *stuff* we wanted for Christmas, our mother usually said, "*Isn't Jesus enough?*" Agonizing...we were not in the mood for another Sunday School lesson! But she never missed an opportunity to remind us that Jesus is always so much more than enough.

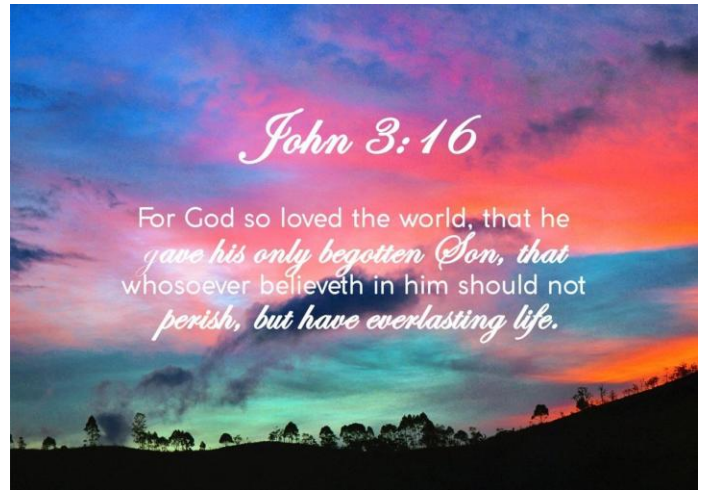
Shiny new "stuff" never stays shiny very long...

But Jesus gives us hope for a better tomorrow. He'll replace worry and uncertainty with peace—and a joy that lasts! Jesus's most precious gift to us is eternal salvation. And it's given freely—never earned!

God gave us Jesus for Christmas just so we can celebrate Easter in the Spring.

Why? Because He loves us just that much!

~Jane Kofroth



Verse of the Year Reflection

What was your verse for 2025? Did you memorize it? Is it hanging on the fridge? How did God use that verse to help you through 2025?

As we begin to prepare to 2026, it is a good time to reflect on how God spoke to us through our verse this year. I also want to challenge you to ask God to give you a new verse for 2026. In January, I am hoping you will share your verse for 2026 with me.

~Pastor Brenda



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