

# The Spire

February 2025



"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flows the springs of life."

~ Proverbs 4:23

## A New Board Member

We're excited to announce Dave Rietz has been voted the new Discipleship Team Leader on our Ministry Council. To get to know Dave better, we asked him a few questions about himself and his faith.

**Q: How long have you been coming to Upland Baptist? What drew you here?**

A: I have been coming to Upland Baptist regularly for almost two years. I have known Pastor Brenda for some time before this and had attended services in the past. Everyone was very friendly initially, and I love all the music in the church (especially the old hymns).

**Q: What are some of your favorite hobbies?**

A: I enjoy reading, walking in nature, and listening to music.

**Q: What skills/achievements are you most proud of?**

A: I'm a self-taught master carpenter/cabinetmaker, and I'm relearning trumpet.

**Q: What values do you hold most dear?**

A: Love and respect others. Help others.

**Q: Where do you experience God most?**

A: Meditating on God's Word, being in nature with everything God has made, and being at Church.

Thank you for taking on this new role, Dave! We appreciate all you have done and will do for our Church.

LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS.

“

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

”

## Fellowship Lunch



Join us on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel for a Soup and Salad Fellowship lunch after worship. It's the perfect way to spend a chilly winter day. Please see the sign-up sheet in the back of the Church if you'd like to contribute to this event.



Small groups start again on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Our new book is *Lessons from a Sheep Dog*. In this classic, modern-day parable about a man and his transforming love for his dog, Lass, bestselling author Phillip Keller paints a vivid picture of God's love for the unlovable.

At our first meeting, we'll cover "The Story" and Lesson 1. Please see Pastor Brenda for your copy.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of a Small Group. They meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. You can attend at noon (bring a sack lunch) or at 7:00 PM at the Shaw's house where snacks will be served.

## Church Directory Reminders

Our new-and-improved online directory is one year old this month! Now is a great time to remind everyone that we need your permission to make you visible in the directory. If you don't see yourself in the directory, then the office does not have your permission to share your information.

Our directory is password-protected, so only those with the password have access to the information. Please call the office at (610) 874-7474 if you need the password.

If you want to give permission to be visible or need to update your contact information, please [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out the online contact form. (It's also available at <https://uplandbaptist.org/> under the "resources" tab.)

For questions about how to use the directory, please don't hesitate to call the Church office at (610) 874-7474 or email us at [uplandbaptist@verizon.net](mailto:uplandbaptist@verizon.net).

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for February and March

### February Birthdays

- 1 Richard Ladd  
Tommy Waltman
- 9 Priscilla Mills  
Jim Levi
- 11 Frank Kulp
- 20 Joan Decker
- 21 Janet Peterson
- 24 Iris Messick
- 27 Sue Kulp



### March Birthdays

- 3 Deborah Rider
- 10 Monnarae Fraim
- 15 Jimmy Machamer
- 20 Kieran Levi
- 22 Rev. Brenda Shaw
- 30 Normajean Colby  
Katie Boyer

### February Anniversary

- 17 Dave and Kathy Geveke

### March Anniversary

- 25 Jim and Brigid Levi

## Soup & Salad Dinner at MacQueen Hall

Chase away your winter chill - support the Upland Borough Community Affairs Association with their annual "Soup & Salad Dinner" fundraiser scheduled on Saturday, February 22, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the borough office or contact Moira Crawford, Judy Bush, or Julie Kerns.

Homemade chili, chicken & dumplings and/or vegetable soup served with salad bar, bread, dessert & beverage will be available for **All-U-Can-Eat-At-MacQueen Hall**. Cost is \$12 Adult, \$10 for senior citizens, and \$8 children under 12.

All proceeds benefit the Upland Borough Community Affairs Association.



## Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2025. You have been generous! In early December, we reported that we had received \$72,511 in pledges for 2025 but still needed over \$40,000 to meet our proposed budgeted amount of \$117,091.05 in pledges. As of our Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025, we have now received \$99,831.00 in pledges for 2025. While we are still short of our goal by \$17,260, we closed the gap through your generous pledges. Thank you!

## Food Bank

The Food Bank item for the month of February is

*Toilet paper  
(either individual rolls or a 4-pack)*

\*Toilet paper is not a SNAP-eligible item.

You may donate any time during the month. Thank you!



## Nursery Coverage

We will need nursery coverage during worship from February through May the Sundays the bells play. If you are able to take a shift or two, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or contact Priscilla Mills.

We need nursery coverage for the following Sundays:

- February 9<sup>th</sup>
- March 9<sup>th</sup>
- April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)
- May 18<sup>th</sup>

Thank you in advance for your help!



## Bylaws Vote

At the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025, the congregation voted to suspend the Bylaws and permit a fourth term for the Worship Team Leader (2-year term). With this vote, Priscilla Mills will continue to serve as Worship Team Leader.



## Devotional Thought...

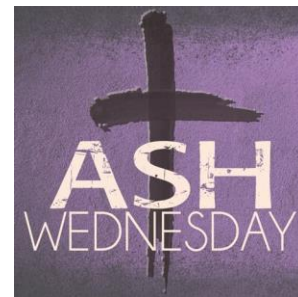
*"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities." ~ Psalm 103: 8-10*

God is reported to have been angry several hundred times in the Old Testament. His anger is justified, but it is never removed from His nature to love.

As sinners, we cause God pain, yet He doesn't respond to us as we are inclined to respond to those who hurt us. When someone treats us badly, we seem to think we are justified in treating them badly. We think they deserve it. We deserve God's anger, but He gives us compassion and love instead. He treats us the opposite of how we deserve to be treated.

In Romans 12, Paul tells us how God-like, sincere love should be lived out with our human relationships. Think about twenty ways you can aim to love others the way God loves you.

~Dawn Rafalski



This year, we will again have a drive-up service for Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 PM. People will be invited to stay in their vehicles and receive ashes on their foreheads or hands. Lenten devotional materials will be available for pick-up; they will also be available after Sunday services.

We want to thank the Upland Fire Company for volunteering to bring lights and help with the evening.

### **Upland Baptist Church**

325 Main Street, Upland PA 19015

Ph: 610-874-7474

Email: [uplandbaptist@verizon.net](mailto:uplandbaptist@verizon.net)

[www.uplandbaptist.org](http://www.uplandbaptist.org)

Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, *Pastor*

Text or Call: 610-453-8317

[brendaabshaw@gmail.com](mailto:brendaabshaw@gmail.com)