

The Spire

January 2026



"And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever."

~Revelation 22:5

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.

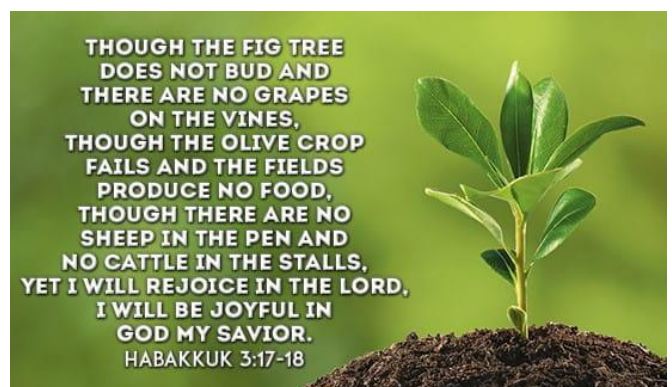
2026 Verse of the Year

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 start the new year, I want to challenge you to ask God to give you a new verse for 2026. There are handouts in the back of the sanctuary with guidance for finding your personal verse.

What word is God planting in your heart this year? When you find your verse, I hope you will share it with me.

~Pastor Brenda



New Offering Collection Process

Starting Sunday January 11, 2026, we will begin collecting the offering during the worship service. We will need 2 volunteers each week. The signup sheet is at the back of the church. We appreciate your willingness to help with returning offering collection to pre-covid procedure. For questions, please see Priscilla Mills.

Annual Reports

All members of the Ministry Council should submit their reports to the church office no later than Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Annual Reports will be available on January 11th. Anyone who wishes may pick them up during worship in the back of the church or from the church office by appointment. Financial Reports will be available at the Annual Meeting.



Food Bank

Thanks to your donations and the Scouting for Food event, the Food Bank was able to provide Christmas Dinner bags for 48 residents!

If you'd like to donate something for the month of January, we'd love some **canned carrots**.



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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for January and February

January Birthdays

2 Jane Kofroth
22 Marge Waltman



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

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

February Anniversary

17 Dave & Kathy Geveke

Christmas Card Greetings

These individuals and families sent a Christmas card to the church to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and blessed New Year.

We are excited that, through their donations, we will be able to provide a meal to the Upland Police Department and the Upland Fire Company.

The Bull Family
Normajeane Colby
Linda Cook
Lori Furniss
Dave & Kathy Geveke
Frank & Sue Kulp
Cheryl, Jacob & Faith Kunkle
Joanne Long & Family
Iris Messick
Dan & Charlene Miller
Priscilla Mills
The Pysher Family
Dawn Rafalski
Brenda, John, Stephen, & Matthew Shaw
Denise Sweeney



Saturday, January 3

Church Undecorating 9:00 AM

Sunday, January 18

Sunday Social Brunch 11:00 AM

*Join us for a time of fellowship after worship.
If you'd like to provide anything, please
sign up on the sheet in the back of the
church.*

Sunday, January 25

Annual Board Meeting & Monthly Board
Meeting 11:00 AM

Saturday, January 31

Chicken or Rib Dinner
Noon – 3:00 PM



January Small Groups

Small groups start again on Tuesday, January 20th. Our new book is *Faith Is the Answer, But What Are the Questions?* by James Moore. How does faith help us when problems arise? How does the Christian faith strengthen us when suffering or tragedy or heartache explodes into our lives? How does the Holy Spirit help us? Did Jesus really mean for us to love everybody? In this hectic world, with so many things crying out for our allegiance and support, whom can we trust?

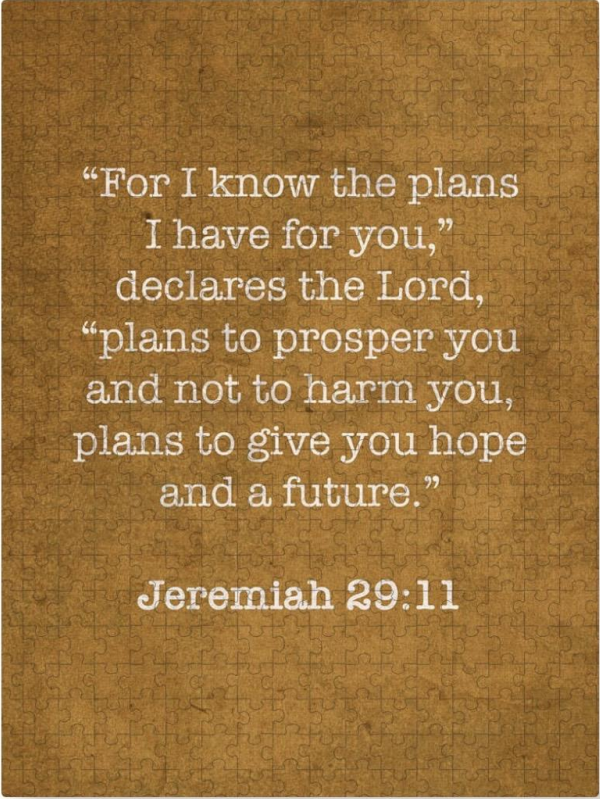
Faith is the answer, of course, but still...what are the questions? And how do we respond to them honestly, creatively, and redemptively? That is the adventure before us. These, and other questions, we will deal with in this book.

Devotional Thought...

How do we know what God has planned for us? We cannot find out using a crystal ball or someone reading our tea leaves or Tarot cards. There are several ways, though, that are taught to us through God's Word and our Christian leaders / teachers.

1. Pray (Matthew 7:7)
2. Study scripture (2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Seek out Godly teachers (Proverbs 11:14)
4. Take time to listen closely to the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14)
5. Loving God by serving others (Matthew 25:40)

Now, is this a quick, easy process to learn His plan for us? The answer is an emphatic NO! Learning God's plan is a "journey of faith," not a quick trip. It takes commitment, direction, reflection, and follow-through. The Holy Spirit will not tap us on the shoulder and say, "Go this way." But if we follow the five instructions listed above and lift up our eyes to the Lord, we will surely view His constant love and purpose to hold in our hearts so that we can share it with others.



"For I know the plans
I have for you,"
declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope
and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Lord,

I depend on you a lot. The plan for my life comes from you and also the gifts and passions you have given me. Please help me to find my purpose by giving me the right direction to go. I know it won't be easy. But with your guidance, wisdom, and love, it may not be too hard. In your heavenly name, now and forever, Amen.

~Sue Kulp



Upland Baptist Church

325 Main Street, Upland PA 19015

Ph: 610-874-7474

Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

www.uplandbaptist.org

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

Text or Call: 610-453-8317

brendaabshaw@gmail.com