

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

May 2019

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Chapter 3: *Blessed are the...*

It seems like everywhere we go; the crowds just keep getting bigger and bigger. People want to see Jesus. They want him to heal them. People just keep coming. The crowds make it easier for me to stay hidden, though I am more and more nervous that I am going to get stepped on, which is very dangerous to a mouse!

Yesterday, the crowds were huge. It seemed like there was a steady stream of people coming to see Jesus. I thought it was going to be an ordinary day, at least like the last couple of weeks. People came to see Jesus and he healed them, drove out their demons and amazed everyone. People were beginning to expect things from Jesus. They expected him to bring healing to people. They expected him to be compassionate to the crowds who always seemed to be following him. Though this day started out like that, it quickly changed into something completely different.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside. I thought at first, he was trying to get away from the crowds of people who were following him. I knew that I could use a break, I was sure he must be getting tired. So, I thought Jesus was trying to get away. Instead, he stopped and sat down. We caught up with him and sat down and listened because Jesus began to speak.

At first, I thought maybe I had dozed off and missed something important, because nothing Jesus said made sense. As he continued to talk, I realized that I hadn't missed anything. Still, nothing made sense. Jesus said things like *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. Jesus and the disciples don't seem to have much, but there is always something to eat. They aren't going without. I wondered if Jesus knew what it was to be poor. In my experience the poor never inherit anything. As Jesus continued to talk, things just got muddier. He said that those who mourn are blessed as well as those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

As I continued to listen to Jesus, I began to wonder if something was wrong with him. He did not seem to understand the way the world works. Even I, a small mouse, who before a couple of weeks ago had never gone even a mile from home, understood that the world does not work the way Jesus was describing. It did not make sense to talk about how blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. Then when I thought it could not get any more confusing, Jesus said *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

I began to wonder if maybe I should have stayed home. This adventure that I had started was beginning to get out of control. It was fun to witness Jesus healing people. Everyone was excited and happy. Now as we sat and listened to Jesus, I saw more confused faces than happy glowing faces. As I looked around at the disciples, I wasn't sure they understood any more than I did what Jesus was trying to say.

In fact, I think the disciples began to get worried when Jesus began to say that you are blessed when people insult you and say all kinds of evil against you. I am sure I saw a couple of them break out in a sweat. I can't imagine anyone hating these men. They are good and kind. They have left everything to follow Jesus. Why would anyone persecute them? It is nice to know that there is a reward in heaven, but I am hoping that is a long way off!

I thought maybe Jesus would be done talking, or at least stop and explain things. Instead he just kept going. He must have known we were all confused. He seemed to be on a roll and just kept teaching us things.

He told us we were the salt of the earth and the light of the world. This at least made sense to me. Of course, you would not light a lamp and put it under a bowl that would not do any good at all. If you are going to light a lamp, then you need to put it where the light makes a difference for everyone in the house. The lamp can only work if it is allowed to shine.

This time I felt like Jesus explained himself better. He told us that if we needed to *let our light shine before others so that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in Heaven*. I want my light to shine. I don't want to hide under a bowl. Though I do wonder how good I am. Do I do enough good deeds to let others see God? I am just one small mouse. Can I really make a difference? How can I let my light shine?

That night as I was getting ready to go to sleep, Jesus words kept swirling around in my head. Was I blessed? What did it mean to be blessed? It seemed like Jesus' values were not the ones that I had been experiencing all my life. Jesus was changing everything. This adventure was getting bigger and bigger. As I curled up in the bottom of Simon's bag, I wondered if my light was shining at all. I spend so much time trying not to be noticed that I am not sure my light ever shines.

I can't stop following Jesus now. There is still so much I don't understand. There is still so much to see and experience. I can't wait to see what tomorrow will bring.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 5:1-16

Know that you are blessed. Not because of what you have, but because of the God who loves you. Let your light shine so that others can see and praise God.

Pastor Brenda



News about our Youth, Teenagers, and Young Adults

- **Katie Boyer Mason** and **Sara Mason** visited the Brinton Manor Nursing Home and gave out Easter treats to the residents.
- **Sammy DeVecchis** will be graduating from Widener University this month.
- **Noah Geveke, and his wife Nicole**, are the proud parents of Henry Robert, born on April 4, 2019. All are doing well.
- **Matthew Shaw** is very excited to have learned how to ride his bike on the sidewalk. He also passed his addition math facts at school.
- **Stephen Shaw** made the Distinguished Honor Roll for the 3rd marking period of 6th grade. He also achieved the rank of Tenderfoot in Boy Scouts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 4 Work Day at the Church
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 20 Last VBS Night until September
- May 25 Passport to Upland
- May 26 Worship in the Park, Lunch, Corn Hole Tournament, Fireworks
- May 27 Memorial Day Parade and Picnic
- June 9 Recognition Sunday
Brunch
- June 17 Father's Day



April Recap of Church Celebration



On Easter morning, we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service. Thank you to all the adults who hid the eggs – chocolate, plastic, and hard-boiled – for our egg hunters. The children completed a craft while the eggs were being hidden by our volunteers. Thank you to **Pastor Brenda, Courtney Klimek, Priscilla Mills, Robin Moore, and Jackie Wright** for dyeing the “real” eggs for the egg hunt and **Linda Cook** for purchasing and/or stuffing the plastic eggs and the chocolate eggs. There were quite a few children in Church on Easter morning, but unfortunately many did not stay for the hunt. Those who did, though, took home bags of eggs!



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

At the April Meeting of the **Legal Corporation**, we . . .

- Discussed Church finances and reviewed expenses;
- Discussed various investments of the Church and issues with updating accounts at Wells Fargo;
- Continue to investigate on-line giving;
- Discussed upcoming Work Day and the need to plan more;
- Continued to discuss renting out the Chapel and the two parties that have expressed interest;
- Approved the realtor officially listing the Chapel for rent; and
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel, including the Chapel roof.

From the April Meeting of the **Ministry Council** . . .

- Each of the Team Leaders reported on various items they were working on and/or hoping to initiate. Their reports can be found in this issue of the *Spire*.

PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

No Property Report this month.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

We have received feedback on the Church broadcast and appreciate it. Please continue to let us know how your experience watching the broadcast at home is going. You can email the church or give the office a call.

Camera operators are always appreciated. If you're interested, please email the church or give the office a call. If you can take a picture with your phone, you can operate the Church camera.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

The Lenten season is over and Christ is Risen indeed. I hope you were able to take part in the many Lent experiences at our church.

Following the **Psalms for Lent Devotional** by Jane Wike. It was enlightening to read from Psalms and the Gospels each day.

Palm Sunday with the Bell Choir playing and participating in Worship with scripture readings.

The children delivered palms to our congregation.

Communion with a loaf of bread and the chalice served by Pastor Brenda.

Sunrise Service followed by breakfast.

Lilies and chrysanthemums decorating the church on Easter Sunday. The children were given surprise cookies as part of the children's sermon.

John Shaw and his trumpet accompanying the hymns during 10am Worship.

Crafts for the children after Worship followed by the Easter Egg Hunt.

May 12th is the traditional Mother's Day celebrated nationwide. This year we will be honoring Mothers and the Women of our church, past or present. You will receive 2 flower cutouts at the door. Please write the names of the Mother/Women you would like to honor. The children will collect the flower cutouts after the Children's Sermon. The names will be read aloud and posted.

The Bell Choir will be playing on May 19th for the last time until fall. Don't miss them!

Belvedere Worship Service has been canceled for Sunday May 26th.

Memorial Day Sunday Service is May 26 in the park at 10 am. We will be worshipping with Resurrection Life and the community. It is good to be part of the Upland Borough 150-year celebration.

We will be honoring our veterans on Veterans Day in November, and our Memorial Fund donors on June 9th at the Volunteer Recognition luncheon.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

If you have a couple of hours a month to visit our shut-ins with home communion it is so worthwhile. See Dawn if you are able to help with this endeavor.

It's not too early to think about the AB Men's Retreat. Mark your calendar for July 26-28, 2019 at Shippensburg University. Discount for early registration by May 15. The theme this year is "Nothing is Impossible With God So Let your Light Shine for Jesus to All."

The next Sunday Social will be May 19th following worship. We will have water ice and pretzels on the bricks weather permitting.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Welcome Spring! I know that might sound a little late but it's taken me longer this year to really appreciate Gods renewal of our world. I am looking forward to what I can learn from Children's Church this summer. I learn and grow as much with our youth as I hope they learn from me. Please give thoughtful consideration to taking a Sunday to share the love of God with our youth.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

VBS Night

The VBS Night program on Monday nights dinner is going well at the church chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. We have from 10 – 16 kids for Bible story and dinner. Come joins us in the church chapel on Monday nights.

Main Street Elementary School

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary is having snacks for the teachers during conference times in May.

Memorial Parade

The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 27, 2019. The committee for the parade will be collecting monetary donations for food and drinks. Please drop your monetary gift off at the church office, to the attention of Joan Decker. Please contact Joan Decker at the church office 610-874-7474 if you are interested in helping with the parade. Thank you in advance. Come join us for the parade and picnic.

Food Bank

The Food Bank received the following from FEMA: 67 boxes of five lb. bags of sugar, five lb. bags of flour, 1lb coffee cans and coffee creamer, ketchup, mustard, salt and pepper as well as small cups of fruit. The Food bank is in need of cold cereal for May and plastic bags. Please remember canned goods as well for the Food Bank. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping out at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

Worship

Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM.

Upland Borough Delaware County, PA 150 Years



*Sesquicentennial Celebration
Event Schedule*

**Upland Borough
Delaware County, PA
150 Years**

Sesquicentennial Celebration Event Schedule

Friday, May 24, 2019

- Time Capsule Ceremony at MacQueen Hall – 6:00 pm
- Sesquicentennial Dinner at MacQueen Hall – 7:00 pm
(Tickets required - \$50 each)

Saturday, May 25, 2019

- Sesquicentennial Passport - 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
There are nine locations on the Passport tour. Passport books are available from the Borough Office for \$4.00 or you can give the money to Pastor Brenda and she will pick up your book. The Passport books have a picture of each location, a brief history and a place for a stamp. Visitors will get a stamp for each location they tour.

The church is a stop on the tour. Volunteers are needed for this event. We need a minimum of 2 people for each 2-hour slot for greeting visitors, stamping passports and providing tours. However, it would be helpful to have up to four people per time slot since we will be serving light refreshments out front. Please sign up on the sheet in the back.

- Winner of Drawing Announced prior to Movie.
- Movie in Bristol Lord Field – 7:00 pm
The movie will be *Ralph Breaks the Internet*.

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Events in Bristol Lord Field

- Church Service – Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church – 10:00 am
- Bag Lunch – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Bag lunches are available for purchase for \$5.00 per meal. Forms are available in the back. Payment and form may be turned into the Borough offices or given to the church office by May 19, 2019.
- Corn-hole Tournament – 1:00 pm
- Carnival Games – 1:00 pm
- Fireworks – Dusk

Monday, May 27, 2019

- Memorial Day Services at Upland Baptist Church – 8:45 am
- Memorial Day Parade – 9:00 am

All parade marchers welcome. Please wear your red Upland Baptist shirt.

- Memorial Day Services at War Memorial – 10:00 am
- Picnic in the Park – hosted by Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church – 11:00 am

Volunteers are needed to be picnic servers. Please sign up on the sheet in the back.

Donation funds are needed for the picnic to purchase potato salad, drinks and meat.

Finger desserts are needed for the picnic. Please sign up on the sheet in the back.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MAY 2019

No International Birthdays for May 2018

May Birthdays

- 1 Matthew Shaw (2011)
- 4 Noah Geveke
- 5 David Geveke
Darlene Pysker
- 15 Akky Geveke
- 17 Thomas Geveke
- 22 Sandy Kushner
- 26 Jackie Wright
- 27 Hans Geveke
- 28 Stephen Kalichak, Jr. (2017)

May Anniversaries

- 4 Brian and Courtney Klimek
- 10 Joan and Dennis Decker