

The Spire Lite

November 2021

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 107:1



Abundance of Blessing

If you would like to help a family enjoy Thanksgiving dinner, you are invited to donate \$10 for a turkey, or \$30 for a Thanksgiving meal. All donations will be used by the Upland Baptist Food Bank to provide meals for our community.

No matter how you donate, through the website, by mail, or by putting it in the offering plate, please make your donations out to Upland Baptist Church and mark your donation: *Abundance of Blessing* in the memo or note line.

Pledge Sunday

Sunday, November 14th is Pledge Sunday. We encourage everyone to be a part of the ministry at Upland Baptist through pledging a financial commitment. We believe that this commitment should be made prayerfully. Please consider what God is asking you to give and make a commitment to reflect that devotion.

You should have received a Stewardship letter and Pledge form in the mail. You are invited to bring your pledge to worship on November 14th, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main St, Upland, PA 19015 or email: drafalski@verizon.net. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brenda or Linda Cook.



Church Clean Up Day

We will be working in our church cemetery on Saturday, November 13 beginning at 9 am. We want to be sure the grounds are well maintained, especially as people visit during the holiday season.

Gratitude Challenge

November is gratitude month. Practicing daily gratitude gives us a deeper connection to ourselves, the world around us, and to our Creator. Start the Gratitude Challenge November 1st.

Prayer Meeting

Join us the first Wednesdays of each month for a Zoom Prayer Meeting. To join go to www.uplandbaptist.org and click the prayer meeting link. We look forward to praying with you.



Veterans Day is November 11. Be sure to thank a Veteran for his or her service.



Birthdays and Anniversaries for November and December

November Birthdays

- 13 Dawn Rafalski
- 19 Doug Scott
- 20 Kim Buffington
- 22 Brian Klimek
- 23 Sara Mason
- 27 Helen Rhoads

November Anniversaries

None

December Birthdays

- 4 Bobbi Jean Simcox
- 7 Deloris Hanley
- 16 Ben Geveke
Cheryl Rhoads
- 26 Kathleen Geveke
- 27 Courtney Klimek

December Anniversaries

- 18 Carol and Richard Arscott



Christmas at Upland Baptist

Special Offerings

Church Decorating

We will decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, November 27 beginning at 9 am. All are welcome to deck the halls.



Giving Tree

We are adopting 40 residents from Fair Acres Nursing home for Christmas. The staff has provided gift suggestions for each resident. If you want to participate, please pick up your tag beginning Sunday, November 7th or contact Pastor Brenda at 610-453-8317 to be given a resident and gift suggestion. Gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 5th. **Please note: all gifts must be returned in gift bags. Do not wrap any gift.** The staff at Fair Acres puts laundry tags on all items before the residents receive them to ensure they get them back with their wash.

Christmas Eve Service

We are planning to have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7 pm on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias

This year we will be continuing our tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones with poinsettia plants and listing them in the Sunday, December 19th and Christmas Eve bulletins. Use the enclosed form to reserve your poinsettia plant. All orders need to be placed by Sunday, November 21.

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 also the Upland Fire Company. Your Christmas greeting will be in the Sunday, December 19th and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas Card and donation by December 13th 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.



Advent Devotionals

This year we will be reading Hark, The Herald Angels Sing by Stephenie Hovland. These daily readings for Advent and Christmas focus on the angel messages of the Old and New Testament. Copies of the devotional will be available at church, or you may call to request a copy be mailed to you. It is also available on Nook and Kindle.

Devotional Thought...

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters ... It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

I've heard these verses in different contexts all my life. Whenever I do, I always picture Jesus looking over my shoulder, checking my progress, encouraging me to do a good job. He's probably thinking, "I hope she won't just give up and quit before she talks it over with me".

My parents were "Depression Kids". To them, work was a gift. Their long lives were filled with gratitude because they lived through the hard times—and felt blessed by God Himself to be able to build a good life on the other side.

Their generation never expected anything unless they worked hard for it, and, what's most important, they praised God for the privilege!

Paul reminds us that we'll find more joy when we work for Jesus than we'll ever achieve by trying to earn human rewards. Earthly treasure fades away. But, Jesus assures us He offers the ultimate reward. His promise is eternal salvation when we love and serve Him with humble, and eternally grateful hearts.

Jane Kofroth

Trivia Questions

1. Who is considered the 13th apostle to replace Judas Iscariot?
2. What unusual gift did King Herod promise his daughter for her birthday?
3. What city mentioned in the Book of Revelation is also the name of an American city?
4. Name the shortest verse in the Bible?

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