

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

September 2019

Upland Baptist Church
325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015
610-874-7474

Email: uplandbaptist@verizon.net

Website: www.uplandbaptist.org

Chapter 5: Learning Together

Abraham and I were sitting together nibbling on a piece of grain, having a fierce debate. He was arguing that Jesus could not mean that no one could ever know what you were doing. As I listened, Abraham continued to get more and more heated as he grumbled about what Jesus had been saying.

I'll admit, as Abraham continued to talk, I began to tune him out. I was glad he was along, but I needed to think about what Jesus has been saying instead of listening to his opinion on what Jesus was saying. Sometimes I needed some quiet time.

Jesus had continued his teaching. This time when Jesus taught, he spent some time telling us how not to do things. He began by telling us not to let people see our acts of kindness. Jesus said that no one should know when we do things for someone else. I thought back to the times at home we had opened our door in the morning to find baskets of food on the doorstep. We never knew who brought us that food, but it always came at just the right time.

Often, we opened the door because there was no food inside, only to find just what we needed on the porch. I often wondered why no one had knocked when they left the food. We so wanted to thank them for the generosity. Now I wondered if they were doing as Jesus was instructing. They were not giving because they wanted to be noticed. They were simply being kind and compassionate. I knew that I was grateful for whoever they were but was coming to understand that giving was not about being thanked, but about offering care to someone else.

This was a difficult lesson to learn. I had to admit that I liked it when people noticed me. It was nice when others thought I was doing a good deed. I liked being admired, but Jesus was challenging me to let my deed speak for itself. I did not need to be the center of attention.

Not only did Jesus challenge us not to let others know that we were doing acts of compassion, but he also said that when we pray, we should go into our rooms and close the door. People don't need to see us when we pray. This was also causing me some confusion. We mice were no different than the humans with whom I was traveling. We all met together for worship. We prayed together and listened to God's Word. I could hear Abraham as I thought about this saying, "Does Jesus want us to stop going to worship? Does he want us to stop praying together?"

As I continued to ponder Jesus' words, I realized that it wasn't prayer Jesus was suggesting we stop, it was praying for attention that was not acceptable. Jesus did not want us to pray in a way that made other people notice us. He did not want us to pray, hoping that people would be impressed with how religious we were. Jesus wanted us to pray because we desired to talk to God, not to show off to others.

I wondered how many times I had gone to worship just so others would see me there. I was beginning to understand that Jesus was asking me to have a relationship with God, not try to impress people with how religious I was. I wanted that. I wanted to know God and pray to him. I didn't know how.

Abraham suddenly stopped talking and looked at me. He asked me, "Malachi, what's bothering you? Something is wrong."

I was silent for a moment, but Abraham continued to sit silently, which was very unlike him, and wait for my response. Finally, I said, "I think I am beginning to understand what Jesus has been saying. He doesn't want us doing things so that other people notice. He wants our actions to be authentic. He wants our acts of compassion and our moments of prayer to be real."

"I don't understand." Abraham said.

"I am not sure I do completely, either. Remember what Jesus said about fasting. He said that if we were going to fast, we should wash and put oil on our head, so no one knew we were fasting. I think he was saying that if we were fasting so that other people would be impressed, then it doesn't really work. Instead, we need our actions to be for God alone."

Abraham and I sat in companionable silence for quite awhile before we spoke again. After some time, I said, "I want to pray, really pray, but I don't know how to start."

Abraham gently nudged my shoulder and said, "I think Jesus told us how to start - remember his words... *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one.*"

I was very grateful for my friend in that moment. He had gently reminded me that Jesus was not simply telling us how to act but showing us how to live. Jesus was not out to make me feel bad. He wanted to teach me how to live. I don't know what Abraham said, but we both bowed our heads and spoke to God. I was glad to have such a friend with me as we learned what Jesus was teaching.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 6:1-19

Jesus teaches us that what we do should be for him, not for others to see and applaud. Our actions can remain secret and still be effective. Let us not fall into the trap of doing so that others applaud us. Instead, let us be faithful in our words and deeds so that God sees us.

Pastor Brenda



YOUNG PEOPLE NEWS

- **Anna Geveke** babysat over the summer and also visited a friend in Anchorage, Alaska.
- **Tom Geveke** worked at the Brookhaven Swim Club this summer and interned at the USDA where he did mechanical engineering work.
- **Matthew Shaw** and **Stephen Shaw** have been busy this summer. They both spent time at Scout Camp. **Matthew** enjoyed Day Camp and **Stephen** earned 3 merit badges at his camp. The Shaws took a family vacation to Gettysburg, the Columbus Zoo, and the Air Force Museum. Then they spent 10 days at Grandma's house!
- Have a great school year: **Cameron Klimek** (6th Grade), **Casey Klimek** (10th Grade), **Oliver Kulp** (Kindergarten), **Sara Mason** (9th Grade), **Matthew Shaw** (3rd Grade), and **Stephen Shaw** (7th Grade). Enjoy the year!
- Good Luck to **Anna Geveke, Tom Geveke, Kyle Lord,** and **Rachel Miskowic** as they return to college this fall. Good luck to **Jesse Kulp** as he continues to work full time and take college courses and to **Ben Geveke** and **Noah Geveke** as they continue to attend Graduate School this fall.

Save the Date!

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

October 20, 2019

Celebrate Pastor Brenda's 19th Year

At Upland Baptist Church!

News

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Legal Corporation/Ministry Council Highlights

- The Board of Directors has continued to monitor the finances and investments of the Church throughout the summer.
- The Board of Directors has handled repairs needed around the church during the summer months and are working on those that still need to be completed.
- The Board of Directors dealt with many issues with our alarm system during July and August.
- The Summertime Sunday Socials offered a time to fellowship with members of the congregation after worship.
- The Church was approached by the borough to see if we were interested in selling the back end of the parking lot so they could install a splash pad. No other discussions have taken place on this issue.
- The Ministry Council completed the calendar for July 2019 – June 2020.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Plan Ahead for the Upcoming Year

- September 15 Welcome Back Sunday Salad Social
- September 29 Blessing of the Animals
- October 1 Small Groups begin
- October 19 Church Clean Up Day
- October 20 Pastor Appreciation and Bake Sale
- October 31 Trunk or Treat
- November 17 Pledge Sunday
- Giving Tree Begins
- November 30 Church Decorating
- December 1 Fellowship Lunch and Activity
- December 16 Night of Music



MAIN STREET SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



During the months of July and August, the congregation was asked to donate highlighters, composition books, boxes of 24 crayons, and pencils for Main Street Elementary. Monetary donations were also gratefully accepted. Because of your generosity, through donations of money and supplies, we have collected **877 pencils, 159 crayon boxes, 235 composition books** and **5 packs of dry eraser markers** as of Sunday, August 18th.

Thank you very much for your continued generosity!



VBS NIGHT

Monday Night VBS, for ages 5 – 12, will resume for a new season on September 9th. Pray for this program as we start our new year in hopes that we will bring children into our Church from the community so they can learn about God's love for them. We will continue to serve dinner to the children and then have a lesson, activity, and craft. Contact either Linda Cook or Brenda Shaw if you would like to volunteer or make a donation. Thank you for your support!

Monday Night VBS
6:00 – 7:00 pm

PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

No Property Report this month.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

There was a problem with the Church broadcast audio a few weeks ago. There was a constant humming, which was more than a little irritating. Thanks to John Kofroth, Frank Kulp and John Shaw for fixing the problem. In addition, thanks to the folks who watched at home and informed us of the problem. Please continue letting us know how your experience watching the broadcast at home is going. You can email the church or give the office a call.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Welcome back to all our vacationing members. We have missed you at Worship. Don't forget to share the places you have been and the things you have done or seen on the bulletin board.

Sunday, September 8

Worship services move to the sanctuary. Communion will also be served this day.

Sunday, September 15

Welcome back Sunday Salad Social after Worship. Think about joining a Small Group for the fall. Sign up will be at the back of the church.

Sunday, September 22

Worship at Belvedere Nursing Home at 2:30pm

Sunday, September 29

Blessing of the Animals

All dogs are welcome on leashes. Cats and other animals are also welcome.

Nursery

Nursery is available during church on an as needed basis. Let Priscilla Mills or Pastor Brenda know if you will need this service.

Opportunities to serve during worship

We continue to need ushers and greeters and Sunday School teachers on a weekly basis. Please sign up at the back of the church.

This month let us strive to be mindful of the moment we are living in. Put down phones, notice the people next to you, smile at someone on the street. Go outside and feel the sun on your face. Stop and pray and thank God for each moment.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

We will be moving back to the sanctuary for worship and communion on Sunday, September 8th at 10:00 am.

Welcome Back Sunday Salad Social will be on September 15th following worship in the chapel. Please sign up to bring something to the social. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table.

We will be taking our monthly worship service to Belvedere on Sunday, September 22nd. Please see Pastor Brenda if you would like to join us.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Welcome Autumn! Looking forward to getting back to our fall routine. We have one important schedule change. Children's Church will not be available on the first Sunday of the month, which is set aside for communion. This gives our youngsters an opportunity to observe and grow in their walk with the Lord. We are always looking for teachers. Please consider joining us.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

VBS Night

VBS Night resumes Monday, September 9 at 6:00 pm.

Main Street Elementary

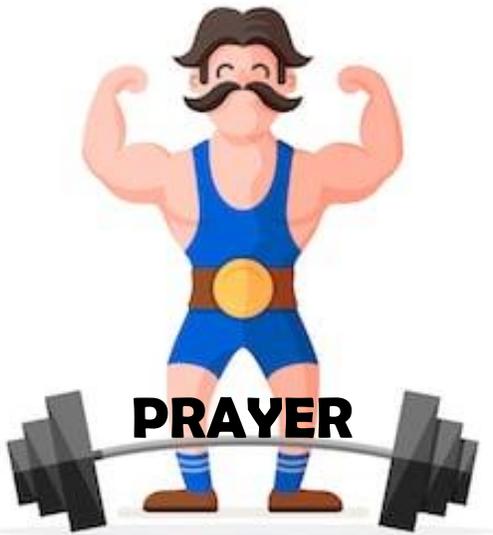
Volunteer opportunities at Main Street Elementary resume in September.

Food Bank

The Food Bank item for September is 1-gallon Ziploc bags. Someone donated very large bags of dog food to the Food Bank. The bags will be used to put the dog food in so it can be given to those who need it. The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods as well as plastic bags. Please support the food bank in any way by dropping off donations at the church. The Food Bank is always in need of help. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

Worship

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



Strengthen Your Prayer Life

Be ...faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Beginning in September, Upland Baptist Church will be focusing on strengthening our prayer lives, both as a congregation and as individuals.

- **Monthly Prayer gatherings**
- **Small Group reading on prayer**
- **Introduction to different ways to pray**
- **Focus on personal prayer life through**
 - **Prayer journals**
 - **Prayer partners**
 - **Mealtime prayers**
 - **Gratitude prayers**
 - **Regular prayer time**

Just like when you start a new exercise program, there will be aches and pains. Together we will strengthen our relationships with God. Join us in making a commitment to God through prayer as we grow together this fall.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

All cards for International Missionaries are to be sent to the following address:

International Ministries
1003 W. 9th Ave., Suite A
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Mrs. Marie Ketly Pierre 9/1

Email: ketly.pierre@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Carole Sydnor 9/7

Email: carole.sydnor@internationalministries.org

Mr. Bruce Borquist 9/11

Email: bruce.borquist@internationalministries.org

Rev. Dwight Bolick 9/25

Email: Dwight.bolick@internationalministries.org

September Birthdays

3 Doris Moody
11 Louise Sauk
13 Betty Singley
15 Diane Lord Ogram
18 Dave Miskowic
20 Bill Lord Sr.

September Anniversaries

7 Akky and Hans Geveke
14 Charlene and Dan Miller
21 Stephen and Kimberlee Kalichak

Birthday and Anniversary List

It is time to update the Birthday and Anniversary List. Please call or e-mail the church secretary (uplandbaptist@verizon.net) if you would like to be added to the Birthday and Anniversary List – month and date only.