

The Spire Lite

September 2022



But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Welcome to Bob Wilkinson, our new Organist

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Robert Wilkinson has been hired as our new part-time Organist/Pianist. Mr. Wilkinson graduated from West Chester University, Bachelor of Music, Summa Cum Laude. He has many years of Professional experience in the teaching field as well as work experience as Organist for Paoli Presbyterian and St. Pius X Parish Church.

Please give an enthusiastic welcome to Bob as he starts as organist for Upland Baptist on September 11, 2022. The position will run from September through May annually. We are blessed and grateful that he is becoming part of our church and enhancing our Worship in Song and Music.



Following worship on September 11, we will have a Sunday Social outside the church on the bricks. We look forward to welcoming Bob Wilkinson, our organist, and catching up with friends. See you there!

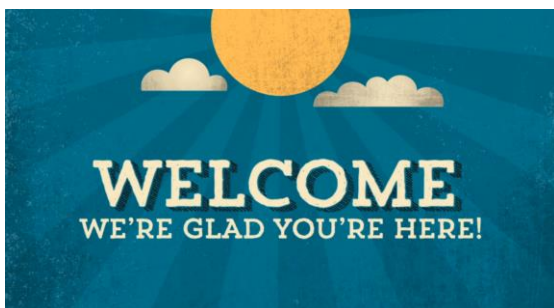
Small Group

Small Groups begin again on October 4th. These groups are a great way to grow in your faith and connect with other people.

This fall we will be reading The Big Picture by Caldwell-Gross. Connect the dots of triumph and trauma in your life to discover God's presence by studying the story of Joseph in Genesis. Books are available at the church.

Small Groups will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning in October. The first meeting is October 4. One group meets at the church at noon, bring a sack lunch. The second group meets at 7:00 pm at the Shaw's house.

Sign up on the sheet in church or let Pastor Brenda know you are interested!



“Sprinkle” to Welcome Brigid’s 3rd Child

Brigid and Jim Levi and their family are welcoming a baby boy in October! We are so excited for them.

You are invited to drop off a card or gift at the church to welcome the new baby. We are planning on giving Brigid the cards and gifts on Sunday, September 25, 2022.



On Sunday October 9, 2021, at noon, we will be holding a Blessing of the Animals Service. You are encouraged to bring your furry friends. All animals are welcome to join us for the service, though we ask for carriers or leashes to be used.

Nursery to Re-Open

The nursery in the Church will re-open for children during the Worship Service on September 11th.

There was a clean-up session on Sunday July 24th right after church. The nursery was refreshed, the rug shampooed, and everything made safe for children. Thank you to all those who helped.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers to staff the nursery is in the back of church. We look forward to seeing your little ones on Sunday mornings.



Birthdays and Anniversaries for September and October

September Birthdays

- 3 Doris Moody
- 11 Louise Sauk
- 13 Betty Singley
- 15 Monica Manerchia
Diane Lord Ogram
Rosemary Richardson
Marsha Scott
- 18 Dave Miskowic
- 20 Bill Lord Sr.

October Birthdays

- 2 Parker Ferguson
- 7 Joanne Long
- 9 Everett McGonigle
George McGonigle
Florence Osborne

October Anniversaries

- 10 John & Jane Kofroth

September Anniversaries

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

Let's Celebrate!

Joyful Noise Bell Choir

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir is meeting again. We are looking forward to playing together. We hope that everyone is able to return to the group, but there is room for new members if you are interested in joining the Joyful Noise. Let John Shaw know that you are planning on playing in the Joyful Noise Bell Choir.

The first practice is Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 8:30 am.

Worship

Sunday, September 11, 2022, we will celebrate communion in the sanctuary. Worship will continue to be at 10 am. We hope that you will join us in person, though worship will continue to be broadcast at www.uplandbaptist.org.

Food Bank

The Food Bank needs cans carrots and cans peas.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



In their 35 years as neighbors on Earth, Arnie and Bart never knew they were both Christians. **FUNNY** isn't it? *Do your neighbors know what you believe?*

Service Sunday, September 31, 2022

We had a great turn out for Service Sunday on July 31. The group in attendance put together 400 bags for Main Street students to welcome them back to school in September. It included an encouraging bookmark, 2 pencils, an eraser, Smarties, and Goldfish Crackers! Such a lovely way to say "Welcome Back" to all the children at the school. I am sure they will feel very special once they receive their gift from the Friends of Upland Baptist Church!

Our great helpers included: Norma Jean Colby, Linda Cook, Ben Geveke, Chuck Jensen, Frank Kulp, Sue Kulp, Liz Machamer, Charlene Miller, Lynda Miller, Priscilla Mills, Dawn Rafalski, Rosie Richardson, Betty Vandergriff and Amanda Wood.



Devotional Thought...



When I read the theme for the ABCPAD Leadership Conference: **Remember Rejoice Renew** it resonated with me. During the last Small Group, I struggled with the Chapter “What We Overhear about the Future.” We are called to help change the world to be more in alignment with the vision of God. Yet, I looked around at the violence and evil in our present world at the same time churches are closing or becoming smaller and Christianity is being attacked on many fronts. How are we to change the world with fewer and fewer people active in the faith? Tony Compolo gave a few historical examples of people overcoming evil, most notably during the Nazi regime, with the German people and saving many of the Jewish people.

It made me stop and remember other groups and missionaries who still serve willingly in countries where violence is the norm. I remember a church close to my home who go to the Children’s Village in Africa every two years to build schools and residences and teach the mamas how to care for traumatized children. I remember the church of a friend’s son in Pittsburgh who plants a Community Garden every summer and teaches their youth how to serve others by providing food. I remember the church down the street who draws over a thousand people to watch their Easter Play and the last days of Jesus. I remember our church who sponsors a food bank and feeds seniors and others in our community.

Everyone can spread the works of Jesus in their own community as we *rejoice* in the Kingdom of God. We can *renew* our faith in the fact that the Church, and its work goes on because nothing is too hard for God, and we are his workers.

-Priscilla Mills



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