



The Spire

September 2025

"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

~Titus 3:5

Friends & Family Weekend Is Almost Here!

Friends and Family weekend will be here in a few short weeks — are you excited, too?! This is an awesome opportunity to show our community how we Love God, Love Others, and we can't wait for you to join us!

Saturday, September 13th will be filled with activities including a Car Show in our parking lot and an Attic Treasure Flea Market in front of the church. Inside, we'll have lunch and snacks.

If you're interested in purchasing a \$10 spot to sell your attic treasures, please register at <https://uplandbaptist.org/Friends-and-Family-Weekend-4/>. Please also share this link with anyone you know who sells crafts or similar items. We encourage participation from across our community.

Join us for worship on **Sunday, September 14th** at 10:00 AM after which will follow a picnic. **Nursery coverage needed!** If you are able to help in the nursery during worship, please reach out to Priscilla Mills.

UPLAND BAPTIST CHURCH'S

FRIENDS & FAMILY WEEKEND

SATURDAY 9/13

9 AM-1 PM
Coffee & Car Show
Attic Treasures Yard Sale

A la carte lunch

SUNDAY 9/14

10 AM Worship service 11 AM Picnic

325 MAIN STREET, UPLAND PA
(610) 874-7474

For where two or three
are gathered together in My Name,
I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20

Knowing-Jesus.com

Prayer Partner Ministry

We are starting a Prayer Partner Ministry. If you are interested in having a person that you meet with either in person or on the phone to pray with once a week, please let Pastor Brenda know. It is a gift to share joys and concerns and know that someone is praying with you about them. Join in strengthening our connections to God and each other through prayer.

Return to Sanctuary

As is our tradition, we will return to the Sanctuary the Sunday after Labor Day. This year, that falls on **Sunday, September 7th.**

We **will** be having communion during this worship service.

Joyful Noise

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir will resume practices on **Sunday, September 7, 2025**, at 8:30 AM. We are looking forward to playing together. If you are interested in joining, please see John Shaw.

Save the Date

On **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, we will be celebrating Pastor Brenda's 25th Anniversary as Pastor of the Upland Baptist Church. Join us for a special worship service followed by lunch in the Chapel.

Food Bank

The item of the month for September is
Syrup

We have an abundance of pancake mix but no syrup to go with it. Please donate syrup anytime during the month.



Communion Servers Needed!

In September, we'll begin serving communion during worship, rather than picking up bags on your way to the pews. We'll need **two** communion servers in addition to someone to prep the bags. Please sign up in any capacity as you're able and direct any questions to Priscilla Mills.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for September and October

September Birthdays

- 15 Monica Manerchia
Rosemary Richardson
Marsha Scott
- 16 Colin Levi
- 18 Dave Miskowic
- 21 Rocky Thompson
- 25 Brigid Levi



October Birthdays

- 2 Parker Ferguson
- 6 Barbara Probert
Andy Waltman
- 7 Joanne Long
- 9 Rebecca Minchak
Everett McGonigle
George McGonigle
- 13 Jackie Long

September Anniversaries

- 14 Charlene & Dan Miller
- 21 Barry & Judy Armstrong
- 26 Kevin & Makenzie McGonigle

October Anniversaries

- 10 John & Jane Kofroth

VBS Was a Success!

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated, and prayed for our VBS program — we couldn't have done it without your support!

We had a solid group of thirteen faithful children throughout the week — many even braved the thunderstorms! They heard classic Bible stories like when Jesus fed the 5,000, the parting of the Red Sea, and Jonah and the whale! There were so many crafts and treats and fun activities like fishing and treasure hunts!

In addition to lesson and administrative materials, your donations allowed us to provide students with a goodie bag on their final day. We are always grateful for your support of this ministry.

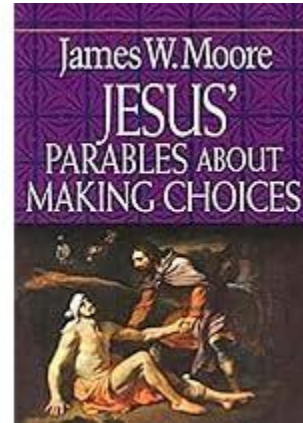


On **Sunday October 5, 2025** at noon, we will hold a Blessing of the Animals Service. You are encouraged to bring your furry friends. All animals are welcome to join us for the service, though we ask for carriers or leashes to be used.

Ministry to Members Highlight

Recently, we took communion to one of our shut-ins, Doris Fraim. Doris is a lifelong member of Upland Baptist Church and now resides at Chestnut Ridge Assisted Living. The day we went, they were making hats and dressing up, and we couldn't resist taking Doris's picture! Doris enjoys getting cards and notes from her friends at Upland Baptist.

Join Us for Small Group



Small Groups begin again on **October 7th**. These groups are a great way to grow in your faith and connect with other people.

This fall, we will begin *Jesus' Parables about Making Choices* by James W. Moore, which invites us to find ourselves and God's truth for us in key passages of Scripture.

Small Groups will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month. One group meets at the church at noon. (Please 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!



Devotional Thought...

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassion never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
— Lamentations 3:22–23

We all need a fresh start sometimes. Whether it's after a failure, a season of spiritual dryness, or just the daily wear and tear of life, our hearts long for a reset—a clean slate and a new beginning.

The good news? God specializes in fresh starts.

In Lamentations 3, the prophet Jeremiah writes from a place of deep grief and brokenness. Jerusalem has fallen, the people are suffering, and hope seems far away. But right in the middle of the sorrow, Jeremiah remembers something powerful: *God's compassions never fail. In fact, they are new every morning.*

What a beautiful picture of God's mercy. It doesn't come in limited supply. It doesn't run out. Every single day, no matter what yesterday looked like, God offers a fresh start. Not because we earned it—but because He is faithful and loving.

A fresh start doesn't always mean your circumstances instantly change. Often, it begins in the heart. It's a shift in mindset, a choice to believe again, to forgive again, to trust again. It's letting God breathe new life into weary places.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes, *"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* That's more than a nice saying—it's a spiritual reality. When we come to Jesus, we are made new. Our sins are forgiven, our past is redeemed, and our future is full of hope.

Maybe you've been holding on to guilt or shame. Maybe you've drifted from God and feel like it's too late to turn back. Hear this truth: **It's never too late for a fresh start with God.** He's not waiting to condemn you—He's waiting to restore you.

Starting fresh may require letting go of pride, control, bitterness, or fear. But what we gain is far greater: peace, purpose, and the joy of walking closely with our Creator again.

~Brian Klimek



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