



The Spire Lite

February 2023

We love because
he first loved us.

1 John 4:19



We are excited to announce that Brigid Levi will begin as Church Secretary on February 6, 2023. She will continue to lead singing in worship. When you stop by the office or call, be sure to welcome Brigid to her new position.

Brigid's hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until 2 pm.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Christine Cymbala for her work as the interim Church Secretary these past several months. She has been a life saver!

so 
LOVED
JOHN 3:16

Amazing Grace Turns 250

It was January 1, 1773. John Newton led his congregation down the road from the parish church in Olney, England, to Lord Dartmouth's Great Hall to sing "new" music not traditionally allowed by the Anglican Church. Newton loved to write hymns and poetry, and the hymn he wrote for this day was special. It spoke of his conversion, of his self-proclaimed wretchedness, and of the saving power of God's grace. Since then, the words of "Amazing Grace" have struck a chord with millions across cultures and generations, and its popularity has never wavered.

(<https://www.museumofthebible.org/magazine/exhibitions/celebrating-250-years-of-amazing-grace>)

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of "Amazing Grace," our Lenten devotions by theologian Michael Hoy tie the words of the beloved song (and the history surrounding it) to our lives today. Copies will be available in worship or during the Ash Wednesday service.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 22. This day begins the season of Lent, which leads us to Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday involves getting the sign of the cross on one's forehead to symbolize repentance.

This year we will again have a drive-up service for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7 to 8 pm. People will be invited to stay in their vehicles and receive ashes. Lenten devotional materials will be available for pick-up; they will also be available in worship.

We want to thank the Upland Fire Company for volunteering to bring lights and help with the evening.

Ash Wednesday, February 22 drive-up to receive ashes, Upland Baptist Church Parking lot, 7 to 8 pm.

Ministry Council Changes

We would like to express our deepest thanks to Jane Kofroth for her time as Discipleship Team Leader.

We welcome Kathy Geveke as Discipleship Team Leader and Rosie Richardson as co-Ministry to Members Team Leader.



Sunday, February 12, 2022, we will celebrate "Souper" Sunday with homemade soup after church. Join us for a warm bowl of soup and time of fellowship.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for February and March

February Birthdays

- 9 Priscilla Mills
- 11 Frank Kulp
- 20 Joan Decker
- 21 Janet Peterson
- 24 Iris Messick
- 27 Susan Kulp



March Birthdays

- 15 Jimmy Machamer
- 22 Rev. Brenda Shaw
- 25 Rachel Miskowic
- 30 Normajean Colby
Katie Boyer
Kevin McGonigle

February Anniversary

- 17 Dave & Kathy Geveke

March Anniversary

None

Small Group Resumes

Small Groups begin Tuesday, February 7th. We will be working through the book of Esther together. There are Bible Study guides available. Please pick one up in worship or contact Pastor Brenda for a book.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of a Small Group. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. You can attend at noon in the Chapel, bring a sack lunch, or at 7 pm at the Shaw's house, snacks will be served.



Let's find out together!

Soup and Salad Dinner at MacQueen Hall

The Community Affairs Association is sponsoring a Soup and Salad Dinner on Saturday, February 19, 4 – 6 pm. Homemade chili, chicken and dumplings, and vegetable soup will be served with salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$8 children, \$10 for senior citizens and \$12 for adults. Take-out is available.

Tickets can be purchased at the Borough Office or Pastor Brenda has some available.

Food Bank

The items of the month for February – *toothpaste and toothbrushes.*



Help Wanted!

- ♥ Nursery volunteers are needed to stay with the cutest members of the church.
- ♥ Communion preparers are needed. All supplies will be provided.

Please sign-up on the sheets on the table in the back of the sanctuary to volunteer.

Lenten Offering

This year the Lenten offering will go to refurbishing the bells.

Every decade the bells need to be sent away to be refurbished. We have not done this for 14 years. They will be repaired, polished and general maintenance will be performed. This will ensure that our bells are able to be played for years to come.

This will cost approximately \$2500.00. All assistance towards this cost is greatly appreciated.

Devotional Thought...

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3



Have you ever heard the words “Love you more?”

Think about the words *Love you more* in reference to Jeremiah 31:3. Who is speaking these words?

It's God himself. The one true God loves you! God loves you with everything he's got. He never just started loving you. He has loved you forever, and he has made you his own. He will fight for you. He will defend you. He will comfort you.

All this because you are his. God loves you and he is truly the only one who can really proclaim: “Love you more” God's greatest act of love came to earth wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger. Jesus, God's own son, loved us to death, his own, even when we were sinful and unlovable. “Love you more”

God reminds us. No matter what happened yesterday, or what happens today or tomorrow, you can be sure his everlasting love will hold you close, now and forever.

Dawn Rafalski

Bible Quiz

How many times does the word LOVE appear in the Bible (NIV)?

63 551 1024 227

Finish the verse: “We love because _____.” 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Of Jesus John loved us first God first loved us Jesus performed miracles

In John 21:1-17, how many times is Peter asked by Jesus if he loves him?

3 77 7 1

Finish the verse: “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from____. 1 John 4:7

Jesus Peter Luke God

When is the word LOVE first mentioned in the Bible (NIV)?

Genesis 22 1 Corinthians 2 Exodus 1 Matthew 4

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