

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

March 2020

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Chapter 10: Treat Others as Yourself

I watched the disciples squabble over whose turn it was to clean up after dinner. It was a familiar argument. My brothers, sisters, and I had it often. Even when I knew it was my turn, I would still try to get out of it. I would mysteriously disappear, or volunteer to do something for my dad, so that they couldn't get mad that I wasn't doing the dishes.

My mom was never very amused with our after-dinner arguments. I am beginning to wonder if she wasn't tired from everything she did for us and just wanted to rest after dinner. Instead she had to referee her children into doing their chores. My guess is that Jesus wasn't fond of arguing either.

Thinking about arguing with my siblings made me miss them even more. This adventure was turning out to be so much more than I ever imagined it would be, but I still longed for home. I wondered what would be different when I went home again.

Abraham seemed at peace since he had decided to stay. He was even more interested in everything Jesus said. I often caught him scribbling in his notebook and scratching his whiskers as he contemplated Jesus' latest teaching.

Jesus had said something very strange the other day. It was quite short, but from the way he said it I figured it was very important. He said, *"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."*

Abraham and I had been trying to work out what Jesus meant when he said the *law and the prophets*. We kept waiting for someone to visit who was called the prophet, but no one came. We wondered if we had slept through something important. There didn't seem to be any scroll that Jesus was referring to as he spoke. The leaders of the synagogue often referred to scrolls when they talked, but Jesus just seemed to know what he needed to say.

Then we heard some of the disciples talking and realized that when Jesus said the law and the prophets, he was saying that was what God wanted us to do. If we were going to obey God, then we needed to do what the law and prophets told us. It seemed that we also needed to listen to what Jesus said, if we were going to be obedient to God.

"Abraham," I asked one evening, "what do you think Jesus meant when he said we were to treat others as we want to be treated?"

Abraham was quiet for a bit, but I knew he was listening. He wasn't as quick to answer as he had been. I think he knew that the answer wasn't easy, yet it was important. Finally, he said, "I think it means that however we would like someone to treat us, is the way we treat them."

I will admit I rolled my eyes. He was just quoting Jesus. He didn't know anymore than I did what it meant to actually live out, *"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you."*

Later that evening, I really wanted a snack. I could hear my stomach rumbling. A tasty morsel of grain would really hit the spot. I thought about how nice it would be if I was home and mom was setting out a warm bowl of popped grain for all of us to share. Snacks always tasted better when someone else made them.

All of a sudden, Jesus' voice popped in my head: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you. I felt like Jesus was speaking those words again. I momentarily forgot that I was hungry as I pondered what Jesus' words could possibly mean. As I sat there confused, I looked up and saw Abraham and I wondered if he was hungry. Could Jesus be saying that I should get Abraham a snack? Could it be as easy as that?

I wasn't really sure but decided that I would get a snack and share it with Abraham. He seemed surprised when I sat down next to him and offered him some grain. We laughed together about how I couldn't figure out how Mom always made it taste so good.

I was worried that Abraham would think I was going crazy but decided to tell him about hearing Jesus' voice in my head, anyway. He listened closely as I talked but did not seem too surprised.

"Malachi," he said, "I think Jesus was trying to help you understand what he was talking about when he said treat others as you want to be treated. What do you think he meant?"

Taking a cue from Abraham, I didn't answer immediately, but thought over Jesus' words and what had happened. "I think he was saying that we should put others first. If we treat people like we want to be treated, then we will love them, take care of them, and make sure they have what they need. I think we have to reach out to other people and care for them."

"I think you must be right. When I think about what I want, I want to have friends, be loved, have enough to eat, to be safe, to name a few. It seems like Jesus is saying, I need to be a friend if I want a friend, I need to help others know they are loved, I can help others feel safe and have enough to eat. I need to help others experience the very things I want in my life," Abraham answered.

As we crawled into our nests that night, I thought about how different it would have been at home if I had treated my siblings as I wanted them to treat me. I asked God to forgive me and promised him I would try to do better. I wanted to obey the law and prophets. I wanted to live like God wanted me to. Following God was changing me. I wonder if they will recognize me when I finally get home.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 7:12

Treating others as we want to be treated is often called the *Golden Rule*. We may not know it comes from Matthew 7:12, but almost everyone knows the idea. It is more difficult to live out than we realize. Our world says to put ourselves first, to get what we can, to take everything we can get our hands on. Jesus says treat others as you want to be treated. We can't do all of those things at the same time. We have to choose to follow the law and prophets and stand against the world.

Pastor Brenda

Chairperson's Report for the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council

At the February 25th Meeting . . .

- The Board reviewed the January financial statements;
- Continued to discuss the financial situation of the Church;
- Discussed repairs around the Chapel and Church including the Chair Lift and the Phone Lines;
- Discussed the alarm contract;
- Reported that the fire extinguishers have been inspected;
- Discussed our Insurance and the information they're requesting, such as an inventory, and the best way to report it;
- And heard reports from the Team Leaders and discussed and planned for upcoming events.



LENTEN ENVELOPES

The Lenten Offering can be turned in anytime during the Lenten season. **This offering is over and above your usual envelope giving.** Please pray for our Lenten offering as our contributions have gone down the last two years since we have switched to envelopes.

This year, the congregation's Lenten Offering will go towards Outreach to Children. This includes our ministry to children through Sunday School, the Monday Night VBS program and Main Street School. As our attendance grows on Monday nights, crafts and food become costly. We also want to continue our work with Main Street Elementary School and be able to offer more support to the school. This support includes recognizing students for their academic achievements with awards and treats, stocking the Friday Recognition Cart, providing refreshments for parent gatherings and student programs and special activities like Field Day.



Good News . . .

- **Harlow Kulp** loves Elmo and her Pop Pop Frank. She had a great 18 month check-up and is trying different foods. She loves blueberries.
- **Oliver Kulp** has received his Bobcat in Cub Scouts. He is doing Jitsu with his dad. Oliver participated in the Pinewood Derby with his own design of the "Minecraft Chevy."
- **Matthew Shaw** participated in the Pinewood Derby. He made a car that looked like a pink eraser. He placed second in design. Thanks to Mr. Frank for helping make the car.
- **Stephen Shaw** was inducted into the Junior National Honor Society at Northley Middle School. Stephen achieved the next rank in Boy Scouts – First Class. This makes him eligible to fill many leadership positions.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 15
Bells Play in Church
Sunday Social
- April 5
Palm Sunday
Bells Play in Church
- April 6
No VBS Night
- April 9
Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 pm
- April 10
Good Friday Service, 7:30
- April 12
Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30
Easter Breakfast after Sunrise Service
Worship Service, 10:00
Egg Hunt following Worship Service
- April 13
No VBS Night



Valentine Brunch

On Sunday, February 16, 2020, the fourth annual Valentine Brunch was held for the congregation. Hearts were all around and what a feast we had!

We had a great crowd this year – almost 50 people attended. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal of breakfast casseroles - egg, oatmeal, and French toast; French toast sticks; ham; fruit salad; Caesar salad; deviled eggs; and delicious desserts and a great time of fellowship. Hope to see everyone next year!

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the brunch.

Special thanks to . . .

- **Everyone** who baked, brought food, and/or helped in the kitchen, especially Dan Miller;
- Sue Kulp, Matthew Shaw, and Stephen Shaw who participated in the devotions program;
- Linda Cook who organized the brunch, and Linda and Brenda Shaw who set-up;
- **Everyone** who helped clean up.



PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

The Chair Lift in the Chapel was repaired. The Fire Extinguishers have been checked and the out of date ones replaced. Vector Security and Verizon have resolved the issues with the alarm and telephone systems. Pro-Tec Pest is working on combatting the rodent issue in the Food Bank.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the January 2018 Annual Meeting were unavailable at last month's Annual Meeting for review. This occurred for a number of reasons. The notes are provided below. This hopefully will not occur next year as we plan to include the January 2019 Annual Meeting notes in the Annual Report that will be distributed a few weeks before the next Annual Meeting.

Upland Baptist Church Annual Meeting – January 27, 2019 (2018 Church Year)

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 27, 2019

Old Business

1. Linda Cook called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.
2. Linda Cook read a devotional Jeremiah 29:11-13 as well as Christmas editorial "The Work of Christmas" and prayed.
3. Frank Kulp made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 28, 2018 and Joan Decker seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. There was no discussion.
4. **Reviewed the 2018 Financial Report.**

Christmas offering amount is wrong. It should read \$235.00. Brian Klimek will confirm this amount.

Advent / Lenten offerings have greatly dropped in the past few years. Those offerings can be given any time during the season even though they have dates. The envelopes are in the offering box.

Fellowship Fund Disbursements – we do not give cash.

Financial Secretary – more pledges this year. About \$10,000 more in pledging.

Budget 2018

Expenses \$230,000

Actual – Spent \$35,000 less this year.

Memorial Fund, Property Fund and Cemetery Fund – all have been used to offset the budget.

Proposed Budget for 2019

United Mission is 10% of pledged giving.

\$131,000 to make budget.

No raises.

Decreased budget without decreasing programs. We continue to Love God! Love Others!

5. **Reviewed the 2018 Annual Report.**

Nominating Report

Jan. 15, 2019 – Diane Lord Ogram resigned her position as Property Leader due to health concerns.

Hans Geveke made motion to accept Diane's resignation with regret. Frank Kulp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to Diane thanking her for her many years of service.

Amended Nominating Report

Frank Kulp – Moving to Property. Term expires 2020.

Dave Geveke – Nominated to Communication. Term expires 2021.

John Kofroth made a motion to accept amended nominations. Sue Kulp seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations from the floor – None.

The vote on the amended nominating report passed unanimously.

Individual reports were reviewed.

Thanks to everyone who donates and volunteers.

Continuing to look for Sunday School teacher.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Dawn Rafalski made a motion to accept the 2018 Annual Report and Iris Messick seconded it. It passed unanimously.
2. Sue Kulp made a motion to accept the 2019 Proposed Budget and Dave Geveke seconded the motioned.
The finances are very tight. Met with a realtor. Meeting with a second realtor on January 28, 2019.
Discussing merging with other churches but don't have ideas of who at this point.
All ideas welcome.
Please actively pray about the finances of UBC.
The motion to accept the 2019 Proposed budget passed unanimously.
3. The Church Directory is being updated. Please update your information with the church secretary.
4. Memorial Weekend Celebrations. We will need volunteers for the church tour on Saturday of that weekend. There will be a large parade on Monday. All events are part of 150th Centennial.
5. Valentine's Brunch is on Feb. 10, 2019. Please see Linda if you want to donate a casserole or dessert.
6. Basket for donation for lunch is available on the table.
7. Rose – visitor and great grand daughter were welcomed at worship.
8. Frank Kulp made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sue Kulp seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Pastor Brenda closed the meeting with prayer.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

- Communion will be Sunday, March 1st. There will be no Sunday School.
- Monthly evening Prayer Meeting is Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30 pm in the downstairs chapel.
- *Whatever you ask for in prayer, you will receive if you have faith Matthew 21:22.*
- Joyful Noise Bell Choir will play on March 15th.
- Services at Belvedere Nursing Home is on Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 pm. Please consider joining Pastor Brenda as she spreads worship and song to the residents.
- Lenten Season started on Wednesday, February 26 with Ash Wednesday services at 7:30 pm in the church. The devotional this year is By His Wounds We Are Healed by Paul Scheidt. Pick your copy up at the back of the church if you have not received it yet. There is also a Children's Devotional Behold the Lamb by David Mead and Chris Sharp. We hope you enjoy the daily readings that guide you on the journey to the Cross.
- Easter Services start with Palm Sunday on April 5th commemorating the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
- Easter Sunday April 12th starts with Sunrise Services at 6:30 am and Worship Service at 10am.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

The next Sunday Social will be on March 15th following worship. We will also be selling soup. Come join us for Soup and Salad Sunday and buy some soup to take home.

We will be taking a Worship Service to Belvedere Nursing Home on Sunday, March 22nd at 2:30 pm. Please let Pastor Brenda or Dawn Rafalski know if you would like to come along.

Please talk to Dawn if there is an activity that you would be interested in doing as a group.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

Sunday School

We are looking for a few more volunteers for Sunday School.

Small Groups

Small Group will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd and March 17th at 12 pm in the Chapel and at 7 pm at the home of Pastor Shaw.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker/Theresa Rowan

VBS Night

This program is going very well. We usually have 6 to 10 children. Come join us in the chapel on Monday nights from 6 – 7 pm to help with dinner, the Bible story or the activity.

Main Street Elementary

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary School is ongoing as needed. Please call the church office for more information 610-874-7474 if you would like to help.

Food Bank

Please remember the Food Bank with cold cereal for the month of March. The Food Bank is always in need of canned goods. You can place the items in the box at the back of the church. 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.

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Parade and Picnic will be in May. We will need volunteers and monetary gifts for supplies for the picnic. More to follow in the April Spire.

Worship

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

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH 2020

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

Dr. David G. Parajon 3/3

Email: david.parajon@internationalministries.org

Ms. Karen Smith 3/17

Email: karen.smith@internationalministries.org

Rev. Timothy Long 3/18

Email: tim.long@internatiionalministries.org

March Birthdays

12 Tricia Gervase
22 Rev. Brenda Shaw
 Kyle Lord
25 Rachel Miskowic
30 Normajean Colby
 Katie Boyer

March Anniversaries

None

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS



The order deadline is **MONDAY, MARCH 23rd**. Please turn in your order by placing this form & payment in the offering plate or drop off at the church office. Payment must be received at time of order. Please make all checks payable to Upland Baptist Church. Please call Lori in the church office at 610-874-7474 if you have any questions.

Name: _____

_____ Single Stem Lily ~ 6" pot with foil cover, **\$13.00**

_____ Chrysanthemum ~ 6" pot with foil cover, **\$13.00** (Assorted colors)

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

