

# The Spire Lite

November 2022



*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Veterans Are a National Treasure

The sacrifices made to serve America will always be in the hearts of those who love this nation.

*Ways to celebrate Veterans Day:*

- Spend time with a Veteran and take time to listen and thank them for their service;
- Volunteer at Veteran Events;
- Attend a Veteran Service.

In church on November 13<sup>th</sup>, please pick up a soldier action figure to remind you to pray for all Veterans and those serving here and abroad.



## Upland Baptist Veterans

Dennis Decker

US Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne

John Fraim

Sgt Adjacent General US Army

Parker Ferguson

Corporal Spec 4<sup>th</sup> Class US Army

Aaron Johnston Captain US Army

## Pledge Sunday

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> is Pledge Sunday. We encourage everyone to be a part of the ministry at Upland Baptist through pledging a financial commitment. We believe that this commitment should be made prayerfully. Please consider what God is asking you to give and make a commitment to reflect that devotion.

You should have received a Stewardship letter and Pledge form in the mail. You are invited to bring your pledge to worship on November 13<sup>th</sup>, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main St, Upland, PA 19015 or email: [drafalski@verizon.net](mailto:drafalski@verizon.net). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brenda or Linda Cook.

## Church Clean Up Day

We will be working in our church cemetery on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 am. We want to be sure the grounds are well maintained, especially as people visit during the holiday season. Please bring gloves, and if have them, a rake and/or clippers. Hope you can join us!

## Church Decorating

We will decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, November 26 beginning at 9 am. All are welcome to deck the halls!



## Church Secretary

Lori Waser has resigned as our church secretary. Her last day was October 19<sup>th</sup>. We wish her well and thank her for her 5 years of service.

## Organist

Bob Wilkinson decided to resign on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Kindness Challenge

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."* Ephesians 4:32

Together we can practice being kind with the 30-Day Kindness Challenge.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries for November and December

### November Birthdays

13 Dawn Rafalski  
19 Doug Scott  
20 Kim Buffington  
22 Brian Klimek  
Mark Furniss  
23 Sara Mason  
27 Helen Rhoads

### November Anniversaries

None

### December Birthdays

7 Deloris Hanley  
16 Ben Geveke  
Cheryl Rhoads  
26 Kathleen Geveke  
27 Courtney Klimek

### December Anniversaries

18 Carol and Richard Arscott

# Christmas at Upland Baptist

## The Night of Music

We will once again be celebrating the Christmas season with **The Night of Music!** On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, we will come together for a night of carols, bells and music. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors to enjoy this casual evening as we celebrate the season.



## Giving Tree

We are adopting Deloris Hanley's floor at Fair Acres Nursing home for Christmas. The staff has provided gift suggestions for each resident. If you want to participate, please pick up your tag beginning Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> or contact Pastor Brenda at 610-453-8317 to be given a resident and gift suggestion. Gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. **Please note: all gifts must be returned in gift bags. Do not wrap any gift.** The staff at Fair Acres puts laundry tags on all items before the residents receive them to ensure they get them back with their wash.

## Christmas Eve Service

We are planning to have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7 pm on Christmas Eve.

## Advent Devotionals

Copies of the devotional will be available at church, or you may call to request a copy be mailed to you

## Special Offerings

**Advent Offering** can be given at any time. It will be used to offset the staff Christmas gifts.

**Christmas Card Fund.** You are invited to send a Christmas Card and donation. The card will be hung on the Church Christmas tree and the donation will be used to provide a meal for the Upland Police Department and also the Upland Fire Company. Your Christmas greeting will be in the Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas Card and donation by December 12<sup>th</sup> to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015 or leave them in the back of the church.

**Staff Christmas Gifts** donations will be accepted throughout November and December. They can be given to Linda Cook. These donations are over and above your Advent offering.

*All these gifts can be mailed to the church, donated through the website, or placed in an offering plate. Please designate your donation in the memo or note section.*



## Poinsettias

This year we will be continuing our tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones with poinsettia plants and listing them in the Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, and Christmas Eve bulletins. Use the enclosed form to reserve your poinsettia plant. All orders need to be placed by Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Devotional Thought...

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

November is sometimes known as the month of gratitude or the month of giving thanks. Which make sense since we celebrate Thanksgiving during November. We are reminded during this month to remember those who are less fortunate than we are by making donations to food banks, donating socks and warm weather clothing, and thinking about those who alone for the holiday. These are all wonderful things to do.

Yet, in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul admonishes us to live a life that is pleasing in the sight of the Lord, a life that glorifies our Father in heaven. He calls us to encourage the fainthearted, to support the weak, to show goodness and grace to all people, and not to return evil with evil. He wants us to do this EVERY DAY.

Every day should be a day of gratitude and thanksgiving; not just during the month of November. This can be difficult for us to remember, let alone practice. When one of my friends invited me on a trip, I had to decline because of the cost. It was difficult to feel gratitude in that situation and then I read an article later in the day about a family that was living in their car. I had a house, food in the refrigerator, money to pay my bills, and air conditioning to keep me cool. I had a lot to be grateful for in my life. When I sometimes find it difficult to walk because of my knees, it's hard to be grateful. But then I go to the hospital for my allergy shots and see people going in who can't even walk! Yes, I have a lot to be grateful for in my life!

So, let's try to do better. After the holidays are over and there is less talk about gratitude, strive to keep it going. Every day, thank God for what you have. In the dead of summer, remember those who are food insecure and donate to the food bank. Continue to donate socks to shelters. Remember a shut-in. Just be grateful every day for all that God has given us!

Linda Cook

## In All Things Give Thanks

A 4-year-old boy who was asked to return thanks before Thanksgiving dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip.

Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

### **Upland Baptist Church**

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Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, *Pastor*

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