

The Spire

November 2023



"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!"

~Psalm 95:2



Food Bank Thanksgiving Bags

The number of people the Food Bank supports continues to grow each week, and we are grateful to be able to serve so many in our community. In the month of October, we served 44 families and made 24 deliveries!

We would love to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to those we serve. We need approximately 70 bags to achieve this goal, but we can't do it without your help. Please consider donating any of the items below or help us with a monetary donation. We appreciate your support!

Items Needed:

Turkey • Gravy • Stuffing
Instant Potatoes • Cranberry Sauce
Cornbread Mix

The Food Bank receives a limited number of turkeys from Philabundance and would greatly appreciate your turkey donations!

Church Clean Up Day

We will be working in our church cemetery on Saturday, November 4th beginning at 9:00 AM. We want to be sure the grounds are well maintained, especially as people visit during the holiday season.



Pledge Sunday

Sunday, November 12th 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 12th, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main St, Upland, PA 19015 or email: drafalski@verizon.net. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brenda or Linda Cook.

Veterans Are a National Treasure

The sacrifice and service to America provided by Veterans to protect our freedoms is worthy of celebration. A small act of gratitude seems like a simple thing but means so much to them.

This year, our church will be sending thank you cards to Veterans at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home. Cards will be available at the back of the church on October 22nd and November 5th. Please pick up 3-4

(we need 150) and write a personal note before or after worship and leave them in the back by November 5th. If you are worshipping from home, you can pick up and complete cards in the church office.

On Veterans Sunday (November 12th), take home a toy soldier to remind you to pray for all Veterans here and abroad.

Upland Baptist Veterans

Dennis Decker

US Army 101st Airborne US Army

Parker Ferguson

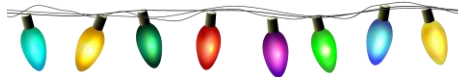
Corporal Spec 4th class US Army

Aaron Johnson

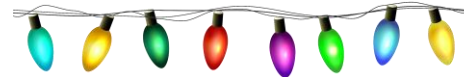
Captain US Army

Richard Ladd

Spec 4 US Army



Giving Tree



We are adopting 40 residents from Fair Acres Nursing home for Christmas. The Fair Acres staff has provided gift suggestions for each resident. If you want to participate, please pick up your tag beginning Sunday, November 5th or contact Pastor Brenda at 610-453-8317 to be given a resident and gift suggestion. Please return gifts to the church no later than Sunday, December 3rd. **Please note: all gifts must be returned in gift bags. Do not wrap any gift. Attach gift tag to gift bag for resident identification.** Please place your gift under the Christmas tree. Sign your name next to the resident name on the list provided on the table under tag display. Thank you for your help with this Outreach Ministry!

Birthdays and Anniversaries for November and December

November Birthdays

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



December Birthdays

- 7 Deloris Hanley
- 16 Ben Geveke
- Cheryl Rhoads
- 26 Kathleen Geveke
- 27 Courtney Klimek
- 29 Jamie Levi

December Anniversaries

- 18 Carol and Richard Arcscott



Christmas at Upland Baptist



Poinsettias

This year we will continue our tradition of remembering and honoring loved ones with poinsettia plants and list them in the Sunday, December 24th and Christmas Eve bulletins. Use the enclosed form to reserve your poinsettia plant. All orders need to be placed by Sunday, November 19th.



Church Decorating

We will decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to deck the halls.



Advent Devotionals

To kick off the Advent season, we invite you to join us on December 3rd at 5:00 PM for a fellowship dinner in the Chapel. We'll show clips from *It's a Wonderful Life* as a preview to our Advent devotionals, *Our Greatest Gift: A Wonderful Life in Christ*.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the church to let us know what food items you'd like to contribute.



Night of Music

SAVE THE DATE! The Night of Music will be Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 PM. Join us for an evening of caroling and special Christmas music presentations.



Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will still have our regular 10:00 AM Sunday Service.

In addition, our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will be at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

Please note these are two separate gatherings.

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 the Upland Fire Company. Your Christmas greeting will be in the Sunday, December 24th and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas card and donation by December 18th 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.

Devotional Thought...

"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." ~ Psalm 63:1

The Psalms are full of great descriptions of intense longings. Here, David uses the metaphor of raging thirst to describe how desperately he wants to experience God's refreshing presence. He takes his soul's longing higher by talking about it in physical terms. His soul and his body long for God: a desire so intense that only an encounter with the lover of his soul will revive him.

God's love for us is just as intense; He longs for communion with us as we long for communion with Him. Like David, we can bring any need to Him, trust He will meet it, and then go forth praising him.

~Dawn Rafalski



AB Men Retreat: Strengthening Our Bonds

When: 6:00 PM Nov. 10 – 6:00 PM, Nov. 11

Where: CAMP ICHTHUS
2880 Stagecoach Rd. W; Palmerton PA

Cost: \$30.00

We will meet at Camp Ichthus for dinner on Friday the 10th. We will have times of worship, teaching, and recreation, concluding with dinner on the 11th. Be inspired and refreshed by our time of fellowship, rest, and worship. Learn practical Biblical skills to build meaningful, intentional relationships for discipleship. Come away with tools to reinvigorate relational men's discipleship in your church and community.

For more info, contact David Hardin pastordavid@fbc-bethlehem.org / 610-865-4600

Upland Baptist Church

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Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, Pastor

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