

The Spire

November 2025



"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation."

~Habakkuk 3:18

30-Day Gratitude Challenge

Gratitude is an internal feeling of appreciation for life's blessings. Thanksgiving is the outward expression of that gratitude. In the month of November, we always place an emphasis on giving thanks—that outward expression. But to show our thanks effectively, we need to *feel* it. We need to spend time reflecting on the things we're grateful for. We need to cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

So, we invite you to participate in the 30-day gratitude challenge. You can find gratitude trees at the back of the sanctuary or on the website. Each day, pick one prompt from the sheet and reflect on why you are grateful for it. Then, color in the corresponding leaf, and watch your gratitude blossom into a rainbow of blessings!



Food Bank Thanksgiving Bags



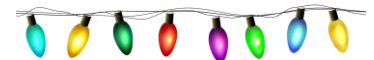
We are grateful to be able to serve so many in our community with our Food Bank. With Thanksgiving around the corner, we would love to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to those we serve. Please consider donating any of the items below or help us with a monetary donation. We appreciate your support!

Items Needed:

Cornbread Mix & Brownie mix

Thank you for supporting our Food Bank and those in our community who rely on our assistance.

Angel Hotline



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 2nd or contact Pastor Brenda at 610-453-8317 to be given a resident and gift suggestion.

Sign your name next to the resident's name on the list provided on the table under the tag display. Please return gifts to the church no later than Sunday, November 30th.

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. Thank you for your help with this Outreach Ministry!

Veterans Day November 11, 2025

One of the best ways to support veterans is by saying thank you, as long as it is heartfelt and sincere. A simple act of gratitude for everything that a veteran faced and gave up seems like a small thing, but it is something that American Veterans do not hear as often. You can give back to a veteran who was willing to make sacrifices just by having a conversation and saying thank you. We will be sending cards to the veterans at Delaware Valley Veterans Home again this year. All cards must be returned by Sunday, November 2.

Upland Baptist Veterans

Dennis Decker

101st Airborne US Army

Parker Ferguson

Captain US Army

Richard Ladd

Spec 4 US Army

Allan Williams

US Army

Upland Baptist Active Military Personnel

Major Aaron Johnston

US Army

A1C Austin Bull

US Air Force

Pledge Sunday

Sunday, November 16th 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.

Please read the Stewardship letter carefully and reflect on how you can help our church. You are invited to bring your pledge to worship on November 16th, mail it to Upland Baptist Church, c/o Dawn Rafalski, 325 Main St, Upland, PA 19015 or email: drafalski@verizon.net.

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on November 16th. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brenda or Linda Cook.

Birthdays for November and December

November Birthdays

13	Dawn Rafalski
19	Doug Scott
20	Kim Buffington
22	Brian Klimek
23	Sara Mason



December Birthdays

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



Poinsettias

This year we continue our tradition of remembering loved ones with poinsettia plants by listing them in the Sunday, December 21st and Christmas Eve bulletins. Use the enclosed form to reserve your poinsettia plant. All orders need to be placed by **Sunday, November 23rd**.

Church Decorating



We will decorate the sanctuary on **Saturday, November 29th** beginning at 9:00 AM. All are welcome to deck the halls.



Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will be at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

Advent Devotionals



Light shines everywhere this time of year, bringing beauty and joy to the Advent season. Yet, looming in the shadows are all the troubles of this world that often darken our spirits. The daily Advent prayers in this booklet help us look to Jesus, the Light of the World, who overcomes all darkness with his gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Christmas at Upland Baptist



SAVE THE DATE! The Night of Music will be **Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 PM.** Join us for an evening of caroling and special Christmas music presentations.

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 22nd and Christmas Eve bulletins. Please mail your Christmas card and donation by December 15th to Upland Baptist Church c/o Linda Cook 325 Main Street, Upland, PA 19015 or leave them in the back of the church in the "mailbox."

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...

"Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

~Thessalonians 5: 16-18

To me, November is a special month of giving extra thanks because of the holiday of Thanksgiving. We are reminded during this time to thank God for things like physical needs, family, food, and a place to live. It's also a time for reflecting on His healing and forgiveness and extending blessings to others.

God wants us to be givers in every way. We are God's people, so it is our responsibility to help one another and to give help when needed. We as a congregation can help many people have a special dinner through giving a monetary gift to our Food Bank. Our Food Bank volunteers are busy at this special time, and we are thankful.

So, "give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." (Psalm 136: 1) This verse also reminds us to give thanks to God, and thankfulness to God should never end. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and be thankful for the gifts that God has given to us.

~Joan Decker



We invite you to share your favorite recipes by **November 14th**, which we'll compile into a church cookbook.

Think about why these recipes are important to you. What memories do they conjure? How have they aided in nourishing you or your community?

Please submit as many recipes as you'd like via the Google Form at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScD8ERI5rFR_82GPqcX_bsWeevbNZtGsl3m8ZZeeAqQbsiq8w/viewform

or by filling out a bulletin insert before worship on Sundays.

Upland Baptist Church

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www.uplandbaptist.org

Rev. Brenda A.B. Shaw, Pastor

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