

THE SPIRE

Love God! Love Others!



Upland Baptist Church, 1851

April 2019

Upland Baptist Church
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The Adventure Continues: Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

I am so relieved that no one has spotted me in their bag. Humans always get squeamish when they see me, and I would not have wanted to miss a single moment of these past few weeks. I never knew that traveling with Jesus would be so exciting.

We began traveling in Galilee. Jesus would stop in the synagogues to preach. People were interested in hearing from Jesus. It could have been curiosity that drew people to Jesus; I know that is what made me pack my bag and tag along with Jesus and his disciples. Everywhere we went, people gathered to hear what Jesus was saying.

I must confess that I wasn't listening to what Jesus said. There was so much to see. For a mouse that had never ventured far from home, this was an incredible adventure. There were so many new things to see, smell, and taste, whenever I got a chance. I was continually in awe of all the people and places we were seeing.

I don't think I was the only one who wasn't listening. Peter, Andrew, James and John seemed a little awe struck, too. They sure were enjoying being close to Jesus and all the attention they were getting. I think I saw Jesus shake his head at them once as they stared at the crowd, instead of listening to what he was saying. I couldn't judge them, because I had no idea what Jesus was saying either.

As we traveled from place to place, the word spread about Jesus. I don't know that people were talking about what he was saying, but they sure were talking about what he was doing. Jesus was healing the sick. He cured people who were ill with lots of different diseases, those who were suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, people who were having seizures and the paralyzed. I can't describe what it was like the first time I saw someone get up and walk after being carried into the synagogue to see Jesus. It was amazing! Everyone was so excited, talking, shouting, pushing to get closer to Jesus. Through it all, Jesus remained calm. I can't quite describe what it is like to be near Jesus.

When we were in Capernaum, we went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. I almost got left behind because I was taking a nap when they were leaving. I hurried to catch up because I did not want to miss anything.

The visit began as expected. Jesus began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching. He has this way about him. He is kind when he teaches, but he teaches with authority. Those two things don't seem to mix, but they do. He didn't quote any human teacher. It was as if he had talked to God and was sharing what he learned directly from God with the crowd. People were spell bound listening to him. I will admit I was beginning to wonder what he was saying that was so important.

Before I could really follow what Jesus was saying, a man shouted, “*What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!*” Well, this got everyone’s attention. I think you could have heard a whisker twitch. Without missing a beat, Jesus sternly said, “*Be quiet! Come out of him!*” Next, the man began to shake so hard that I thought he was going to be seriously hurt, then before my eyes, an evil spirit came out of the man with a shriek. The man was uninjured, but exhausted.

I was so shocked at what I had seen. How did Jesus know it was an evil spirit talking? How did he get it to come out with just a command? Everyone around me was talking. They were asking each other what had happened and who is this Jesus. They could not get over that Jesus was able to teach with such authority and then use that same authority to drive out an evil spirit.

That night as I lay at Jesus’ feet, I listened closely as he talked with the disciples. There was so much I wanted to learn, so much I wanted to know. Jesus was more than I thought he was. I still wasn’t sure what was going on, but I was going to pay a lot more attention so that I could find out.

This adventure started merely as a way to see the world and uncover the mystery of why grown men would leave their jobs to follow a stranger. It is turning into something more. The longer I travel with Jesus and his disciples, the more questions I seem to have.

I can’t wait to see what tomorrow will bring, though right now I am tired and need to get some sleep. I am going to curl up in Simon’s bag tonight and hope he doesn’t dump me out looking for something. This adventure is turning out to be more than I ever dreamed it would be.

Malachi, Mouse Adventurer

P.S. Read the adventure for yourself in Matthew 4:23-25 and Mark 1:21-28

Following Jesus is an adventure. There is much to see and experience; there is much to learn. When we open our ears to hear, our eyes to see and our hearts to experience the presence of Jesus, our lives are changed. May each of us treat walking with Jesus as an adventure.

Pastor Brenda

Holy Week 2019

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (April 14, 2019) and ends on Easter (April 21, 2019). This is a time for us to reflect and worship together. We remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection as we worship together.

Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 10 am

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter that begins the Holy Week. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem as Savior and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" We will pass our palms during worship as we praise Christ the King!

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday is believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples. Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other.

Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday---"maundy" being a shortened form of mandatum (Latin), which means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said these words to his disciples:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).

At this service we will celebrate communion together as well as remember Jesus' time in the garden, praying *Thy will be done*, and his arrest.

Good Friday, April 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus willingly dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. The day in itself is not good. It is only good because of what happens next. This day marks the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save his people from their sins. Jesus knew from his birth where his life would take him. In this service we will contemplate the crucifixion and what it means to us.

Resurrection/Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 6:30 am (breakfast following) and 10 am

Hallelujah, Christ is Risen. Together we gather with joy to celebrate our Living Lord. The grave could not hold him. There is no greater gift than knowing that our God lives. Join us in the cemetery as we remember the early morning visitors finding the tomb empty and then again as we worship together in the sanctuary continuing to celebrate our Risen Savior.

Holy Week is a time for us to gather together in worship, to remember what God has done for us, and to recommit ourselves to following Him. I hope you will join us as we gather to remember, celebrate and dedicate ourselves to God.

Pastor Brenda



Good News about our Youth and Teenagers

- **Cameron Klimek** performed in her school play, *Summer Camp*.
- **Casey Klimek** performed with her dance team at a Philadelphia Flyers game.
- **Matthew Shaw** and his Cub Scout Den recently learned about coins and practiced counting change. They also are growing cucumber and flower seeds. Matthew is playing baseball in the Rookie Division in Brookhaven this spring.
- **Stephen Shaw** recently went to Temple University with his robotics team to compete in the Sea Perch competition. He was very excited that he was able to drive their robot in one of the competitions. Stephen is playing baseball in the Major Division in Brookhaven this spring.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plan Ahead . . .

- April 14 *Joyful Noise* plays during Worship
- April 15 No VBS Night
- April 18 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 PM
- April 19 Good Friday Service, 7:30 PM
- April 21 Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM
Easter Service, 10:00 AM
Egg Hunt at approx. 11:15 – Bags will be provided!
- April 22 No VBS Night
- May 4 Work Day at the Church, 9 AM to Noon
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 20 Last VBS Night until September
- May 21 *Joyful Noise* plays (Last time until fall)
- May 25 Passport to Upland & Movie Night in Park
- May 26 Worship in the Park, Lunch, Corn Hole,
and Fireworks
- May 27 Memorial Day Parade and Picnic

Chairperson's Report for March



From the Legal Corporation and Ministry Council . . .

- The Board reviewed the February financial statements;
- Continued to discuss the financial situation of the Church;
- Discussed completed repairs around the Church and Chapel;
- Discussed repairs to be completed to the Chapel roof;
- Discussed the scheduling of oil deliveries;
- Reviewed the contract with the realtor for her services;
- Discussed two proposals to rent out space in the Chapel Including their impact on the Church finances, programs and facilities;
- Continued to discuss the 150th Anniversary of Upland Celebration and the Church's participation; and
- Heard reports from Team Leaders and planned for upcoming events. Team Leaders reports can be found in the *Spire*.



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 instead of the coin booklets.

The Lenten Offering will go to our children's programs which are for the children in the congregation and the community. These programs include Sunday School, the Monday Night VBS, and the Summer Activity program. The offering will help pay for materials, craft supplies, books, and games.



PROPERTY – Frank Kulp

Installed lock box on Food Bank thermostat.

Ordered bulbs for chapel.

Checked Main Street Cemetery Gate.

Rob cleaned up property for \$475. \$450 of this was money left from last year.

Contacted Vector on inspection billing. Vector confirmed it was a mistake via e-mail.

Allied paid in full as of March 22. Will call for fill up when price drops.

Installed new batteries in thermostats and programmed.

Repaired Food Bank entry door.

Called Strath Haven Roofing to fix shingles on Chapel, which will be taken care of soon.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dave Geveke

We have received feedback on the Church broadcast and appreciate it. Please continue to let us know how your experience watching the broadcast at home is going. You can email the church or give the office a call.

Two people recently volunteered to be trained to operate the camera during Church service. Camera operators are always appreciated. If you're interested, please email the church or give the office a call. If you can take a picture with your phone, you can operate the Church camera.

WORSHIP – Priscilla Mills

Easter Worship Services

Palm Sunday April 14 10 am

Maundy Thursday April 18 7:30 pm

Good Friday April 19 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday April 21: 6:30 am Sunrise Service

7:30 am Easter Breakfast

10 am Worship

11 am Easter Egg Hunt

The church will be decorated with Lilies and Chrysanthemums

Belvedere

April 28 2:30pm. Consider participating in this short worship service for the residents of Belvedere Nursing Home. Please let Pastor Brenda know if you can attend.

Bell Choir

Bells will play during Worship on Palm Sunday April 14 and again in May on May 19. They have many new songs for our listening pleasure.

Nursery continues to be available on an as needed basis. Let Char or Priscilla know if you have need of this service.

Prayer Service

There will be an evening prayer service on Tuesday April 9 at 7:30 pm in the downstairs chapel. Please join us for an informal service and the opportunity to pray for personal concerns, as well as concerns for our church and community. It is good to pray as a group and seek the will of God.

In March we used ACT method of praying: prayers of **Adoration**, prayers of **Confession**, and prayers of **Thanksgiving**.

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith Matthew 21:22

Look ahead to May for Church in the park on Sunday, May 26.

Our Memorial Fund recognition will be in June at the Volunteer Recognition luncheon.

Our veterans will be celebrated on Veterans Day in November this year.

MINISTRY TO MEMBERS – Dawn Rafalski

If you have a couple of hours a month to visit our shut-ins with home communion it is so worthwhile. See Dawn if you are able to help with this endeavor.

It's not too early to think about the AB Men's Retreat. Mark your calendar for July 26-28, 2019 at Shippensburg University. Discount for early registration by May 15. The theme this year is "Nothing is Impossible With God So Let your Light Shine for Jesus to All."

Matthew Shaw read scripture at our monthly Belvedere service and was the highlight of the resident's day. Matthew even got applause from the residents.

DISCIPLESHIP – Karen Johnston

It's true that we are a small group on Sunday mornings but it's an opportunity to share Gods love for us. Please give thoughtful consideration to joining us downstairs during worship and sharing your experience with our children.

OUTREACH – Joan Decker

VBS Night

The VBS Night program on Monday nights dinner is going well at the church chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. We have from 6 – 12 kids for Bible story and dinner. Come joins us in the church chapel on Monday nights.

Main Street Elementary School

Our outreach program for Main Street Elementary is having snacks for the teachers during conference times in May.

Memorial Parade

The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 27, 2019. The committee for the parade will be collecting monetary donations for food and drinks. Please drop your monetary gift off at the church office, to the attention of Joan, thank you in advance. Come join us for the parade and picnic. More to follow in May Spire.

Food Bank

The Food Bank has received a grant from Philabundance. They have purchased for our food bank a commercial refrigerator, three carts, and six plastic bins to carry bread and sweets from the Giant Super Market in Brookhaven. The Food bank is in need of Hamburger Helper for April and plastic bags. Please remember canned goods also for the Food Bank. Please call the church office at 610-874-7474 if interested in helping out at the food bank. Assistance is greatly needed with weekly deliveries.

Worship

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

Upland Borough Delaware County, PA 150 Years



*Sesquicentennial Celebration
Event Schedule*

**Upland Borough
Delaware County, PA
150 Years**

Sesquicentennial Celebration Event Schedule

Friday, May 24, 2019

- Time Capsule Ceremony at MacQueen Hall – 6:00 pm
- Sesquicentennial Dinner at MacQueen Hall – 7:00 pm
(Tickets required - \$50 each)

Saturday, May 25, 2019

- Sesquicentennial Passport - 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
There are nine locations on the Passport tour. Passport books are available from the Borough Office for \$4.00 or you can give the money to Pastor Brenda and she will pick up your book. The Passport books have a picture of each location, a brief history and a place for a stamp. Visitors will get a stamp for each location they tour.
The church is a stop on the tour. Volunteers are needed for this event. We need a minimum of 2 people for each 2-hour slot for greeting visitors, stamping passports and providing tours. However, it would be helpful to have up to four people per time slot since we will be serving light refreshments out front. Please sign up on the sheet in the back.
- Winner of Drawing Announced prior to Movie.
- Movie in Bristol Lord Field – 7:00 pm
The movie will be *Ralph Breaks the Internet*.

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Events in Bristol Lord Field

- Church Service – Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church – 10:00 am
- Bag Lunch – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Bag lunches are available for purchase for \$5.00 per meal. Forms are available in the back. Payment and form may be turned into the Borough offices or given to the church office by May 19, 2019.
- Corn-hole Tournament – 1:00 pm
- Carnival Games – 1:00 pm
- Fireworks – Dusk

Monday, May 27, 2019

- Memorial Day Services at Upland Baptist Church – 8:45 am
- Memorial Day Parade – 9:00 am

All parade marchers welcome. Please wear your red Upland Baptist shirt.

- Memorial Day Services at War Memorial – 10:00 am
- Picnic in the Park – hosted by Upland Baptist Church and Resurrection Life Church – 11:00 am

Volunteers are needed to be picnic servers. Please sign up on the sheet in the back.

Donation funds are needed for the picnic to purchase potato salad, drinks and meat.

Finger desserts are needed for the picnic. Please sign up on the sheet in the back.

HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL 2019

All cards for International Missionaries are to be sent to the following address:

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

Mrs. Susan Hegarty 4/8
Email: sue.hegarty@internationalministries.org

Dr. Stephen James 4/11
Email: steve.james@internationalministries.org

Rev. Charles Fox 4/15
Email: chuck.fox@internationalministries.org

Mrs. Corenne Smith 4/24
Email: corenne.smith@internationalministries.org

Dr. Laura Chanchien Parajon 4/27
Email: laura.parajon@internationalministries.org

Rev. Joyce Anderson-Reed 4/29
Email: joyce.reed@internationalministries.org

April Birthdays

9 Sam DeVecchis
13 Dan Miller
15 Kimberlee Kalichak
21 Darlene Strunk
24 David Pysker
Denise Sweeney
27 John Shaw
30 Anna Geveke

April Anniversaries

10 Andrew and Amanda Harman