

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Welcome to UALC! We're glad you're here.

We invite you to take this home as a prayer guide and use the back for taking notes during the sermon. Please stop by the Connect Center in the lobby if you have any questions or want to learn more about our church.

Additional information and announcements can be found in *The Cornerstone*, available from ushers, or online at ualc.org/announcements.

Join Us As We Pray For:

Our Heart

Read Luke 1:26-38. Christian hope is very real about our difficulties. But it is also rooted in our promise keeping God. It is not just wishful optimism, but clear-eyed trust in our God in the face of pain, evil, problems and personal short-comings. Imagine Mary's neighbors watching her stomach grow. They never could have known that the town scandal was in fact the sovereign work of God. We often can't see the whole picture, but we know He is always at work. So we rejoice!

Our People

In the hospital: Brett Mercer (out of town)

Home from the hospital or in short-term care: Don Sternisha, Bob Mercer (First Community), Howard Zimmer

Our members who are homebound or in care facilities: Nancy Hess, Marilyn Mooney, Harold Ruff, Dottie Wharton

Baptism: At Lytham Road Sanctuary, Audriana Jean Clark, daughter of Dennis and Amanda Clark; Curtis Douglas Stefferud and Carolyn Christy Stefferud, son and daughter of Curtis and Christy Stefferud

Our World

Navigators: Pray for the discipling ministry of Bill Mowry, that he might equip many others to come alongside new and old believers and help them take their next step with the Lord.

Announcement Updates:

Christmas Eve Services

9:00 am Traditional	
4:00 pm Family Service	4:00 pm Family Service (nursery available)
5:00 pm Family Service	5:00 pm Family Service (nursery available)
7:30 pm Contemporary	7:30 pm Contemporary
9:00 pm Traditional	9:00 pm Contemporary with Communion
10:30 pm Traditional with Communion	



Upper Arlington Lutheran Church

web www.ualc.org | email ualc@ualc.org | phone 614-451-3736

2017 Contribution Reminder

Requirement for a contribution to be recorded in 2017 – IRS regulations require that gifts:

- must be postmarked by December 31, 2017 or,
- be deposited in an offering collection by December 31, 2017 or,
- otherwise be delivered to an agent of the church before midnight December 31, 2017.

Offering envelopes for 2018 – 2018 offering envelopes are available in the lobbies. Since the envelopes are preprinted with dates but are not personalized with donor numbers, you may take any set of envelopes – no need to search for a particular package.

Contribution records – All contributions made by personal check are automatically recorded in UALC's records. Therefore, it is not necessary to use offering coupons for gifts by check to UALC's General Fund. However, please note the following information about other gift types:

- Gifts of cash must be documented by offering coupons or other means to identify the donors. The IRS no longer allows donors to claim cash gifts without documentation from the charitable organization.
- Donors who wish to designate gifts may use offering coupons or other notes to identify their designations.

Offering coupons do not expire and may be used at any time. If you need coupons (either more or for the first time), please contact the church office with your name and address. We will mail the coupons to your home.

Contribution statements – Preliminary 2017 contribution statements were recently mailed to all active donors. Please review your statement for accuracy and let us know if you have any questions or corrections. Final 2017 contribution statements will be mailed in January 2018.

Electronic contributions – There are two options for automatic electronic contributions:

- Most banks offer free electronic bill payment capability for checking accounts. You may set up Upper Arlington Lutheran Church (2300 Lytham Road, Columbus, 43220) as a vendor/payee and initiate repeating payments of the amount and at the frequency of your choice. Please be sure that your full name and address are included in the payment instructions provided to the bank.
- Online Giving at UALC.org – Visit ualc.org and select “Give” at the top of the page. Follow the instructions to create a secure account in myUALC and give your offering by electronic check or credit card.

Please direct your questions or feedback to Dave Bowersox by regular mail to the church (2300 Lytham Road, Columbus, 43220) or by e-mail to finance@ualc.org.

Council Notes

I would like to take this opportunity to catch up the congregation on Council's activity. In July, four new council members joined us. Our newest members are Steve Bruns as incoming Council chair, Lee Miller, Gene Pierce and J.D. Wylie. Our focus of activities has included the following:

- Support of our transition leaders during the search for a new Senior Pastor. The team of Dave Bowersox, Andrew Fuller, Brodie Taphorn, and Joe Valentino have done an excellent job of moving UALC forward during this time. Council thanks them for this outstanding work. We are not a church that is standing still.
- Support for the Call Committee led by Elizabeth Seeley. Council approved the hiring of The Vanderbloemen Search Group to support the process. As a congregation, we thank the Call Committee for their diligent efforts and prayer. Please continue to support this group with your prayers.
- Presentation of the 2018 budget for approval at the September congregational meeting.
- Presenting our own David White for ordination in September. We are pleased to have David formally join our ordained pastoral staff.
- Improving campus safety and security. Our Emergency Planning Work Group is being led by Rod Borden and we thank them for their work in light of recent national events.
- Council has extended our Hilltop relationship with Veritas Community Church through June 1, 2018. Our original goal in the Hilltop 15 years ago was to plant a successful urban ministry – and that is exactly what is thriving there today on the Hilltop with Veritas West, The Refuge and the Hilltop Preschool. Council will develop a course

of action for the Hilltop property and present this at the Spring 2018 congregational meeting.

- Council appointed a task force to evaluate our potential relationship with Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church on the east side of Columbus. This North American Lutheran Church (NALC) church is serving the Oromo people from Ethiopia, with many being immigrants. This church is growing at 20% per year and has outgrown its current leased location. Pastor Jeff Morlock, serving as Dean of the NALC's Southeastern Ohio Mission District, brought this opportunity to UALC. Jeff was joined by John Ness, Kristin Schoeff and Tom Slemmer on this task force. Council, through extensive prayer, was unanimous in its support of their recommendation to grant The Oromo Church \$152,000 from our Mission Loan Fund. This fund has been available since the mid 1980s and has been utilized to support other churches' building needs. The Oromo Church is currently in contract to buy an existing church building that will meet their needs well into the future. It brings us great joy to utilize this long existing fund provided by past generations of UALC members for this purpose. Council feels we are following God's will in "getting outside of ourselves." Council has also set aside funds from the UALC Mission Fund and the Branch Out Fund for future potential support of the Oromo congregation.

Council thanks you for your prayers and the opportunity you have given us to serve God here at UALC.

Merry Christmas,

Bill Wulf
Council Chair