

In Awe

Sermon Notes:

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 1:39-45: When Elizabeth went to Mary, she declared out loud what she saw God doing. She delighted in what she had experienced. Where is God working in your life? How has Christ arrived unexpectedly in your world? Speak about it and celebrate with joy!

Our People

In the hospital: Lynn Ness

Home from the hospital or in short-term care: Sharon Hendershot, Julia Wall

Members who are homebound or in care facilities: Lew Dulin, Nancy Hess, Harold Ruff, Dottie Wharton

We offer Christian sympathy to: Nancy Donner and Diane Hendrickson at the death of their step-father; to Michael Hubbard at the death of his father; to Kathy Prosser at the death of her father, Joe Wagenhals

Our World

Rick and Karen Rogers: Pray for all the ministries of Athletes in Action because sports play such a prominent role in community life. Pray for access to student-athletes' lives and effective ways to share the Gospel.

Announcement Updates:

Advent and Christmas Services Schedule at the Connect Center

We've made an easy to carry and share schedule of the upcoming Advent and Christmas services. Stop by the Connect Center and pick up a copy for yourself and copies to share with family and friends.

Get Involved

O₂ is a church-wide movement that we own together. Here's what you can do to impact a student's life and meet the needs of our community:

1. Encourage students grades 6-12 to apply before Dec. 31
2. Become an O₂ Ambassador
3. Read up on the event and share with others, www.o2conference.org
4. Attend the event on Feb. 23, 5:02-8:00 pm at Mill Run

Details and registration: o2conference.org. Contact: David White, dwhite@ualc.org, 614-451-3736



Upper Arlington Lutheran Church

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

2018 Contribution Reminder

Requirement for a contribution to be recorded in 2018 – IRS regulations require that gifts:

- must be postmarked by December 31, 2018 or,
- be deposited in an offering collection by December 31, 2018 or,
- otherwise be delivered to an agent of the church before midnight December 31, 2018.

Offering Envelopes for 2019

2019 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 does not allow 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 2018 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 2018 contribution statements will be mailed in January 2019.

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 or by e-mail to finance@ualc.org.

Council Notes

Upper Arlington Lutheran Church

web www.ualc.org | email ualc@ualc.org | phone 614-451-3736 | **Fall, 2018**

A headline in *The Dispatch* a few weeks ago posed the question, “Are we doomed?”

The article focused on climate change and what may be coming in the next 20 years. It got me thinking about other predictions that we often see at the close of each year. Gloomy forecasts about the economy, politics, health-care, finances, education or crime can capture our thoughts and create anxiety. Americans are on edge. A 2018 American Psychiatric Association poll reported that almost 40% of Americans say they feel more anxious now than they did at this time last year. They feel doomed. What about the followers of Jesus?

The Church Council has been focusing on the Sermon on the Mount this year and I encourage you to do the same. John Stott, an author and great evangelical of the last century, wrote, *“The followers of Jesus are to be different,” he writes, “different from both the nominal church and the secular world, different from both the religious and the irreligious. The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete delineation anywhere in the New Testament of the Christian counter-culture. And this Christian counter-culture is the life of the kingdom of God.”*

We, as disciples of Jesus, are to be different. Jesus says his people are salt (Mt 5:13). He says we are the light of the world (Mt 5:14). That's why we at UALC have been talking so much about meeting needs in our community. We disciples create thirst the way salt does and bring light to a dark world when we shovel the neighbor's driveway, greet the cashier by name, shuttle a widow to her appointment, help a stranger fix a flat, invite an international stu-

dent to a home-cooked meal, coach our kid's basketball team, have lunch with a struggling coworker, or visit someone in the hospital or in prison. These actions convey hope.

My friends, Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before others that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” That is counter-cultural. The goal isn't for people to say, “How nice those church people are!” The goal is to create a yearning for God in others' lives, and isn't that the greatest need around us?

As we close in on the end of the decade, I am encouraged to know that whatever the future holds for our congregation, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). He gives us hope. And having hope is a very “different” way to look at the future.

In His Service,
Steve Bruns
UALC Council Chair