

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

David Collins
John Thompson
Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Bill Osborne, Shirley Harrod and family,
Rachel Thompson, Larry Billator, Julie
Patton, Karen Spivey, Rick Small, Jeff
Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her
sister, Dorothy), Paul Atkisson, Brianna
Ratliff, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison,
Dwight Antle, The Bays and Robbins
family, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige,
Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's
mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young,
Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jean
Gartland, John Blessing, William
Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, Jamie
Powell's father, Harleigh Spartman,
Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Leland
Wells, Linda Moore, Sheila Johnson,
Virginia Gordon

University Heights Messenger

Volume 10--Number 12

March 25, 2018

The Plan

Paul Fox

Do you prefer to plan or to improvise? Do you lay out steps in advance, or do you make things up on the fly? Most of us probably move back and forth between planning and improvisation, depending on the circumstances.

But when someone else is in charge, we like to know this person has a plan. Starting a construction project, the contractor needs detailed drawings and blueprints. Riding in a car, we expect the driver to have a route thoughtfully laid out. Invited to a meal, we hope to be served something other than what falls out of the refrigerator.

Likewise, we hope for a plan in the big picture. Does God have a plan for life, or is it just random? We hope there is a plan, especially when the events seem especially chaotic.

The Bible in many passages affirms that God has a plan for human life. This plan has the cross of Jesus

Christ at the center. As we experience life, we find it filled with discouragements, injustice, and suffering. In Christ God takes all of that on himself, enabling us to have meaning, purpose, and hope that reach beyond the worst of the world and welcomes us into God's eternal kingdom.

God's plan is to rule the world through the promised king and son of David, Jesus. The king was promised as one who would build the house for the true worship of God, whose own throne God would establish forever. Through generations of hope and disappointment God's faithful people held fast to that promise.

With Jesus' miraculous birth, marvelous life, tortuous death, and triumphant resurrection God fulfilled his promise. He sent a king who, like his people, was lowly, who ascended the throne as king by freely surrendering his life to those who presumed to rule God's world. Riding a lowly donkey, Christ approached Jerusalem as its king. He entered Jerusalem's temple as the one who builds the true temple. Yet he allowed a pagan ruler to mock his royal status and condemn him to death.

What Christ suffered was the punishment that really belongs to us, his people. He lived and died not just in solidarity with lowly people but as a substitute for his guilty people. They had failed in the face of temptation, but he was victorious. Their rebellion brought them into

bondage, but he brought liberation. Attempts at self-purification only brought them more blame, but he brought genuine purity. Only in Christ can a person find the way to fulfill the very purpose for which God created humanity, that purpose being to love God with all that one is and to love one's neighbor as oneself.

When Christ arose from the dead, he revealed the mystery of God's plan. Several despairing women went to his tomb believing that his death was but another random event in a world where nothing seemed to go according to plan. But Christ was triumphant. He had done what he promised, what God had promised. His death and resurrection fulfilled scripture, for in his death and resurrection every need and hope of humanity, expressed through the story line of the Bible, was met by the fulfilled promise of God.

In the end all of humanity will bow to the king, the Christ enthroned in the highest place. He alone can open the scroll that represents God's plan for the world. He does so as the lamb once slain, now forever triumphant, one day to stand as judge over all.

Indeed, life is not random. God has a plan. The plan is Jesus Christ, and everyone needs to know him.

