

Vital Signs

What am I Investing to Advance Our Shared Mission?

1 Corinthians 15:58-16:4

October 29, 2023.

Introduction: How would you measure your spiritual health? We do it all the time with our bodies: temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure. All signs of life in you. Are there any signs of spiritual life in there? What would you do to strengthen them? If you found a heart beating by itself on a sidewalk, you know it wouldn't last. It needs a healthy body. Same with us. "We are members of one another" (Romans 12:5). Active members at UPC make five commitments to one another: worship, formation, community, mission, giving. We need you to join us. And to strengthen the life of Christ in your life.

Prayer: Almighty God, show us how to value our work and our resources as they connect to your Kingdom. Amen.

Review: What specific ways did you think of where you could love God, yourself and your neighbor this week? How did God help you to show love in these ways?

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:58-16:4

Discussion:

1. How do you value your work and the earnings from your work?
2. How are the Corinthians instructed to collect money for the persecuted Christians in Jerusalem? What is the plan for safely delivering the money?
3. What is the purpose today of our giving to our local church? How does our combined giving give glory to God?
4. What scriptures or messages have been helpful in shaping your approach to giving? Here are a few scriptures to try: James 1:17; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12; Luke 6:37-38
5. We are called to be stewards of our time, talents and treasure. Which of these three categories do you find easiest to share? Which is hardest? How would you like to improve?

Application: Talk to God about your stewardship of time, talents and treasure. What is God calling you to change? What is God calling you to keep the same?

Prayer: Bountiful God, give us your perspective on the resources we have to manage for you. Take away our fear and give us wisdom and courage to act. Amen.