

URBAN LIGHT MINISTRIES

Second Quarter 2023

Lightlines



Ministry Opens Downtown Office

During the afternoon of Sunday, January 29 a brief service was held in the Commerce Pointe building in downtown Springfield to consecrate the new headquarters of Urban Light Ministries. A few weeks earlier the ministry sold their facility on South Yellow Springs Street to another local nonprofit organization. That building served ULM's mission beginning in 1997, and then again in 2015 when operations returned there through 2022.

Pastor Kevin Moehn officiated the service in the Community Room, while author Grant Edwards, ULM Board Chair Bruce Stapleton, Pastor Kermit Rowe, ministry President Eli Williams, and cofounder Judy Williams participated. Afterward, they and the guests walked the building and prayed over all the businesses, beginning at ULM's suite 231. Please pray for God's blessings upon this new location and all the building's tenants.



Your Input is Important to the Success of this Ministry!

We have scheduled a community meeting for **Monday, April 17 at 5:30 PM** in the Community Room in Commerce Pointe 20 S. Limestone St. in Springfield to share information about Fathering Strong. You are invited. We will provide a short presentation on the new ministry, and will then open the discussion for your comments and questions. Pizza and soft drinks will be served.

To learn more about Fathering Strong please go to ULM's website and review the two reports on the impact of father absence and building the Fathering Strong movement.

Children Remain a Focus in 2023

For the third year, we and our volunteers will be able to provide Christmas Blessings for more than two dozen homeless families with children. Thanks to proceeds from the annual Jeff Wyler Charity Invitational and the generosity of our volunteers, we protect the dignity of the homeless parents by remaining anonymous.



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New Fatherhood Ministry to Launch on June 1st

ULM's aim is to engage, encourage, and educate fathers in their quest to be the best parenting partners they can be. In today's digital world, the best way to reach and to stay connected with young men is through their smartphones. Our new ministry named Fathering Strong is a cutting edge, Bible-based mobile and online community for dads. It has already garnered over seventy pre-launch sign-ups!

On June first, after nearly three years in development, we will officially release Fathering Strong to the public. A report that reviews the latest statistics on the effects of father absence on families and communities can be reviewed by going to ULM's website. Go to www.fatheringstrong.com for more information.



Urban Light Ministries

Tax ID: 31-1451586

Donations and inquiries may be sent to:
PO BOX 3132, Springfield, OH 45501

Children Remain a Focus for 2023

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God gets all the glory while the bond between child and parent is strengthened.

Also, in partnership with CarePortal and Nehemiah Foundation, we are serving some of the unmet needs of children of the Springfield City School District and their families. This too, is made possible by our Care-It's for Kids fund.

New Kids Ministry Coming!

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic closed a 25-year chapter of serving children through The Sunshine Clubs after school ministry. Since then, ULM's president has been working with community members to begin establishing LifeWise Academies for Clark County and Springfield elementary students. The first of the release time, Bible-based character education classes will begin for Shawnee Elementary students at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year at Riversong Church. Working with the Interdenominational Minister's Fellowship, Williams hopes sometime after that to see the first LifeWise Academy for Springfield City School Students. Your prayers and support are requested. To learn about LifeWise, visit their website at www.lifewise.org.



Upcoming Events

Community Open Forum - April 17th at 5:30 pm

Here is your opportunity to learn more about Fathering Strong and provide your input and suggestions pre-launch. We hope you are excited about this new program as we are! Please RSVP if you plan to attend at www.urbanlight.org. Location and directions are on the website.

22nd Annual Jeff Wyler Charity Invitational Golf Scramble

Benefitting Urban Light Ministries, this year's event will again be hosted at Springfield Country Club on Monday, August 21st. Event sponsorships are available by contacting Eli Williams by email at ewilliams@urbanlight.org.

Mayor's Breakfast

Urban Light Ministries announces the institution of the annual Mayor's Breakfast event. This event is planned to be held annually in November. Watch for upcoming details.



Honoring Fathers

"Honor your father and your mother..." the Lord God commanded His people in Exodus 20:12. Urban Light Ministries obeys this mandate by offering everyone an opportunity to nominate a father for one of our Good Dad Awards.

Each local father is presented the award during the annual Juneteenth/FatherFest celebration which will take place this year on Saturday, June 17, the day before Fathers' Day. To nominate a dad, go to <https://urbanlight.org/good-dad-award/>.



New! Fatherhood Hall of Honor

New this year is the establishment of the Fatherhood Hall of Honor. Each year, a handful of seasoned men will be selected for induction into this prestigious group in recognition of a lifetime of parenting achievement. The Hall of Honor awards will also be presented during the 2023 Juneteenth/FatherFest. That event is held each year on the Gammon House Green, which is in front of 620 Piqua Place in Springfield.



Board Member Receives "Hometown Hero" Award

Congratulations to Kermit Rowe for receiving the Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero Award for his continued dedication and selfless contributions. Kermit continues to volunteer countless hours to Urban Light Ministries and other nonprofit organizations including Habitat for Humanity making our community better. Every year, Modern Woodmen's 2,500 chapters and 800 youth services clubs nationwide have an opportunity to honor a Hometown Hero who has provided outstanding community service or performed an act of bravery. Each Hometown hero receives a special certificate and a \$100 donation to a charity of his or her choice.