

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

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

**In need of prayers**

**Members**

Janice Parsons, Gary Brown, Jackie  
Litmer, Rick Small, Bobbie Atkisson,  
Edith Huffman, Diane Thompson, Karen  
Spivey, Jeff Howerton (also his aunt),  
Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy),  
Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Pat  
Seabolt

**Others**

Lois Weatherholt, Cassie Neel, Keia  
Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and  
Barry Boyd, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron,  
John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul  
Lyda, Annie Allen, Elijah Ossege, Tammy  
Goble, Veronica Bowman, Jennifer  
Strutz, Steve Stewart, Karen Eifler and  
Chery Botts (aunts of James'  
Weatherholt), Roy Daniel (Adam's  
uncle), Leroy Daniel (Adam's cousin),  
Fay Thomas (Gina's mother)

**University Heights Messenger**

Volume 11--Number 15

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March 31, 2019

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**We're Family**

Adam Litmer

That prayer list on the back page seems to stay filled, doesn't it? Those times when a few names are able to come off, it's usually only a week or two before new names are added. I've started dividing the list between members of Uheights and all others. As I write this, I count 13 names of members in need of prayers. Some have continuing health concerns and rightly stay in our prayers. Others have come through various ordeals, whether sickness or loss, and will remain on the list for a little while longer. Still others are awaiting surgeries (or recovering from them), results of biopsies, or a settled diagnosis along with treatment plan. Whatever the particular need, this congregation is filled with brethren seeking the prayers of brethren.

We give them, too. We pray for one another often in our assemblies and I suspect we pray far more in our personal prayers. In addition, folks here at Uheights write cards, make phone calls, visit hospitals, help out around the house, cook meals, run errands, and give rides. We do these things for one another. But why? Some of these require more than a few minutes to accomplish. Some of these require the rescheduling of a very busy day. Some of these require legitimate sacrifice on the part of the one doing them. So why do we do it? Because we're family.

That may not seem like much of an answer to some. Sadly, many people in this world do not experience the blessing of a good family life. There is little love and an unwillingness to sacrifice for family members. Others would nod at the preceding paragraph because they are fortunate to be part of a loving and supportive family. They affirm that “blood runs thicker than water” and recognize how nice it is to be part of a loyal family. Yet even they do not quite understand what I’m getting at in this article. You see, there is something that runs even deeper than the blood of family members. It is the unity that binds Christians together in Christ.

This affection is far greater than the “natural” unity of shared blood. This is a Spirit taught unity. *I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* (Ephesians 4:1-3) I probably should point out that there *is*, in fact, shared blood that brings about this extraordinary spiritual unity, but it is the blood that flowed from our Savior and rescued us from condemnation. His blood has made us a kingdom of priests to God the Father to whom glory and dominion belong forever. (Revelation 1:5-6)

None of this is to say that the natural affection and responsibility of family member to family member is unimportant. It is instilled in us by God and to ignore it is sin. (Romans 1:31. *Without natural affection*—KJV. The word is *astorgos* and is one of the saddest words in Scripture. It speaks of the absence of family love, particularly parent to child and vice versa.) It *is* the say that there is a love capable of transcending it. Even more, it *will* transcend it.

When we recognize the wholesome relationships we enjoy are blessings from God and that the love we are able to feel for our spouse, parents, children, and grandparents is a gift from God to enjoy in this life, everything begins to fall into place. The love we have for others becomes subordinate to the love we have for God. Rather than making our love for others weak, it makes it strong because it has achieved its proper context. When God’s will for a person becomes our greatest desire for them we have achieved the highest degree of love.

This is where the relationship we have with brethren becomes so special. Not everyone accepts us loving God more than we love them. Not everyone appreciates that the greatest degree of love can only be shown when God and His purposes are at its heart. *But saints do.* For this reason, brethren to brethren tends to become the happiest and most comforting relationships in this life. How wonderful when our spouse, parents, children, siblings, and grandparents are also our brethren!

So why do we do all we do for one another? Because we’re family in the deepest sense of that word and there’s nothing else we’d rather be doing! We will gladly spend and be spent for each other because our God has adopted us into the same family through Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 12:15; Ephesians 1:5)

Only about a quarter of my physical family have become Christians. Yet when I come here and look around, I see a building filled with my family. That you are my spiritual family doesn’t lessen the bond, in *strengthens* it. Let us praise God every day that we’re family.





