



# THE MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 18, 2020

### NEWS AND NOTES

**Congregational Meeting**  
TBA

**Weekly Bible Studies**  
All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

**Times of Service**  
**Sunday**

Bible study: 9:45 AM  
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible study: 7:30 PM  
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

**First Friday of Month**  
**Singing**  
7:30 PM

**Address and Contact**

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

### THE BLESSING OF THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY

That prayer list stays filled, doesn't it? A few names come off to be replaced almost immediately. Currently 38 specific names are listed. Some have continuing health concerns, 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 other brethren.

We pray in our assemblies and in personal prayer. In addition, folks here at Uheights write cards, make phone calls, visit hospitals, (when such was permitted) cook meals, run errands, and give rides. We do these things for one another. But why? Some of this require more than a few minutes to accomplish. Some of this require the rescheduling of a busy day. So why do we do it? We do it because we're family.

That may not seem like much of answer to some. Sadly, many do not experience the blessing of a good family life. There is little love and an unwillingness to sacrifice for family members. Others 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 here. 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 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. (Revelation 1:5-6)

None of this is to say 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.) Yet, amazingly, there is a love capable of transcending even that.

## Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Jackie Litmer, John Thompson, Mary and Emmett Weatherholt, Alexa and Charlie Lake, Bennie Poynter, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

## Others Needing Prayers

Rachel Knollman, Michael Hogan, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Demetrius Booker, Jen Victoria Poynter, Andy Kincaid, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Ron Harmon

## To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Type in our name on Facebook, YouTube, or our website if you'd like to watch or just listen to our sermons.

When we recognize the wholesome relationships we enjoy are blessings from God and the love we are able to feel for our spouse, parents, and children is a gift from God to be enjoyed, *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.

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'm here 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. Adam Litmer

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Evangelist</b>
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

