



# THE MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 7, 2021

### NEWS AND NOTES

**Congregational Meeting**  
TBD

**Weekly Bible Studies**  
Tuesdays on Zoom

**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**

September 3, 7:30

**Address and Contact**

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

### WEDDINGS AND OTHER INVITATIONS

Wedding and other special invitations will frequently use the phrase “The pleasure of your company ....” Although a bit formal, the phrase communicates a most pleasant sentiment to the recipient of the invitation. It says, “It is our desire that you be part of our company. Your presence and companionship contribute so much to the whole company. We will be more with your presence and less without you. Your company will bring us great pleasure.

The first century church received much pleasure, strength, comfort, and growth when in the company of one another. A diverse group of Jews, from all over the known world were baptized for the remission of their sins in response to the Apostles’ preaching on the day of Pentecost and were added to the Apostles thus establishing the church Jesus said He would build. There is no doubt there was much pleasure being in each other’s company. They were richly blessed as they *devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, and were together and had all things in common.* (Acts 2:42, 44)

Although the pleasure of their company no doubt involved times of laughter and fun, the most meaningful pleasure resulted from the shared experience of being fellow workers in the Kingdom of Christ. In Acts 4, Peter and John were arrested, held overnight, and then released the next day. *When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God....* (Acts 4:23-24) Later, Peter was arrested again and miraculously released by an angel of the Lord. Upon his release *he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter’s voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate.* (Acts 12:12-14) She was so overcome with knowing Peter was safe she could only think of sharing the pleasure of his company with the rest of the company.

One might perceive the Apostle Paul to have been a loner, so dedicated and focused was he on proclaiming the gospel, but he wrote often of his pleasure in the company of his brethren. Take the time to carefully read Romans 16 where he mentions such people as Phoebe, his patron; Prisca and Aquila, who risked their necks for him; Epaenetus, Ampliatus, Stachys, and Persis, who he calls beloved; and the mother of Rufus, *who has been a mother to me as well.* So many more are mentioned by name, and the church at Rome was instructed to greet these people, to have the pleasure of their company just as Paul had. Earlier in his letter he told them of his strong desire to have the pleasure of their company. *I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a*

## Members Needing Our Prayers

Rick Small, Chris Stewart, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

## Others Needing Prayers

Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

## To Our Guests

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while; and he asked for their prayers for his journeys, stating *that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company*. (Romans 15:24 and 32).

Finally, Paul, in prison, anticipating his death and feeling alone and abandoned, sought the pleasure of the company of certain brethren. *Do your best to come to me soon.* <sup>10</sup> *For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia,<sup>[b]</sup> Titus to Dalmatia.* <sup>11</sup> *Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.* (2 Tim 4: 9-11) Earlier Paul had praised Onesiphorus to Timothy: *May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.* (2 Tim 1:16-18)

What a glorious thought! May our prayer and practice be that we seek the pleasure of each other's company, that being in the presence of our brethren brings us joy, that we are refreshed rather than depleted, supported rather than neglected or abandoned; built up rather than torn down; encouraged rather than discouraged, recognized rather than ignored. And may our prayer be that we strive to give the pleasure of our company as well as receive the pleasure of the company of our brothers and sisters. JT

<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	

