



# THE MESSENGER

## JANUARY 16, 2022

### NEWS AND NOTES

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**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](http://www.uheightschurch.com)

### CARRYING CROSSES

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Jesus told them to take up their cross and follow him. (Matthew 16:24b) What a statement! Perhaps an occupied cross or two was visible even as Jesus spoke the words. He could even have been pointing at one as he said it. Crosses and crucifixions were part of life throughout Galilee, Samaria, and Judea. They were grotesque and terrifying. Jesus said to take one up and follow him.

As his disciples spent more time with Jesus, they would come to learn that his use of that gruesome illustration was to show the need to deny oneself entirely and follow him with full commitment and loyalty. (Matthew 16:24a) Yes, even if the threat of a real cross loomed across the very road they were walking.

Denying oneself, *really* doing it, does not come naturally and is such a hard thing to do consistently. It is a learned attitude of heart and maintained only through practice. According to Jesus, it most often shines forth in our treatment and behavior toward other people. The One who knelt to perform the task of the lowliest servant (John 13:1-11) would have us know this is where true kingdom greatness is found. (John 13:12-17)

He goes further in the judgment scene of Matthew 25:31-46. Heaven is closed to those without the self-denying and loving heart of a servant. Questions of baptism, authority, and proper forms of worship matter. Why would God have added them to His Book otherwise? Even so, I can quote you every baptism

verse in Scripture but, if I have not the love that is truly willing to deny self to serve the Lord and others, to borrow

**Members Needing Our Prayers**

Larry Billiter, Diane Thompson, Ron Tirey, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

**Others Needing Prayers**

Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, 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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Paul's language, *I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.* (1 Corinthians 13:1)

What makes it so difficult to truly deny self on a consistent basis? Why is it so hard at times to be gracious, compassionate, thoughtful, and kind? Why is it so easy to forget about being a servant altogether? In my case, *I'm* the reason. Sometimes I find too much Adam in Adam and not enough Christ. As easy and light as the Lord's yoke is considering the extraordinary blessings in taking it, (Matthew 11:28-30) I still find myself occasionally chaffing at it. I see it in moments of selfishness. I see it when I'd rather not serve. I see it when I refuse to hear thoughts and opinions besides my own. I see it when I withhold compassion and empathy. I *hate* seeing it, but I still do sometimes.

No one can *really* take up their cross unless they have first denied self in favor of Christ. May our God graciously help us to do just that.

Adam Litmer

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

