



# THE MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 1, 2023

### NEWS AND NOTES

---

#### **Congregational Meeting**

October 8

#### **Our Next Gospel Meeting**

TBA

#### **Weekly Bible Studies**

Thursday at 2 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**

October 6, 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)

### JUST COME HOME

---

A couple of weeks ago we finished our consideration of the parable of the prodigal son. We examined all three main characters and the lessons we learn from them. There is one final thought about the younger son that I wish to share with you in this article.

We're told that he "came to himself" and began to think clearly, perhaps for the first time in his life. His next act is one that I imagine each of us can understand and have done many times ourselves: he rehearsed what he was going to say. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." (Luke 15:18-19) He wasn't just trying to say what he thought his father wanted to hear. He meant every word in his speech. He just wanted to make sure he had the right words *before* he went home. There is so much to commend in the humble and contrite heart of that young man.

Yet there is also a danger here that has led many Christians to hesitate in returning home and even caused some to refuse to attempt the journey at all. What am I supposed to say when I go back home? What am I supposed to say to the people I have hurt? How can I approach the person whose heart I've broken? If my sins have deeply disappointed the people who love me most, how am I supposed to return to them? What do I *say*?

So we rehearse. We try to find just the right words to convey our shame, sorrow, and apology. We try to devise the perfect speech to make everything alright again. Then we realize that a single speech isn't going to cause those we've hurt or disappointed to forget that we did what we did. We

## Members Needing Our Prayers

Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Janett Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

## Others Needing Prayer

Veronica Bowman, Cheryl Samons, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Family of Valari Butler-Jones, Charlie Hoy, Janice Parsons, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

## To Our Guests

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

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

begin to think about the hurt, disappointed, or angry expressions we're certain will be on each face upon our return. Our determination to return wanes as we start to consider worst case scenarios. What if we're rejected outright? What if, like the older brother, our loved ones refuse our return altogether? Perhaps it's better to remain right where we are, sin and all. Perhaps the journey back home is just too hard.

When the prodigal returned home, he took a deep breath and launched into the speech he had undoubtedly rehearsed a hundred times on his journey home. He was about half way through when his father threw his arms around him and began to celebrate his return. (Luke 15:20-24)

Perhaps our choices have led us far from God and our sins have hurt those who love us most. Perhaps we're rehearsing speeches and close to concluding it's too hard to make the journey. If so, let us learn the most important lesson from the prodigal son and just come home. I'll say it again: *just come home.* AL

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

