



# THE MESSENGER

## JANUARY 21, 2024

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### **Congregational Meeting**

February 11, 2024

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

March 3-8, 2024

#### **Weekly Bible Studies**

Thursday at 1:15 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**

February 2

#### **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 PERFECT CHURCH

Recently a brother spoke of the number of congregations he has left over the years in his pursuit of the “perfect church.” He is certain that it is out there somewhere and he is determined to find it. He is seeking a congregation without any flaws, shortcomings, or areas still requiring growth. It occurred to me that such a congregation would cease being “perfect” the moment he joined it. Please do not think that I am taking a shot at him when I say that. Perfection would go by the wayside the moment I joined, too.

There has been much talk among us over the years of restoring the church of the first century. It is striking to note just how imperfect many of those first century congregations were. The church of Corinth was a mess. The churches of Galatia were walking a dangerous path. Paul’s letters to the churches in Ephesus and Colossae both indicate there were some things that needed cleaning up, though they were doing far better than Corinth or Galatia. Of course, the church at Ephesus received a grave rebuke from Jesus just a few years later. (Revelation 2:4-5) The church at Rome had trouble between Jewish and Gentile Christians. The church at Thessalonica had struggles with sexual immorality, busybodies, and idleness. I think you get the point. Unless the Christians who comprise a congregation have achieved perfection, the congregation of which they are part will not be perfect.

The ideal church described by the inspired writers *is* perfect, however. This does not indicate any flaw in God but in the ones striving, and often failing, to achieve the ideal. No

## **Members Needing Our Prayers**

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

## **Others Needing Prayer**

Barbara Conley, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Alyse Nash, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

## **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.

one, upon hearing a middle school's poor rendition of Mozart, would claim that Mozart was a poor composer. In like manner, though we're trying to imitate our Lord's perfection, we often make an awfully sloppy job of it.

God knows this better than we do. Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. As I stated earlier, the church in Corinth was a mess. Issue after issue is addressed, sometimes sharply. Yet Paul begins this letter in such an encouraging way. They were still the church. They were still loved by Jesus. They could still have the hope of being sustained until the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1:8) None of these verses gave them permission not to try. Paul bluntly stated that they had a lot to correct and some repentance needed to occur. Yet God continued to love them dearly.

Let us strive to be the ideal church described by the inspired writers. Let us make correction when necessary and be patient with one another. Only God knows how patient he has been with each one of us. Adam Litmer

<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	

