



# THE MESSENGER

MAY 31, 2020

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Congregational Meeting**  
TBD

**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

## WEAKNESS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

In a story I am currently reading, the main character reminisces about a time when he, his older brother, and a younger companion were swimming in a channel along the coast of northern England near their home. Both brothers were good swimmers and could easily make it across the channel. Not so the young fellow with them. He reluctantly attempted the swim at the urging and taunting of the older brother, and he subsequently drowned. The older brother saw his younger sibling crying for the loss of his young friend. Feeling no remorse or responsibility for the death, the older brother slapped him about the head and simply said, “He was weak.” The next paragraph in the book begins, “How we despise weakness!”

Now there’s some food for thought. Is weakness a thing to be despised? Should we despise it, be intolerant of it, allow it to drive our own response when we see it in others? How easily do we see weakness in ourselves, or *do* we see it? How quick are we to see weakness in others? If and when we recognize our own weakness what do we do about it?

Weakness is universal. Some are physically weak; some are psychologically weak. There are those who are socially weak, ethically weak, and morally weak. The degree of weakness can range from those who experience it only momentarily to those who are weak in multiple areas most of the time. But strength is equally universal and, it seems to me, that, knowing our own strengths, we expect others to be similarly strong and, when they aren’t, we begin to despise them for their weakness. Weakness in ourselves is not something to be denied, hidden, covered up, used to manipulate, or worn like a badge of honor. Weakness in others is not something to be despised, exploited, or used to entice to sin. Such is what Satan does. *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* (1 Peter 5:8)

Paul shows that a fellow Christian’s weaknesses should elicit caring and tender interactions from his brethren. 1 Thessalonians,

## Members Needing Our Prayers

Jodi Harrison, Marie Byers, Bennie Poynter, Michaela Garnett, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch

## Others Needing Prayers

Terry Daniels, Mary Laclair, Rachel White, Karen Litmer, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Keia Burton, 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), Victoria Poynter, 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.

chapter 5 begins by describing the day of the Lord as coming like a thief in the night. The letter ends with final instructions and exhortations in view of that coming. Among those exhortations are these: *admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.* (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15) It is a sobering thought that the misuse by one Christian of the weaknesses of another Christian may contribute to the weaker Christian's being unprepared at the last day.

Many lessons, some mentioned more than others, are learned from Paul's words to the elders of the church at Ephesus recorded in Acts 20. We must be careful to consider all that was said that day: *In all things I have shown you that **by working hard in this way we must help the weak** and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* "This way" that Paul mentions includes all the ways he had ministered to them when he was present with them. The weaknesses of others are not to be despised or avoided. Rather they are opportunities for the strong to serve.

John Thompson

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

