



THE MESSENGER

MAY 24, 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

IF I WERE GOD

A few days ago, someone asked, “If God truly loves and is truly good, why doesn’t he stop people from hurting each other? If he can, why doesn’t he?” A very common, and important, question. Truth is, not all questions can be answered quickly or even at all. (especially if someone is looking for an easy and tidy answer to a question that is anything but!)

Last Wednesday, I went out for a jog determined to think it through once more. At some point, I shifted from asking why God does what He does, to what I would do if I were God. Man loves to talk about what he’d do differently, what wisdom and virtue he possesses that God does not. Give it a shot if you’d like, yet be prepared to be humbled. Let’s start at the beginning.

I have created people to be my image bearers on this earth. I made them to reflect my glory, authority, compassion, and control into the world that I have made. More than that, I have created them to reflect and share my love. The love that I wish to share with them, that I wish for them to possess, is a love that craves a deep relationship. It is fellowship in every sense of the word with all the peripherals firmly attached. I want them to trust me, find joy in me, long for me, and share my desires. I want them to do the same with their fellow image bearers throughout the world.

By its nature, this love cannot be forced. If it cannot be freely chosen then it cannot be. I *must* give them free will. I *must* let them choose. I *must* let their choices, good or bad, bring about their results. I can step in from time to time but certainly not every time. Otherwise, what do their choices really mean? My heart breaks with every injustice they inflict upon one another. My soul grieves at the cruelty, selfishness, and hate they often

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Harrison, Spivey, and Brundige families, 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.

choose to embrace and yet, I *must* let them choose. I don't want preprogrammed robots; I want my image bearers to choose to love me and one another.

Image bearers gone rogue are at the heart of the pain and anguish plaguing my world. Image bearers remembering and embracing their purpose for existing is at the heart of its healing. So, with that in mind, what would you do if you were me?

Returning to ourselves now. God is not the problem here, *we* are. If the consequences of free will burden us, how much more does it burden him? If we hurt one another, how much more do we hurt him? "If God truly loves and is truly good..." He is. We're not. If only man were as eager to frame the question this way, "Because God truly loves and is truly good, why won't we, as his image bearers, strive to fulfill the purpose of our creation and truly image him?" *We're* the problem. He is not.

What would I do if I were God? I have no idea, and that's the point! The question is too big, the problem too overwhelming, for any but God to deal with. Let us be content to image God into our communities, and, when we begin to wrestle with questions too big for us, let us trust and rejoice in the One even bigger than they.

Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
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	

