



# THE MESSENGER

## APRIL 14, 2024

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### **Congregational Meeting**

May 11, 5:15 PM

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

June 2-7

#### **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**

May 3

#### **Address and Contact**

University Heights Church of  
Christ

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KY 40508

(859) 255-6257

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

### WHY ASK WHY?

With the boys visiting their grandparents last weekend, I had the opportunity to sit in the auditorium class. Brother Frank did a fine job leading us in a study of Gideon. There is much interesting and instructive information provided about the man and his deeds in Judges 6-8. We see good, bad, and everything in between.

A thought that came to my mind as I reflected upon the class has to do with the question Gideon asked the angel of the Lord after the angel addressed him for the first time. "Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." (Judges 6:13)

At first blush this might seem like a good question. Why *had* God given them into the hand of Midian these seven years? (6:1) Why *wasn't* God performing a series of spectacular miracles to rescue them as he had in Egypt?

And yet, Gideon's question was really not a very good one. In fact, it was a question that should not have needed to be asked. Gideon walked past his father's altar to Baal every day. Did he ever pause to consider the significance of that? When his eye caught the Asherah next to the Baal altar, did he blush to consider that his own family had immersed themselves in idolatry? God had done exactly what he told his people he would do if they chose to pursue other gods. (6:8-10; Deuteronomy 8; 11:26-28; 12:29-32) Why didn't Gideon and the people of Israel know this?

## **Members Needing Our Prayers**

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

## **Others Needing Prayer**

Ron and Phyllis Harmon, Sylvia Waller, Charles Patton, Jenny Thomas, 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.

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Gideon would come a long way after this meeting with the Lord. God would use him to work out deliverance for his people. The Hebrew writer mentions him briefly in Hebrews 11 thereby forever testifying to his faith. Even so, his final recorded act is essentially a return into idolatry that troubled his entire family. (Judges 8:27) Gideon was a complicated individual living in a generation “who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.” (2:10) They knew the stories but most did not know the Lord who was at the heart of them.

It has always been easier for God’s people to bemoan their difficulties than to take a hard look at their own behavior. Had Gideon considered the actions of his own family he would not have needed to ask why God was treating his people as he was. He had explained it to them multiple times. They had just stopped listening. Let us never permit sin to become such an accepted and normal part of our lives that we can no longer see it for what it is or understand why God would respond negatively toward it. Of the many lessons we can learn from the life of Gideon, let this be one. 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	

