

**University Heights Church  
of Christ**  
445 Columbia Ave.,  
Lexington, KY 40508  
(859) 255-6257  
www.uheightschurch.com

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday**

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is  
immediately followed by a  
short worship period)

**First Friday of Each Month**

Singing: 7:30 PM

**LEADERSHIP**

**Elders**

Garry Banks, David Collins,  
John Thompson

**Evangelist**

Adam Litmer

**Deacons**

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,  
Matt Thompson, Adam  
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim  
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam  
Daniels, Jamie Powell

**Adam's Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday (8:30-4:00)

**Note**

The congregational meeting is today at 5. If you are a member of this church please make your plans to attend.

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Barbara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young (had another fall and broke her wrist), Doris Baker, Burnice Richardson, Ruth Poynter, Larry Sells, Christian Shadburne, Mattie Johnson (hip replacement), Evelyn Damron, Tony Tirey, Andrew Westphal, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, Joe Cable, Betty Clevinger, Glenda Brock, John Blessing, Alleen Terrell

# University Heights Messenger

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**“Dear God, Thank You For God”**

Adam Litmer

The title of this article comes from a favorite phrase in my son Jacob's prayers. Of course, I have no way of looking into his six-year-old mind to see exactly what he's thinking when he says it. I suppose it could be simple filler to lengthen his prayer. I strongly suspect, however, that he understands with the wonderful innocence and wonder of childhood, that God is “bigger” (to use one of Hannah's favorite words) than all of us and deserves thanks simply because He is.

If we heard an adult pray those *exact* words we might glance up with a strange look on our face. We might think, “That's an odd thing to pray. I don't believe I've ever heard anyone say that in a prayer before. There are much better ways to express the sentiment than that.” There are certainly ways that sound more mature but I'm not certain there is a much better way to express the sentiment than young Jacob's sincere six words, “Dear God, thank you for God.”

Every time Jacob prays those words I am reminded of the gratitude of God's people in Scripture simply because God *is*.

*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.* (Isaiah 12:2)

*Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruits be on the vine, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.* (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our*

*Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25).*

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)*

*I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. (Psalm 18:1-3)*

Each of these heroes of faith expressed gratitude toward God. Because He *is* every promise that He makes is true. Because He *is* the faithful can place full confidence in Him without wavering or questioning whether or not God has the power to do what He has said He will do. Though they expressed the sentiment in different ways each one of them is saying the same thing: “Dear God, thank you for God!”

## **Thinking About Time**

John Thompson

Time is one of the great regulators of our lives. We divide time into a myriad of different units. Eons, centuries, decades, years, months, days, hours, seconds, milliseconds; from large chunks of time down to extremely minute units, time rules our lives. Time and how it rules our lives did not occur by accident. “*And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.*” (Genesis 1:14-19) And so, time is always on our minds regulating, scheduling, speeding us up, slowing us down, giving us a sense of urgency, or aiding us to relax with a sense of satisfaction. We might think in terms of time is short; time is running out, time is

speeding up, never enough time, or too much time. Language is full of idioms using time: the appointed time, behind the times, bide one’s time, from time to time, borrowed time, pressed for time, time is money, the time is ripe, and one’s time is up are just a few.

We have the practice, twice a year, of changing our clocks. In the spring of the year we “spring” forward, and in the fall we “fall” back. These two adjustments in time can be thought of as symbolizing how young people and older folks perceive time. Young people are eager to grow up. Their play often mimics adult behaviors; they cannot wait to graduate from high school; they are in a rush to be adults thus freeing themselves from the restraints of childhood. They want to “spring forward” in time. Older folks, on the other hand, would like to slow time down. The days, months, and even years fly by much too rapidly. They have a sense of time running out and things are likely to be left undone. Older people would like to “fall back” in time.

But God has directed us to develop a much more useful perception of time. The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, in Ephesians 5:15-16, that our attitude should be that of redeeming time. Many Bible translations, other than the King James Version, explain what is meant by redeeming time. For example, the English Standard Version reads, “*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*” The Amplified New Testament is also helpful in aiding our understanding of what it means to redeem time. “*Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.*” God’s required attitude towards time is repeated in Colossians 4:5 with regard to how Christians are to deal with those outside of the church. “*Behave yourselves wisely [living prudently and with discretion] in your relations with those of the outside world (the non-Christians), making the very most of the time and seizing (buying up) the opportunity.*” (Amplified)

How do you view time? Wouldn’t we all be better off simply seeing time as a gift from God conveying ample opportunities to serve Him in this life? Would we not be more prudent and wiser to use every opportunity to make the best use of the time God has given us?

