



# THE MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 29, 2020

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### Congregational Meeting TBA

**Weekly Bible Studies**  
All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

**Times of Service**  
**Sunday**  
Bible study: 945 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  
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[www.uheightschurch.com](http://www.uheightschurch.com)

### THE DANGER OF INGRATITUDE

Allison Hope of CNN wrote an editorial titled *You Have Permission To Not Be Thankful This Thanksgiving*. Although she admits she has much to be thankful for, she indicates the fear and extreme discontent she feels due to current circumstances far outweighs and even eliminates any sense of gratitude she might otherwise have. Here are some statements she makes in her editorial:

“You can serve up a portion of gratitude for your Thanksgiving this year, but don't expect me to join you. I am going to focus on eating my feelings with extra helpings of sweet potato pie that I don't have to share with anyone -- because no one else is coming to Thanksgiving.”

“...I am incapable of feeling the joy that has, for every Thanksgiving prior to 2020, accompanied me to the homes of friends and family.”

“... I retain the right to feel full-on Scrooge this year, and I invite you to join me.”

Ms. Hope fortifies her argument by citing some psychological research suggesting that forced gratitude is really not helpful, and then her editorial turns political as she suggests the original thanksgiving has been grossly distorted to hide what she calls “true barbarism” ushered in with the arrival of Whites. Summing up her comments about that time in the past, she writes, “Many emotions rise to the surface, but gratitude is not one of them.”

Ms. Hope concludes, “In the spirit of Festivus (an alternative holiday celebrated on Dec 23) for the rest of us, and celebrating the anti-holiday to air grievances rather than pleasantries, I hereby rename Thanksgiving 2020 “Grumpstaking,” whereby we allow ourselves to feel whatever range of negative emotions we ....(expletive) well feel like feeling without the pressure to proclaim all that we're grateful for.”

She writes, “don't expect me to join you in being grateful.” Should I expect others to obey the dictates of a higher authority? If stealing is a crime, should I not expect you to refrain from stealing? Can I

## **Members Needing Our Prayers**

Janet Brundige, Jackie Litmer, John Thompson, Mary and Emmett Weatherholt, Alexa and Charlie Lake, Bennie Poynter, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

## **Others Needing Prayers**

Karen Litmer, Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt, Sarah and Jake Chandler, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Rachel Knollman, Michael Hogan, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Jen Victoria Poynter, Andy Kincaid, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Ron Harmon

## **To Our Guests**

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disregard the crime if I have a terrible year financially by saying, don't expect me to not steal this year? We know the answers to the above questions, don't we? The highest authority has written, *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Is Ms. Hope really incapable of feeling the joy of past thanksgivings as she says? I think it is more a matter of not allowing herself to feel joy, of relishing the role of victim to those circumstances she finds so deplorable. Joy and thankfulness go hand in hand with contentment. Consider Paul's statement in Philippians 4:11, *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.* Surely Ms. Hope needs to go back to school.

Finally, Ms. Hope states she retains the right to not be thankful. Not only that, but the title of her editorial suggests she believes she has the authority to give others permission to be likewise. Having free will to choose the wrong course of action does not constitute a right. There is no right to be ungrateful. If there were, ingratitude would be just as good an action as gratitude. And she is way off base by believing she can grant permission for others to be ungrateful, especially when God has decreed, *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:17) 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	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

