



# The Journey

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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## DEAR DISCIPLES

by General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens

Hello, Disciples. We're now in the season of Lent, a time of reflection and dedication for many of us. We are used to the tradition of giving something up, but I want to encourage you to add something to your spiritual practice. It could be to recommit yourself to prayer or bible study, to make time for meditation, to reading something that will feed your spirit, to making more time in your day for personal devotion and time with God.

During the month of February, Black History Month, I've been sharing on my personal Facebook page a reflection from Howard Thurman, the Black theologian and mystic, who loved spending time with God. And so today, as we begin and complete the first week of Lent, I wanted to share one of his meditations called, The Sustainer of Life. Hear the words of Howard Thurman, and as you listen, please know that I am honoring the request of the estate of Howard Thurman to use his original language, which may include masculine language and pronouns.

The Sustainer of Life.

It is of enormous reassurance to us, O Father, that thou art the sustainer and the holder of life. That despite all of our own limitations and attitudes, despite all our weaknesses and failures, despite all of the soarings of our minds and imaginations and our spirits, always we come back to the deep assurance that thou art the sustainer of life, the holder of all creation, and the guarantor of all our values.

This is of such overwhelming reassurance to us that we celebrate in simple words of praise this almighty grace. We offer, on our part, not merely the good deeds of which we are aware, at times not merely the concerns for our fellows which simply lead us to simple deeds or glorious acts of self-sacrifice, but we offer thee these things that we might become all of the possibilities of our lives. The potential is not yet realized. We offer to thee our failures, also those times when something breaks down and we do not know what or when something breaks down and we do know what. All that we might have been at a particular time and were not, all of the sense of conscience that disturbs, and whips, and tortures because we have not been in quality and in kind what we knew at the time we could have been in quality and kind. And beyond all those expressions of ourselves, our Father, we offer to thee ourselves.

This is what we want to do and sometimes we are able to do it, just to say to the

Father, here am I. My life as it is at its depth, I give to thee and I want thee to hold it so that it is no longer my life to do with in accordance to my whims, my impulses, my desires, or even my needs, but to take my life and to hold it until it takes on thy character, thy mind, thy purposes. If thou wilt do this and if thou wilt help me to do, this then I can be, in myself, what is truest and surest in me and this, O God, is all, all, all. Amen

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 11**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802  
Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

## NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

One of CWM's service projects for March is the Healthy Families program at the National Children's Advocacy Center. Healthy Families is a parent support program for first-time parents living in Madison County. It offers family support and education services that begin in the last trimester of the pregnancy or before the baby is 1 month old and may continue until the child begins kindergarten.

Please consider a monetary donation to this program, marking your check 'NCAC Healthy Families' in the memo line and dropping in the Sassafras bowl at church or mailing to the church office.

Thank you! Mary Ann Anderson

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

MF 2 and "Momma Phyl" are happy to announce the upcoming wedding of Trey Leonard and Abby McKibben on May 8 in Starkville, MS. The interesting story of this young couple can be found on [theknot.com/McKibbenLeonard](http://theknot.com/McKibbenLeonard). May the foundation Trey gained from his years with the youth at FCC be a guiding light in this next phase of life.

We have resumed our **9:30 a.m. Sunday in Sanctuary worship service**. The service will be broadcast live to the church parking lot and streamed on line (see next below for streaming information).

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We have resumed in-person worship service but you may still stream live at 9:30 am on Sundays (or watch previous services anytime) on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw)

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 9:30 am, watch previous services, videos for children, and special activities on our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos](http://www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos)

Finally, stream services at 9:30 am on Sunday at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](http://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)



## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



## Not Published Online

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows, the prayer concerns that are normally listed in the Sunday bulletins. **Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update.** Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or call the church office at 256-881-0150 to leave a message.

**Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

## REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Pacific Islander Agape Christian Church  
Pensacola, FL

**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Jonathan Shroust's birthday by Rick & Kay Shroust

## CWM BLESSING BOXES DUE

Ladies, the money you have collected for the Blessing Box ministry is due in March. You can contribute whatever you wish as you count your blessings from this past year even if you did not keep a special blessing box. This money is contributed to the Disciples Mission Fund with half of the donations going directly to the International Disciples Women's Ministries. Your giving makes a significant difference in the mission of the church at home and abroad. Please make your donation at your March Circle meeting or in your FCC offering noting Blessing Box in the memo line.

### Blessing Box Dedication Prayer:

Dear God, giver of everything, use these gifts which we present. May they show forth your love and our faith in ways beyond our thoughts, sight, and imagination. Make us one as we go forth in your service. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

- Sue Alexander, East Side Christian Church, Longview, Texas

## ECM REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2021

Know anyone looking for day care or pre-school? A few openings are available, depending on age and type of care, to the public on first-come first-served basis. If you someone looking, ask them to contact Susan Cooley for more information.



The 2021 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00, with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line, and go to Community Outreach.



## CHURCH CALENDAR - MARCH

The following are the known\* church related activities for March.

- 8 9:30 am Esther Circle
- 11 am Conveners
- 11 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 6 pm No Board Meeting
- 15 11 am Quilters 
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 24 9 am Breakfast Bunch
- 25 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 28 9:30 am Palm Sunday - Easter Egg "hunt" following service (Details to be announced)

\* Previously, activities were listed on the calendar based on Facility Requests submissions. Some meetings are now being conducted virtually, or in other ways, so the church office has no way of knowing that those meetings are occurring. Please contact the church office (256-881-0150 or [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)) if you would like your group or committee, including the point of contact, included on the calendar.

## SMALL GROUP MEETINGS AT CHURCH

Small groups, a **maximum of 10 people**, are allowed to meet inside the Church, usually in **Family Services**. Meetings must be at least one hour apart to allow the room to be treated by our needle point bi-polar ionization system (Covid-19 protection) and between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Monday - Friday. Use the exterior Family Services doors, located in our Bell Tower Courtyard on the west side of the church, to enter Family Services. The door will be unlocked for your meeting. Call the Church Office at 256-881-0150 to reserve Family Services. Limited arrangements may be possible for larger groups.

### We ask that:

- You follow social distancing procedures.
- The meeting has no more than 10 people.
- You record the names of all participants.
- All participants will wear a mask.

## THE RIGHT KIND OF SHAME

By Molly Baskette

*Your people say, "The way of the Lord is not just," when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it. And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. - Ezekiel 33:17-18 (NRSV)*

It's human nature to want to distance ourselves as much as possible from blame or shame. Ezekiel calls this out when he says the people have projected their guilt onto God.

We wouldn't know anything about that. I know I've never said, "Things are going so badly and this is all your doing, God. You're the all-powerful one. Get in here!"

On the other hand, many of us feel a lot of guilt and shame—about the wrong things. We're ashamed of our bodies, our abilities or lack thereof, of things other people did to us when we were too young or powerless to stop it. We're ashamed of our natural desires for food or intimacy or companionship, and ashamed of our need for help even when doing hard things.

In the meantime, if we could just feel proper shame for the proper things—the good we have failed to do and the harm we have done, our pride and pettiness and selfishness and temper—we might be able to let shame do its best work, and free us to do better.

We will all die someday. But as Ezekiel reminds us: when we do harmful things, or fail to do good, it robs us of life-force sooner than it might. And turning from temper or transgression will give us a larger and more beautiful life than we've ever imagined.

### Prayer

God, mute the shame that doesn't serve, and turn up the volume on the shame that, acknowledged, will bring me back alive again.

## Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, children/youth gatherings, coffee, and other hospitality services are currently suspended.
- While FCC and the State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level. Virtual services are offered ([facebook.com/fcchsv](https://facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://twitch.tv/fcchsv), or First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube) every Sunday.
- **Attendees, including children, will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the service will be broadcast (107.9) to the parking lot in the event of overflow attendance.
- Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors. The doors by the church office will be locked.
- Greeters will provide hand sanitizer to all who enter and provide masks for those who have not brought their own.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side aisles
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Following the service, rows will **leave by the side aisles** with the east aisle exiting through Family Services and the west aisle through the Narthex doors. (There will be directional signs.)
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Please, **no congregating indoors** before or after service - social distancing outdoors.
- **Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- **Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**