



### THE GIFT OF UNHURRIED TIME

By Rebekah Simon-Peter

The gift of unhurried time is a prize we long for these days. Pulling together online worship and doing remote ministry takes more time than anyone could have imagined. Many leaders have shared with me that they are weary to the bone. I can relate.

Most of my days are structured and filled to the brim with things to do. While I enjoy this and get a lot done, one key element is missing: free-flowing creative time with God.

As of this writing, I am once again in Florida spending time with my aging parents. Though busy here, I have stepped away from the intensive work of teaching, leading, and meetings and am receiving a gift that I had forgotten I needed: unhurried time.

Jesus spent unhurried time away from healing, teaching, and mentoring. He was the better for it. His life reminds me that spiritual leaders need unhurried time with the Spirit. Are you taking time away to hear from your soul?

As more of us get vaccinated and move around more freely, our calendars will quickly fill. As our days become packed with activity, anxiety may follow. Will you be open to hearing the message your soul is yearning to give you? If you'd like a more responsive, faith-filled congregation, it is time to do the inner work yourself. As you grow in both faith and skill, the world around you shifts. You will see it in your relationships, and in the culture of the congregation you lead. That's because an internal shift in consciousness, faith, and expectation precedes a shift in the people and culture around you.

Both John, the cousin of Jesus, and Jesus himself demonstrate this truth. They each grew in the knowledge and grace of God before they began their public, prophetic work. Their inner work was a prerequisite to co-creating miracles with God. Similarly, both the Twelve and the Seventy grew in their understanding of Jesus and his teachings before they could cast out demons, heal the sick or preach the Kin (g) dom.

Give yourself the gift of unhurried time to grow in the knowledge and grace of God. Then watch out, world, because you will be unstoppable!

#### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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/fchsv/videos](https://www.facebook.com/fchsv/videos)

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

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 22**, 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.**



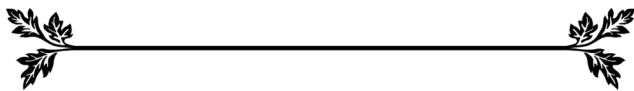
**WEEKLY  
PRAYER CONCERNS**



**Not Listed Online**

**HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP**

Christian Women Mission (CWM) hopes you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) during April. Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years and has also been devastated by several hurricanes. Life expectancy average is 63 years and adult illiteracy is over 51%. House of Hope is making a difference and so can we through a donation. Checks can be made to FCC with House of Hope in the memo line. Sponsorship is \$360 per year per child; CWM would love to sponsor two children, as we did last year. Please help us achieve this goal.



**SEVERAL OPEN DATES FOR  
FOOD BASKETS**

Sign up dates for **FOOD BASKETS** are 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 our Community Outreach committee for local needs.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

April 4 - (Easter Sunday) 95  
April 11 - 66  
April 18 - 64

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**  
New Vision Christian Church  
Birmingham, AL



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Randy & Anita Wood's 45th anniversary.



## SEEKING DONATIONS FOR HOME # 27

We completed Home # 26 last year during the pandemic. We did not work many hours on the house but did contribute \$4,000 to its construction cost. Eight partner families moved into their new homes during the pandemic. Their experiences and how they live their lives have changed dramatically since moving. Their children can run and play outdoors after a long day inside because they now live in a safe neighborhood with adequate space for learning and working from their home. The knowledge that their home was built to code and standards promotes an environment of health and safety. We are making a difference. This new Habitat neighborhood will have 31 homes when completed.

We are changing lives one home at a time. Please help us with time, talent or treasure on Home # 27. Write your check to FCC with Habitat on the memo line if you would like to contribute. Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

## CHURCH OFFICE

*Correction from last week. Thursdays are Paul and Matt.*

The current Church Office hours continue as normal. Open Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm except closed from 12:30 - 1:30 pm for lunch. While the office had been minimally staffed with one person per day due to COVID precautions, staffing is now being increased to two persons assigned per day. The reduced staffing schedule is as follows. Mondays – Lynn and Rick. Tuesdays – Lynn, Paul, and Rick. Wednesdays – Laura and Matt. Thursdays - Paul and Matt. Fridays - Laura and Rick. The staff continues to work from home (Zoom meetings, email, phone calls, etc.) when they are not in the office and come in the office when their work cannot be done from home. As always, it is a good idea to call before coming to the office to see a particular person and make sure they are available (meetings, projects, errands, vacation, etc.).

Church members/office visitors should continue not using the North entrance of the church.

*Office continued next column...*

*Office continued...*

This entrance is temporarily for ECM staff and children only during the current healthcare crisis. Members/visitors are directed to use the separate Church Office entrance, signs are pointing the way, about 40 feet East of the North entrance. There is a doorbell to request entry/assistance.

## UP ALL NIGHT

by Jennifer Brownell

*Then King Darius returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.*

- Daniel 6:18 (NIV)

When I was graduating from high school, one of my parents' friends asked me what I was most looking forward to about college. I did not have to think twice. "I can't wait to stay up all night!" I exclaimed. I had no idea what people who stayed awake all night did, but the idea of not having to be obedient to a curfew seemed to me the height of mature sophistication.

Alas, the first time I stayed awake all night was less a party and more a festival of regret as I struggled to begin a paper that had been assigned weeks before. "If only I'd started earlier," I stewed. Moving past the regret, then as now, was like wading through wet cement. I was still writing when the sun rose.

In the book of Daniel, King Darius, following the advice of his scheming advisors and possibly his own jealous heart, throws Daniel into a den of lions. Whatever party he had planned to follow this action, his night instead turns into a regret fest.

But the king's regret does not paralyze him, as mine so often does. If you keep reading, you find that Darius jumps out of bed at first light and runs to make right what he has done wrong. There he encounters the living God.

What's keeping you from sleeping at night? If you're mired in regret, the story of King Darius is a reminder that you don't have to stay stuck there. God's blessing awaits on the other side of morning.

**Prayer** - Holy God, Grant us respite from the toss and turn of regrets tonight and every night. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** for the Election of Officers on **Sunday, May 2**, following 9:30 a.m. worship service.

**FCC Nominees for 7/1/21-6/30/23**

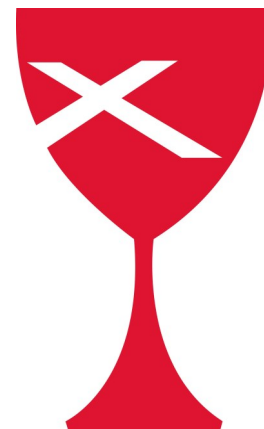
Position Agreed to serve

Moderator	Andy Herron
Moderator Elect	Pam Clasgens
Treasurer	Jon Ahlbin
Asst Treasurer	Roger Sameck (1year)
Financial Secretary	Dick Christiansen
Asst Financial Secretary	Don Coburn
Asst Financial Secretary	Terry Sullivan
Elder	Monty Love
Elder	Cameron Douglas
Elder	Lisa Fitzgerald
Elder	Margaret J. Vann
Elder	Roberta Shivers
Elder	Nancy Woodall
Elder	Sabrina Beckman
Elder	Lee Boles
Deacon	Frank Fitzgerald
Deacon	Carrie/Kyle Love
Deacon	Marilee Keim
Deacon	Diane Douglas
Deacon	Sharifa Love-Rutledge
Deacon	Beverly Cannon
Deacon	Chris Haury
Deacon	Susan Griffin
Convener	Mary Ann Anderson
Convener	Anita Wood
Convener	Nancy Waites
Convener	Phyllis Leonard
Trustee	Lee Boles
Trustee	Dick Christiansen
Trustee	Dale Thomas

**Sanctuary Service Protocols**

**(Revised April 8)**

- 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.
- 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.
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- **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**



## CHURCH CALENDAR

The following are the known\* church related activities.

### April

- 19 10:30 am Quilters
- 21 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 22 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 26 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 28 9 am Breakfast Bunch  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study

### May

- 2 10:30 am Congregational Meeting
- 3 10:30 am Quilters
- 5 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 6 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 9 Mother's Day
- 10 9:15 am Esther Circle  
10:30 am Conveners  
10:30 am Quilters
- 12 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 13 10 am Bible Study - The Walk  
6:00 pm Zoom Board Meeting
- 17 10:30 am Quilters
- 19 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 20 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 24 10:30 am Quilters
- 28 9 am Breakfast Bunch  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study
- 27 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 31 Memorial Day - Church Office Closed  
10:30 am Quilters

\* 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.