



The Journey

Volume XXIX No. 30
July 26, 2021
www.fcc-hsv.org

COME AWAY A WHILE

As always, Vacation Bible School was a wonderful experience, however this year it was more meaningful for several reasons. It was great to see the kids, parents, and volunteers back in the building. Last year our VBS was virtual, and while I was incredibly pleased that we could still reach out to the children in our community and in our congregation, it was certainly not the same experience that we are used to. To be able to see the children's faces, learn not only their names but understand their personalities, and work with the volunteers shoulder to shoulder was truly a joy.

I was also able to work with my own children this year. With Abby soon heading off to college and Joe beginning High School, I know that these experiences will soon be hard to come by. It is always a humbling but proud moment to see how they have grown in the past few months. Even during quarantine, at home schooling, and all the other pressures they have faced over the past few months, they are growing and developing into fine young people. The same can be said for the other youth who participated as well. We often joke that we are one big family, so it is great to see my wider family open their hearts and lives to the children at VBS. Of course, afterward the volunteers are all tired, but it is a good typed of exhaustion, the kind the comes after you know you have done something difficult but worth wile.

A few weeks ago, during worship, our gospel passages from Mark focused on Jesus sending out the disciples to continue the work of Christ's ministry. He had prepared them spiritually but reminded them to trust in God by asking them to pack light, to accept hospitality wherever they found it, and if they found rejection, to shake the dust off their feet and move on. In the same way Jesus prepares us for the work of ministry, asking us to move away from our comfort zones and sharing the good news with those who truly need it. When the disciples came back, Jesus wanted to hear their stories, but he also knew they needed time to rest, to "come away for a while," so they could understand how their experiences changed the people they reached out to, and how they had changed them.

This week we rest and reflect, but we cannot rest forever. The next journey will soon begin, and we must be ready. However, I know that as a church family we will continue to meet the challenges ahead of us, study, pray, and educate ourselves, and work together to spread the message and mission of Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing what the future holds, Amen.

Reserve your meal for the 2021-23 MISSION FAMILY KICKOFF!

August 8, 2021 at 430 p.m. McMains Hall and Family Services

FCC will provide box suppers (sandwich, chips, drink and cookie) from Schlotzsky's. Contact the office (office@fcc-hsv.org or 256 881-0150) by Tuesday, August 3rd, with your choice of a ham, turkey, or veggie sandwich. (Sandwich order sign-up sheets are also available in the Lobby on Sunday.)

Following the meal, we will break into our four new groups to briefly introduce our leaders, mingle with fellow members, and discuss ideas for the new term.

All, please come!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 29**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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



**AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS**



**SHORT TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Not Posted Online

Not Posted Online

**IN PERSON & ONLINE
WORSHIP SERVICES**

We offer in-person worship services Sunday mornings at 9:30 or you may also stream them live at 9:30, or watch previous services anytime, on [facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv), or search First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube.

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 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

Big Union
Letohatchee, AL

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, JULY 4

Service: 92
Small Groups: 30

OPEN DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS

September 5, 12 & 19
October 17
November 14
December 5 & 26



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Margaret Vann, CWM publisher, by CWM.





**LONG TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Not Posted Online

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.



TAKE ME TO THE RIVER by Vicki Kemper

Jesus called over a child and said, "I'm telling you, once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in." - Matthew 18:2-3 (MSG)

I love sweep rowing. I rise to the challenge of moving in sync with my crew, and I rejoice in the beauty of sunrise on a river that feeds bald eagles and great blue herons. Rowing gives me joy, community, fitness, and a sense of accomplishment.

But before the advent of coronavirus vaccines, eight rowers to a boat was not Covid-safe. To row through the pandemic, we had to go back to square one and start over like children. We became a club of solitary rowers in long, skinny boats.

On my first day of sculling, I flipped the boat even before leaving the dock. On the second day I ran aground on a sandbar. On the fourth day I flipped the boat in the middle of the river. On the fifth day I considered giving up.

Writer-activist Valarie Kaur says, "Discomfort is the beginning of transformation." Jesus says starting over is the beginning of the childlike humility that opens our hearts to God.

On my sixth day of sculling humiliation, I began to feel more at ease in the boat. Eventually, I grew to love sculling.

Whenever the painful realities of racism and other injustices discomfort, discourage, and tempt me to quit the struggle, I remember my early sculling days. Whether we're learning something new or trying to transform something old and ongoing, the only way out is through.

PRAYER

Take me to the river, rock me to square one, until I am fit to dwell in your heart.