



The Journey

Volume XXIX No. 39
September 27, 2021
www.fcc-hsv.org

RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING

by Karon Alexander



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

Years ago, while walking to my predominately white middle school, I witnessed something that has been preserved

in my memory for decades. Several yards ahead of me was Josette; a girl I barely knew. Although her skin color was the same as the majority of the students, her appearance was drastically different from other female classmates. She wore long dark skirts, sweaters, heavy black brogans, and often kept a scarf tied around her head (not a burka or hijab). As we approached the schoolyard, I could hear a few boys yelling at her. As I got closer, I heard these words: “Go back to where you came from you nasty Jew!”, “You’re ugly!”, “Nobody wants you here!” There were other unkind statements. Even though I didn’t know what a Jew was, I knew that their actions were wrong. I looked ahead, pretending to not hear or see anything, and went straight to my class.

The prophet Isaiah admonishes God’s beloved in Isaiah 56:1 to, “Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.” Frequently, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that “The time is always ripe to do what is right”. The message is clear: We are to do what is right with the time God has given us. It is a precious gift like the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus. How I wish I had the courage to take time to do what was right on Josette’s behalf.

The Ministry of Reconciliation offers each of us the opportunity to “do what is right”. Your giving supports diversity & inclusion through leadership development in our colleges, provides grants to ministry partners to further the work of anti-racism. It creates opportunities to heal our brokenness by promoting relationship-building through our One Bag of Tea program, and by equipping congregations to be advocates for racial justice in their communities. Yes! The time is always ripe to reveal God’s justice. Thank you in advance for your generosity to Reconciliation Ministry!

Our special offering was taken on September 26, and will be taken again on **October 3, 2021**. Half of your gifts will go directly to support Reconciliation Ministries in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region while the other half will be used for nation and worldwide efforts. Please note “Reconciliation Offering” for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to First Christian Church - Huntsville. Your advocacy and financial support are much appreciated.

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 [youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw)

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 30**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

AV VOLUNTEERS

The Audio Visual team is looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday service. Since we are now live streaming, recording and using slides during our services this takes more assistance. We need volunteers to help with the slides and with the camera. No skills are necessary as training will be provided. We are asking for volunteers to be available one Sunday a month. If you are interested please contact the church office at office@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150).



SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sept. 27 10:30 am Quilters
- Sept. 29 6 pm Men's Group
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Sept. 30 10 am Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 4 10:30 am Quilters
- Oct. 6 6 pm Men's Group
Phoebe Circle
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Oct. 7 10 am Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 11 9:30 am Esther Circle
10:30 am Quilters
5 pm Conveners' Meeting
- Oct. 12 6 pm Elders' Meeting
- Oct. 13 6 pm Men's Group
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Oct. 14 10 am Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 18 10:30 am Quilters
- Oct. 20 6 pm Men's Group
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Oct. 21 10 am Women's Bible Study

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



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Maranda Wood's birthday by Anita & Randy Wood.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
Madison Christian Church
Madison, AL



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Service: 63
Small Groups: 14

SHARING THE JOY

Mission Family 3 invites you to join us in a unique celebration of the engagement of Stan Ball and Audrey Eckart. Many of you will recall watching Stan grow while being in our midst with his Mom and Dad, Karen and Matt. Please take time to learn more of Stan and Audrey's story on the website below. Even though we will not have the opportunity to celebrate in person, as a church family we are sending love and congratulations to the couple with anticipation of their wedding October 29, 2021. Checkout their website below as "Their story" is very special www.theknot.com.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN OCTOBER

Our sister Disciples of Christ church in Huntsville, Grateful Life Community Church, provides ministry, food, clothing, tent housing, blankets, reading glasses, bikes, over-the-counter medicines, and toiletries to those within our community who have little in the way of material goods. Also, at this time, Grateful Life's van needs repair. In October, please give generously your monetary donations that may be used for these purposes. Make your check to FCC with 'Grateful Life' in the memo line.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Anderson

Morris Elementary School is ready to meet many of the unexpected hygiene needs this school year due to the generous donations made to the August Community Outreach project. Miss Kristie, Morris nurse, will be able to provide dry underpants after a student's bathroom accident, or a bottle of shampoo to take home after a student was teased or harassed about smelly hair, or socks to wear with sandals on a cold day. Your donations of \$835.00 will make a difference in the lives of many of the youth at Morris.

Thank you.

DETAILS

by Kenneth Samuel

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Psalms 139:1 & 3 (NIV)

Details.

They can be interesting. They can be boring. They can be disturbing.

Most often, we'd rather deal with the finished product and be spared all the cumbersome details. The details of government raise too many eyebrows, the details of sausage making are repulsive, and the details of life seem easier to accept when they're glossed over.

Many of us take painstaking efforts to present the appropriate version of ourselves to the appropriate audiences at the appropriate times. Not everyone can relate to the totality of our complex personalities. Motown singer Smokey Robinson wondered how a person could be daylight and darkness at the same time.

It's been said that having someone who loves you is having someone who pays attention to the details of your life. We would be little more than faces in a crowd or statistics on a spreadsheet if it were not for those who look after us with care and specificity, and who get to know us personally and intimately.

If loving someone is indeed paying attention to the details of that person's life, we should take supreme delight in the love of God. All the bitter-sweet, idiosyncratic, nice-nasty, self-conflicted details that make us who we are... all those details are more evident to God than they are to us.

Yet we are redeemed by grace, anointed to serve, endowed with heavenly treasure, and deemed more than conquerors, despite all the details that would disqualify us.

Love so amazing can only be received gratefully and shared liberally with others.

Prayer

Gracious God, in the words of Sly & the Family Stone, I want to thank you for letting me be myself again. Amen.

