



The Journey

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THE ROCKS ARE CRYING OUT: SHOW UP; SPEAK UP; STAND UP

In Luke 19:39 to 40 we read that some of the Pharisees in a crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher rebuke your disciples.” “I tell you,” he replied “If they keep quiet the stones will cry out.” Though we know that God’s spirit will cause the stones to cry out if we remain silent, when it comes to being an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church, silence is not an option. Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry allow your communities and your congregations to ensure the human dignity of every child, to ensure all have access to Christ’s abundance, to fully flourish in education, and financial stability, and friendships across God’s human diversity.

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is used to fund our Church’s mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship, and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship, and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Why Have a Special Offering?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a history dating from the 1960s of sharing our resources to address the racism of our society and the racism within our own church. We have called this process the Reconciliation Ministry. We receive this offering in the fall and use the funds throughout the year to give grants to the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism initiative to organize to dismantle systems and structures that perpetuate this sin of division within the Church. The 2020 Vision adopted by our church names this work as one of the four priorities of our mission together as a whole church. This voluntary annual offering is the only source of funding for this ministry.

The form of this ministry may be changing, but the need for addressing racism has never been more obvious. As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) lives into its identity as a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world” contributions to this offering facilitate camp and conference and leadership development opportunities as well as programs for dialogue across difference that promotes life-giving community within our beloved church and among the whole family of God.

If you are able, I hope that you will give to this life changing ministry, participate in our Reconciliation Study, beginning on September 30th at 6:00 pm, (This will be a Zoom study. Please contact Pastor Paul or the church office for more information.), and continue to hold our nation and the world in prayer as we confront the evils of racism and fear. Thanks be to God, Amen.

On October 4th, we join Disciples of Christ churches across the US and Canada to collect a special offering for *Reconciliation Ministry* to promote healing, relationship, and restoration in the whole family of God. One-half (50%) of the *Reconciliation Ministry Offering* is returned to our region; the other 50% supports pro-reconciliation, anti-racism activities through the general church. You can note Reconciliation through any of our ways of donating that you are contributing to this special offering. Please give generously.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 1,** at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Listed Online

Not Listed 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.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

First Christian Church
Robertsdale, AL

JOIN US FOR THE 9:00 AM SUNDAY DRIVE-IN/TAILGATE WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited to come in your vehicle as a family unit and you can stay in your car or you can bring chairs to sit in your parking space. **The service is broadcast on FM 107.9** (limited to the parking lot area) so you may tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. There is also a public address system for those sitting outside their vehicles. We ask that you maintain social distancing and that if you leave your car you will wear a mask. **Please bring your own communion elements.** They will be blessed and we will partake together.

Drive in service attendance:
September 27 - 57 (plus 2 dogs)

CONDOLENCES to the family of Sandra Green, sister in law of Walt Keller, who recently passed.

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually 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 and 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 our Pastors by Marie Bittle.

LITANY OF PURPOSE

by Donna Schaper

Because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me! - Luke 18:5 (NIV)

Finally, the widow broke the judge down. She shook her finger and her face at him and on him just enough to finally prevail. She was a pest. If you have ever been pestered, you know her. She has no boundaries. She doesn't know when to stop. She is like a virus, infecting all within reach. She is powerful. She needs a flyswatter or a vaccine or a test or all three.

The widow, above all, was focused.

One of the things the pandemic has taught us is focus. Or, more accurately, what it is to not be able to focus. It's common to hear people talking about how they lost focus and hope to find it on the way back in.

What is focus? It is concentration that isn't interrupted by your missing cell phone or something even less trivial. It is the purity of heart that wills one thing. The widow had a lot of that. Focus is behavior that has mission centrality and mission consistency. You know what you are supposed to do. You have the capacity to do it. You know you did what you were supposed to do when you go to bed at night. You rest well because you know you did what you were supposed to do.

How to find purpose in times like these? Especially since we don't know the name of the times, or what the old name for the old times really was, or what the new name for the new times will really be.

What story will we tell about ourselves during the pandemic?

"I was fine."

"I survived."

"I coped."

Or:

"I called myself beloved, and the earth called my name back to me."

Prayer

Focus us, O God, on what really matters. Let the rest go by. Amen.

REV. LINDA LOU CURWOOD

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Some of you may remember Rev. Linda Lou Curwood, Case back then, who served as our first Minister of Christian Education from 1963-1972. On October 11, 1970, she was ordained into the ministry by Rev. Dr. John Jackson at First Christian Church in Huntsville. She is living with her husband, Rev. Bill Curwood, at 909 Quarter Horse Ct., Lexington, KY 40503 if you would like to send her well wishes on the 50th anniversary of her ordination.

FCC ONLINE

If you use Facebook, be sure to click Like and Follow (when you click on Follow, select See First) to keep up-to-date with church activities. www.facebook.com/fchsv/

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscribe and the Bell icon to get notifications when a new video is posted) or on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pg/fchsv/videos/ (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

Upcoming Scriptures & Sermon Titles

Sunday, October 4

Scripture Psalm 19
Matthew 21: 33-46
Sermon "The New Tenants"

Sunday, October 11

Scripture Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 22: 1-14
Sermon "Accepting the Invitation"

Sunday, October 18

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22: 15-22
Sermon "Examples of Faith"