



The Journey

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REDEMPTION

In 2000, 23-year-old Cornealious Anderson III was arrested for robbing a Burger King at gunpoint. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison, released on bail, and told to await orders on when to show up to serve his time. The orders never came. Due to a clerical error, Anderson never went to prison.

Instead of continuing on his current path, Anderson decided this was a gift from God and changed his life. He started his own construction business, became a youth football coach, and volunteered at his local church. He got married, had three children, and became a well-liked member of his community.

Thirteen years later, the state discovered their error and put Anderson behind bars for nearly one year. As the case received international coverage, an online petition for his release gained more than 35,000 signatures. After a court hearing that lasted a mere 10 minutes, the judge conceded that Anderson was a changed man and granted him credit for the years he should have been in prison. A teary-eyed Anderson walked out of the courthouse with his wife and daughter, telling reporters that he was grateful to God. Cornealious Anderson understood the meaning of redemption.

Redemption can have different meanings for many. In the Christian vernacular it means the liberation of the world from the bondage of sin. Christ paid the ultimate debt on the cross, taking the sins of the world upon himself and in that action redeemed the world. Redemption allows for a new kind of connection with God, the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross brought us into communion with our creator. We are not alienated; instead we are brought into communion with God.

In becoming closer to God we have also become closer with one another. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all the family of God. Through our faith we become one people, one fellowship of human beings in communion with each other. This allows society to be redeemed as well as individuals. This does not mean that we are not sinful or broken. Instead, it means that we have an opportunity to ask for forgiveness of our sins and that God will heal our broken lives and spirits with grace and love.

Redemption therefore becomes the entire saving act of Christ in our lives. Christ's redemptive act goes beyond our own personal salvation and moves to the salvation of the world. This means we are asked to look to the whole community of Christ, and to all of creation, and realize that they have been given a measure of this redemptive power. Christ's act of sacrifice and resurrection was for everyone and applies to everyone because we are all children of God.

In a time where our nation and world seems divided, I hope we keep the concept of redemption in our minds and in our hearts. We can all be changed, we have all received new hope from Christ. Perhaps if we focus on the humanity and worth of others, seeing the glory of Christ in them, this will lead us to treat all with respect and compassion, and when this happens unity cannot be far behind. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 8**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

**SUPPORT THE CWM
OCTOBER PROJECT**

The Christian Women's Ministry's community project for October is support for the Neaves-Davis Center for Children. The Neaves-Davis Center houses juvenile court intake and probation services, detention services, community service programs, and the community placement and supervision program. Additional programs for detained juveniles include food services, medical services, recreational services, and library services. Religious services and activities are also provided, partially funded through community religious groups and civic organizations.

Please join CWM in supporting this worthy service. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting "Neaves-Davis Center" and the amount.

Thank you, Janet Sholes



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

CONGRATULATIONS to A.J. Barr & Casey Harris on the birth of their daughter, Makenna Reigh Barr. Morgan is the proud big sister and Chris Barr is the proud Paw Paw.

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Don Williamson's birthday

**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:
October 4 - 52

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Grace Christian Church
Helena, AL

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



**TRUNK OR TREAT - "DRIVE-THROUGH PARADE",
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 (5-6 PM)**

On Sunday night, October 25, from 5:00-6:00 pm we are having our annual Trunk or Treat. Due to COVID we are making some changes to our format.

This year Trunk or Treat will be a Drive-Through Parade. These plans have been discussed as a Christian Education team and we agreed that we need to limit the number of people who attend. Our advertising this year will be focused on the FCC children & families and our ECM children & families. We will be using the parking lot that we use for the drive-in worship services and would still have 10-12 trunks decorated with church members in costumes. People attending the event would remain in their vehicles and drive through with us standing by our trunks waving. At the end of the parade there would be a couple church volunteers handing out backpacks with candy, snacks, fun activity packs, information about our church, etc. to the children in the vehicles.

We still need people to volunteer to provide their vehicle for a trunk. We also need people to donate bags of candy or monetarily. Please contact Pastor Laura if you would like to volunteer at laura@fcc-hsv.org

~Reverend Laura West



**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.

WALKING PARTNERS NEEDED

Hello Everyone! I am in need of a walking partner(s) to join me and help to keep me motivated to get up off the chair or couch and get a little exercise. I would like to be able to walk at a decent pace but not too fast. I am just getting started. I would like to use the Greenway path and meet (2-3) times a week to start..

If interested, email me at cmlove999@gmail.com and we can start a conversation about what to do and when, etc.

Shalom, Monty Love



**UPCOMING SCRIPTURES &
SERMON TITLES**

Sunday, October 11

Scripture Psalm 23
Philippians 4: 4-9
Sermon "Accepting the Invitation"

Sunday, October 18

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

Sunday, October 25

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
Matthew 22: 34-46
Sermon "It's About Love!"

YOU ARE SO SPECIAL, YOU KNOW

by Jennifer Brownell

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. - Psalm 8:4-5 (NRSV)

“Sunday – Aug. 9 1981. Dear Jennifer. Your letter from camp came yesterday. I am so glad you are enjoying it and making friends.”

Among a stack of teen love notes and cartoons clipped from The New Yorker, these words jumped out at me. My Grammy wrote thousands, maybe tens of thousands, of letters in her life. This is the only one I have, and I didn't even know I had it until I started going through an old box last week.

“I pray daily for you,” I read, “and for the people who influence you. You are so special, you know, and I love you so much!”

“You are so special, you know.” At 13, writhing with self-conscious self-loathing, I knew nothing of the kind. But the words must have touched a nerve or else why would I have saved this little note when so much else has been tossed or lost?

I was much more likely to be reading Trixie Belden on my camp bunk in the afternoon than Psalm 8. So the still-speaking God delivered the good news in a note from my grandmother instead: reminding a lonely girl on the edge of womanhood that she was crowned in glory and honor, although she most assuredly did not know it yet. And thirty years later, like a book opened at just the right page, the words hit home again,

“You are so special, you know.”

Prayer

Beautiful Grandmother God, thank you for the messengers you send our way again and again and again, to remind us of how special you have made us. Amen.



The youth and some adults completed the following tasks after church service on Sunday, September 27.

Pulled weeds and removed the old hydrangea blossoms from the upper island, pulled the ivy off the azaleas beside McMains, pruned the dogwood tree in the Shirley Jackson Island, removed some large weeds from the side of the Sanctuary, and fertilized the entire 10,000 square foot lawn around the church. That was over 21 man-hours of work that I do not have to do. We celebrated with pizza and cold drinks. Thanks to you all.

Bob Senn, Assistant Property Manager for the Exterior of the Church

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-IDhugUnUhCKw (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscibe 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.)