



The Journey

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www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 21** at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

FORGIVENESS

On occasion I meet with church going folks for pastoral counseling. It's a part of the job. In both couple and personal counseling, do you want to guess what is the most common pastoral counseling topic or question? It has to do with forgiveness. Is that surprising? Why can't we seem to forgive one another and move on with love? Yes, I know some things happen that are very, very hard to forgive. I'm thinking of things like battered women, date rape, or child abuse and exploitation that top the list in my counseling experience. How do you (or should you) even forgive an abusive predator? – Now that is a tough question and it takes time to come to terms and "grieve" about it. Ultimately there is no other choice than to turn your anger, hurt, and pain over to God. God can take it because God is a BIG God, bigger than your problems and able to help you through that forgiveness.

There is an old story about three children in a family who had a heated argument that led to what might be described as a "knock-down, drag out fight," and they were all sent to their respective rooms.

About 2:30 in the morning there was a violent thunderstorm with strong winds, rain and hail. The father went upstairs to see if the children were all right and to close some windows. The father looked in the children's rooms but they were not there. He called the children by name and asked: "Where are you?" A meek, plaintive voice spoke back in answer: "We are all here in the closet forgiving one another!"

Isn't that a magnificent story about forgiveness? Frequently we may be in the same situation as the children in the story. We get angry and hurt one another; sometimes we say words we do not mean. Our

resentment builds and often explodes into anger, even physical harm.

There comes that time when we realize that we need one another. We face a crisis, one of life's storms, and we are drawn together in mutual respect and concern. We cannot face life unless we forgive one another. The implication in the story is that the children had the resources necessary to face the storm only as they loved one another with a sense of forgiveness. The Christian community ought to be like that, a forgiving, loving, caring group of persons.

The scripture says, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, compassion, kindness, forbearing one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all else put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of God rule in our hearts" (Col. 2:12-15).

It is nice to be a part of such a community as this one here at FCC. I have found you to be very forgiving, tolerant and loving. As the Christian song, "They Will Know We Are Christians" says, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that our unity will one day be restored; And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love."

YES, absolutely in the church especially, we ought to be able to say through the Spirit of God, we forgive and are able to love one another.

I'll See you Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

SUNDAY, JULY 24
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Hosea 1:2-10
Epistle Colossians 2:6-15
Sermon Text Luke 11:1-13
Sermon Title "Knock, Knock"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

Dave Crockett & Jan Mackenzie

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Rick Shrout

SERVING COMMUNION

Lisa Fitzgerald & Roberta Shivers
Rick & Kay Shrout

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Carolyn Brown

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Rebecca Denise Ball by Matt, Karen & Stan Ball

SUNDAY'S FLOWERS are Open

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Nancy Woodall

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

On Break Until August 7

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

On Break Until August 14

THANK YOU

The family of Charlotte Hampton would like to thank the members of FCC for their texts, calls, prayers, hugs, donations and serving of food for the family, and their presence at her Celebration of Life service on Tuesday. We were touched by each you, and are grateful to God for the many friends we have made here over the years.

2016 BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Survey results will be presented to the Congregation on Sunday, August 28, at an all Church Lunch after second service. We will make decisions on how to proceed as we develop the Master Building Plan with Chapman Sisson Architects.

Please mark your calendar for this important meeting in the life of our church.

The Time Is Now For Sure!

Bob Senn, Chair

NURSERY HELPERS SIGN UP

Please sign up to help our paid attendants once a month to help provide a safe and loving environment for our infants and toddlers. We need one adult volunteer for each room each Sunday. The new sign up sheets are in the Commons area for August and September when we go back to two services. Times have been modified to allow you to attend worship either early or late, and still help with the children (8-9:30 or 9:30-11:30). We also need volunteers for the last of July for the unified service. Call Linda Lykins or Sue Seward if you need more information.

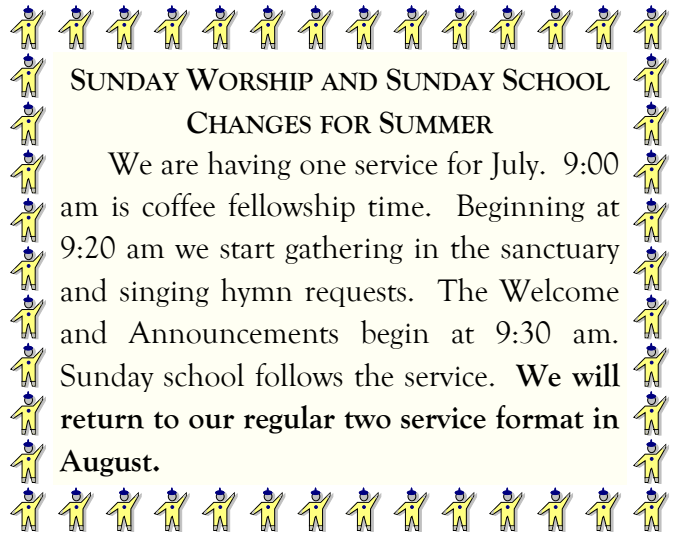
The 2016 sign up charts for FLOWERS & FOOD BASKETS are located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and Flowers or Food Basket on the notation line.

ATTENDANCE		7/3	7/17
9:20 am	Unified Worship	117	111
10:40 am	Sunday School	29	30
	Children's Church	3	NA
	Young Disciples	NA	NA
	Total Worship	120	111

SUMMER BLAST!

For the first time ever Community Outreach is hosting a “Summer Blast” Party for the Aquarius Club, an organization for mentally challenged adults. In the past this has been a “Christmas in July” party. If you would like to help, we need the following: small toiletries (hotel articles), small, individually packaged food items, such as raisins or crackers, and small gifts for the gift bags such as sunglasses, sunscreen, visors, etc. This year we are short on Bingo prizes and would really appreciate new or gently used items, especially summer items like t-shirts, playing cards, flip flops, flashlights, etc.! Volunteers are needed to attend the party on July 25 and to fill bags on July 24 in McMains at 10:30 AM. If you prefer, money is appreciated to help pay for pizza and needed items. Just write a check to FCC with “Summer Blast” on the memo line.

Items can be placed in the basket in the commons area. Come join in the fun at the Cooper House (the old Federal Building) across from Central Presbyterian Church at 406 Randolph Ave. on July 25 at 10AM.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHANGES FOR SUMMER**

We are having one service for July. 9:00 am is coffee fellowship time. Beginning at 9:20 am we start gathering in the sanctuary and singing hymn requests. The Welcome and Announcements begin at 9:30 am. Sunday school follows the service. **We will return to our regular two service format in August.**

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

- 21st Century Vision Team