



The Journey

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UNPACKING THE GOSPEL

When you have to sort, decide what you want to keep, pack and then unpack everything that you own you discover quite a bit about yourself. For instance, evidently Patti and I love potholders and aprons. So far every box that we have opened for the kitchen has contained one, if not several of these items. I used to collect aprons from chili cook-offs and wild game feeds that I participated in, you have to know that aprons at these events are like t-shirts everyone gives them away. Sometimes it makes me wonder where we put all of this stuff and why we kept it in the first place.

However, we have also encountered items that we forgot we had or mementoes that we have been looking for and finally found. Many of these items are special like the small ceramic angel given to me by a wonderful woman in my first church who purchased the home my grandparents built in North Carolina. She found the angel in the attic and kept it, until she gave it to me over forty years later. These possessions spark memories and remind us of friends and family that are not with us anymore.

I think that the scriptures are a lot like these possessions. Sometimes we unearth a rare gem that for some reason we forgot about, but that we desperately need to hear that day. Or perhaps we read a favorite story, one that we have read countless times, but on this day we find a new way that it relates to our lives or it triggers a different understanding of our relationship with God. This is why we read, study and then repeat with the bible again and again. It is why we should continually reevaluate our beliefs and challenge our faith. This is why we continue to pray and open ourselves to the voice of God, it is because we are not done, we are never done, we continue to learn, develop, and change in this journey we call faith.

So I invite you to do a little unpacking in the weeks ahead. Think about why we do things the way we do them in our lives and in the church. Evaluate your relationship with God and see how it can be made stronger, and above all, remember that the love of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer continues to challenge, inspire, and make us new each and every day. Together I am sure we will find something wonderful, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Save The Date

There will be a congregational information meeting on Sunday, September 17, following second service. Please plan on attending!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 7**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Office Hours: 9am - 5pm M-F**
Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages - 9:15 a.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Sermon Scripture Romans 13: 8-14
 Sermon "The Power of Love?"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dave Crockett & Mark Stiles
 10:30 Mark Stiles & Mike Lash

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Delores Edgeton

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Lisa Fitzgerald & Kathi Luzar
 Chuck & Penny Jackman

 10:30 Nancy Adams & Marie Bittle
 Beverly Cannon & Matt Ball
 Ruth Lackey

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Rick & Kay Shrout

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Claire Hampton's birthday by John Paul Hampton

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep
 Pastor Laura, Brady Johnson, Tré Davis, & Anna Roberts

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)
Follow Me
 Christi Sexton, Dave Sexton,
 Sarah Brockway, & Ty Davis

ATTENDANCE	8/20	9/3
First Service Worship	49	43
Sunday School	29	39
Second Service Worship	104	95
Children's Church	0	7
Young Disciples	5	NA
Total Worship	158	145

WE JOIN FORCES WITH HEROES TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN

In September Community Outreach and CWM are working together to support Shop With a Hero, a project designed to give less fortunate children in our community a Merry Christmas. The children will be given \$100 gift cards and will shop with the aid of a Hero. These Heroes are either active or retired military, police, fire fighters, first responders, teachers, medical personnel, etc. You can give toward this project in September by writing a check to FCC with Shop With a Hero on the memo line. Any amount is appreciated. As always, thanks for helping the less fortunate in our community.



Community Outreach and
 Christian Women's Ministries



Sunday, September 10, is **Fill the Cart for the Food Pantry**. Bring one non-perishable item or several. St. Paul's has empty shelves. Let's help fill them. As always your donations of food items are appreciated at any time.

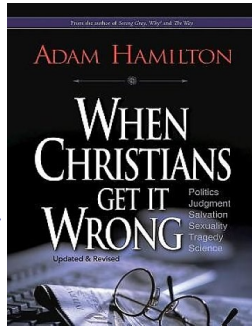
Thank you,
 Community Outreach Committee

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at: www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com
MISS A SERMON? See previous sermons at: www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/

ATTENTION!
 First Christian Church will have a combined service at **10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 24**. Our Regional Minister John Mobley will conduct an installation service for Pastor Paul Allen and will have a commissioning service for Pastor Linda Davis. Plan to attend and support our ministers.
 Margaret J. Vann
 Worship Chair

WHY DO PEOPLE STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH?

Do you wonder what keeps people away from church? Adam Hamilton offers some insightful ideas in his book "When Christians Get It Wrong." A short-term study of the book and DVD will be offered Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m., beginning Sept. 26. This study may take you out of your comfort zone as we examine our attitudes toward politics, salvation, sexuality, and science. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office and on the table by the Commons Area (**deadline is Sept. 20**). Contact Ann Thompson if you need further information.



WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2017

YMCA Camp Chandler. Wetumpka, AL

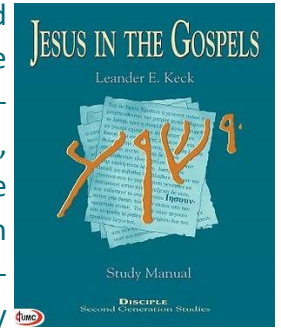
"Retreat to Refresh" Resource Leader - Rev Mary Beth Harper. Application forms are available in the Commons Area. Contact Mary Ann Anderson for more information.

HOW TO GIVE ON LINE?

Miss church, but would still like to give your tithe or offering? You may give online through PayPal by going to the church website <http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/> and scrolling down to the donate button. You may designate your tithe or offering for the General Fund or specify a particular church ministry/fund. You may also designate if you would like this to be a recurring or single donation.

DISCIPLES STUDY

For all who are interested in furthering their study of the Bible, a 30 week Disciples Bible Study, is being offered, using the texts – Jesus in the Gospels and the companion text Jesus in the Gospels: Gospel Comparisons. This study will provide a comparison of the four Gospels with Jesus as the focal point and include additional Old and New Testament reading that support and set the stage for the words and events in the Gospels.



What is required: a commitment to daily assigned reading and attending a weekly 2 ½ hour class meeting that includes discussion and a short video. The work is well worth the effort as it will provide a means of enriching your faith through study of the words and works of our Savior.

The two texts required in this study are \$55.00. The class will meet weekly on Thursdays mornings, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Orientation for the class will be September 7, 2017 in the FCC library.

All who are interested are invited to sign up at the display posted in the commons area. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Fitzgerald at 256-508-4837 or at lisafitzgerald@hughes.net

THANK YOU

I want to express my gratitude to my church family for all of the expressions of sympathy that my family and I received after the death of my father. Each visit, card, and phone call was deeply appreciated.

Love,
Marie Bittle

