



The Journey

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UNITY IS OUR POLAR STAR

Barton W. Stone, one of the founders of our denomination, believed that Christian unity was central to faith. His lifelong conviction was that unity among Christians could be found only through the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In *The Christian Messenger*, Stone's monthly pamphlet, he shared his passion for destroying "sectarian props, creeds and names.", instead promoting "love, peace and unity among Christians." He referred to his passion as "the polar star to which our attention and exertion shall be chiefly directed."

For many disciples the phrase "Unity is our Polar Star" became one of the slogans that helped guide the church in the past, and we build on this idea as we continue to be involved in ecumenical work throughout the world. In Huntsville, our congregation belongs to the Southeast Huntsville Ministerial Association who in turn works with the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, or GHIMF, whose mission is to unite to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to serve the greater community. Together we worship with one another, support local charities, and continue to build the bonds of fellowship and Christian love.

Once a year, we are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17). Hearts are touched as Christians pray for unity of spirit and purpose. Congregations and parishes all over the world arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January.

This year, since the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity encompasses the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, our local Ministerial Associations decided not to hold a special service for this event. Instead we invite you to attend the local celebrations of Dr. King's life and influence. However, this does not mean we will not celebrate the Week of Christian Unity. We will hear about it in our worship service, pray for the unity of all believers, and recommit ourselves to Christ's command to spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. Unity is indeed our Polar Star, as it guides us to new relationships and shared dreams. Amen.

(Parts taken from "Our Polar Star": The legacy of Barton W. Stone and the United Council of Churches information on The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.)

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Share an hour or more of your time with our babies or toddlers once a month. Sign up poster is in the Commons for first service, Sunday School, or second service. If you are not on the Safe Church volunteer list, we can easily provide training. Call Pastor Laura, 256-881-0150, if you have any questions.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 17**, 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, JANUARY 20

Scripture 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
 Sermon "The Call to Ministry of All Believers"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Frank Fitzgerald & Gayle Herber
 10:30 Dave Crockett & Justin Givens

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gayle Herber

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Lisa Fitzgerald
 Chuck & Penny Jackman
 10:30 Tré Davis & Glenda Luft
 Charles & Pam Gilliland
 Troy Davis, Sr.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is memory of my beloved husband Bob by Velma Strong.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus in the Wilderness
 Chuck Jackman, Jan Mackenzie,
 Jacob Black & Troy Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Meets second and fourth Sundays

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith
 Sound - Michael Smith &
 Malcolm Landreth
 Stream Operator - Michael Smith

ATTENDANCE	1/6	1/13
First Service Worship	40	45
Sunday School	35	22
Second Service Worship	82	80
Young Disciples	NA	NR
Children's Church	7	6
Total Worship	129	131

**ANNUAL TRAINING & PLANNING EVENT
 FOR COMMITTEES**

On Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, there will be a Training & Planning Event for **all Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs**. The purpose of the event is to train committee chairs and co-chairs on church policies and major initiatives within the church. Additionally, the event will serve as an opportunity for the committees and church staff to map out the church calendar for 2019. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office.

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM

January has traditionally been blanket month for CWM service activity. Once again, CWM is partnering with Church World Service in their Blankets+ program. We are the "+" in the blanket project. FCC in Huntsville, Alabama, can make a difference all around the world as the need arises. \$10 can provide a warm blanket for anyone left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. Please consider a monetary donation to FCC with CWM "Blankets" in the memo line.



Margaret J. Vann

YOU ARE INVITED to join the Youth Ministry for a Valentine Day Lunch in the Family Services Room. This is our way of saying thank you for all of your support.



WHEN: Sunday, February 10th

TIME: 11:30 till 1:30PM.

The 2019 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is 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 Food Basket on the notation line.

2018 GIVING STATEMENTS

2018 Giving Statements are available in the Church Office during the week and on Sundays in the Narthex on **January 20th and 27th**. Please be sure to pick yours up so we can save on postage.



The Youth Ministry invites you to show off your cooking skills with a pot of Chili. February 3rd from 11:30-1:30 (After Second Service). The Youth Ministry will provide the condiments and drinks. A trophy will be given to this year's best Chili Cook.

First Christian Church owns four cemetery lots in Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, AL 35811). These lots are available at market value, either in pairs or four total. We are offering these to our members and friends before advertising through various outlets. If you would like more information, please contact Lee Boles.

Leeboles@aol.com for the Trustees

THANK YOU TO FCC

The family of Mack Vann thanks you all for your kind expressions of sympathy, prayers, gifts, and cards. Mission Family 1 gave a wonderful reception; the choir sang beautifully, Pastor Paul's eulogy was personal and great. The office staff went the extra mile to print more bulletins.

Thank you, First Christian Church.

Margaret J. Vann

RUMMAGE SALE



MARCH 1ST 8 AM- 5 PM

MARCH 2ND 8 AM-NOON

Time to clean out those closets and save your items for donations!!

Sign up posters for workers/volunteers will be in the Commons Area on February 3.

RUMMAGE SALE MEETING: February 24th following Second Service with a light lunch provided.

DROP OFF ITEMS: February 24th -28th

LARGE ITEM PICK UP: February 25th- 28th

GUIDELINES: No broken electronics or appliances; no CRT TVs or monitors; no personally recorded audio or video. Please try and box items that go together and tape remotes to the electronics they go with.

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS IN JANUARY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUPS HAVE RESUMED