



The Journey

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ASH WEDNESDAY IMPOSITION OF ASHES SERVICE Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 PM.

LENT AND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Lent is one of the seasons of the church that we tend to overlook. Often it is just a change in colors for the paraments and a long prelude to Easter, but Lent is so much more. In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for those who were to be newly baptized. The candidates for baptism would fast, pray and educate themselves about their new faith. The members of their faith community would join with these baptismal candidates as they readied themselves for the new life found in Christ. Even now, most Christian Churches hold baptism classes during Lent and baptize during the Easter season.

During Lent we remember our own baptisms and we also remember that we are imperfect. We are broken vessels, but through the love of God we have been made whole and useful again. I once read that the goal of Christianity is not perfection that is an unobtainable goal. Instead, we see the beauty in the struggle to become better people, those who do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

It is my hope that the Lenten Season and the dawning of Easter will bring a new sense of hope and purpose to our congregation. We must take the time to find our mission, what makes us unique as a church, and then work together to live for others and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. It is also important to understand that we do not undertake this mission alone, for we have a great deal of support from churches in our district, region, and the world.

One of the ways that we can learn more about our fellow members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama – Northwest Florida is to participate in the April 27-29, 2018 Regional Assembly. Our theme for this year is “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other”. Assembly gatherings will be held at Valley Christian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Our speaker on Friday evening will be our new General Minister and President the Rev. Terri Hord Owens.

We need to support our region at this event and other events to follow. A strong and unified denomination does not just help the General Church or the regions, it also helps local churches grow and develop. If you would like information on the Assembly or if you are unable to attend but wish to be an “Assembly Sponsor” please contact the church office. Let us join with churches throughout Alabama and Northwest Florida in discussion, worship, and action.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING following second service on Sunday, February 18.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 15**, 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, FEBRUARY 18

Sermon Scripture Mark 1: 9-15
Sermon "Baptism, Temptation, & Ministry"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Gayle Herber & Karen Ball
10:30 Bob Senn & Andy Herron

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Delores Edgeton

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Matt Ball
Rick & Kay Shrout
10:30 Sabrina Beckman & Beverly Cannon
Charles & Pam Gilliland
Marilee Keim

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Dinah Love

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Mike, Ben,
& John Burger's birthdays by Cindy Burger

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Lenten Puzzle
Nancy Woodall
Penny Jackman
Ty Davis
Macey Johnson

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	2/4	2/11
First Service Worship	38	42
Sunday School	33	42
Second Service Worship	101	88
Children's Church	11	5
Young Disciples	NA	7
Total Worship	150	142

Contact the Church Office, 256-881-0150, immediately if you own the red trailer parked behind the Sanctuary by the playground. It is about to be towed/sold.

TIME TO CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS!!

RUMMAGE SALE MEETING: February 18th following Second Service with a light lunch provided.

LARGE ITEM PICKUP: February 24th- 28th

ITEM DROP OFF: February 25th -28th.

RUMMAGE SALE: Friday, March 2nd 8:00 am- 5:00 pm & Saturday, March 3rd 8:00 am-Noon

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 **Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m., beginning February 14.** This study may take you out of your comfort zone as we examine our attitudes toward politics, salvation, sexuality, and science. A sign-up sheet is available on the table by the Commons Area (deadline is February 11). Contact Ann Thompson if you need further information.

OUCH! MY TOOTH HURTS!

For most of us, that means we call a dentist but for the poor in our community, that is not an option. In 2013, the Community Free Dental Clinic opened their doors to care for needy adults in Madison County and since that time, the Clinic has treated 6000 people. It is staffed with all volunteer dentists and assistants. There are also nurses who check vital signs of the patients and help with education on dental hygiene and other health issues. The Clinic mainly does extractions but is now able to do fluoride treatments as a preventive measure. CWM has selected the Clinic as our outreach project for February and invites you to join us by making a financial donation to this organization that is dependent on local revenue. You can make a check out to FCC with "dental clinic" in the memo line.

Thank you for caring.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please contact the office, 256-881-0150 or publisher@fcc-hsv.org, if you have changed your contact information since the August Church Directory. Please provide us with your cell phone number, or numbers (max of 2), if you have dropped your land line since the last directory. Also, we can publish one (1) email address per family, so let us know if your email address has changed or if you would like to list an email address in the directory. Deadline is February 26.

It is hard to find adequate words to express my appreciation, and that of my family, for the support and prayers we have received from the First Christian Church family over the past 40 plus years and most especially during the final chapter of Henry's life with us. The peace and strength we received from your love and encouragement has been humbling indeed. Over time, I hope to express my sincerest gratitude to you personally, but until I can please know our gratitude for all your expressions of love.

Nancy Waites

The collection for the Food Pantry is falling off, so Community Outreach is issuing a challenge to the congregation to try to get our item count up to 400 a month.



If each family brought at least one non-perishable item per Sunday, then we could easily make this count per month. This is such as inexpensive thing and so easy to do.

There are families in need of our help.

What do you say fellow members?



TAIZÉ SERVICE

Please join us on Sun., Feb. 25th at 6 pm for a Taizé service in the FCC sanctuary. For those unfamiliar with the Taizé experience, it is a quiet and reflective service of prayer, music and meditation.

Taizé is a community in France which was founded by Brother Roger and sheltered WWII refugees. They lived simple and quiet lives in order to not attract attention during this troubled time. They often went into the woods to sing and prayed silently to be respectful of all beliefs.

“Since my youth, I think that I have never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone. Gradually the conviction took shape in me that it was essential to create a community with men determined to give their whole life and who would always try to understand one another and be reconciled, a community where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the centre of everything.” Brother Roger: “God is love alone”

Let's all carve some time out of our hectic schedules to worship, commune and recharge before the start of a new week.

PARLOR FURNITURE FOR SALE

The Renovation Committee has decided to replace the four outdated large items of furniture in the Parlor. The two old sofas and two wing-backed chairs are for sale to members for a reasonable price before they will be placed in the rummage sale. The committee will deliver them within the city. These will be available for delivery after February 19. New replacement furniture has been purchased.

Contact Bob Senn or Rick ShROUT to make an offer.

Thank you, Renovation Committee

The Vine is offering “Monday Hope,” support for the healing journey including education, worship and prayer, on Mondays, Feb. 12th – March 26, 12PM to 1PM. Led by The Rev. Dr. Amanda Ragland at First Presbyterian Church, Gideon Blackburn House, 307 Gates Avenue. Free of charge. RSVP to vine-ministry@vinepcc.com or call 256-270-7399. For more information, go to: www.vinepcc.com.