



The Journey

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www.fcc-hsv.org

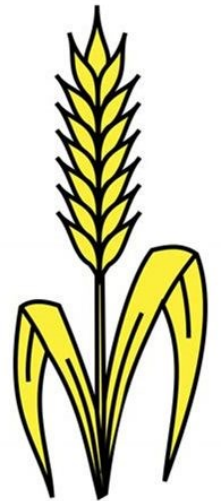
Spring is in the air, the Dogwoods are in bloom, we are in the midst of the season of Easter, and soon we will be looking forward to summer and a break from some of our activities. This seems to be a time of joy and new life for nature, but it is certainly a time of celebration for First Christian Church. We continue to enjoy the gifts of the Spirit, the joy new ideas can bring, and the hope we have for our future. Yet, it is important to note that with growth comes change. We are creating new missions for First Christian Church, ones that could lead us away from comfortable surroundings and into challenging arenas of faith. Yet, without change we will wither into nothingness and die. Change is not to be feared, but accepted and welcomed as a gift from God.

In Kansas, where wheat is life, I was told a story about two grains of wheat. They were very similar and were planted in a field close to each other. However, the first wheat kernel was not happy, it wanted something more, so it took in moisture and nutrients from the soil and it began to grow.

The second grain saw what the first kernel was doing and could not believe it. Why would a grain of wheat want to change, wasn't it happy? Then the first wheat kernel began to grow and split its shell. Roots developed at the base and a slender stalk appeared. The grain of wheat was in pain, but it kept growing.

The second kernel of wheat was now sure that growing was not worth it. Why go through the pain? It would be better to stay put. Soon the second kernel of wheat died. The first grain of wheat, now a long stalk and a head with many grains of wheat, sadly looked down at the second grain. It had withered away into nothingness, but the first grain of wheat continued to grow and prosper, and soon the field was full of long stalks of wheat.

It is my hope the First Christian Church will continue to grow and prosper as we accept the cost of discipleship and carry on the work of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Pastor Paul

Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 22, following second service to elect Moderator and Vice Moderator.

SAVE THE DATES

Pictures for the **new church picture directory** will be taken on Thursday, June 14, from 1 - 8 pm; Friday, June 15, from 1 - 8 pm; and Saturday, June 16, from 10 - 5 pm. We will have online signups and Sunday morning signups beginning April 29. Details to follow.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 12**, 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, APRIL 15

Scripture John 20: 19-31
 Sermon "Doubt and Faith"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Justin Givens & Karen Ball
 10:30 Mike Lash & Karen Ball

COMMUNION PREPARATION

TBA

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 TBA
 10:30 TBA

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Dinah Love

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of the Worship Committee by Margaret J. Vann

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus is Risen: The Road to Emmaus
 Chuck Jackman, Lee Boles,
 Troy Davis & Cara Sexton

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	4/1	4/8
Maundy Thursday Service	42	NA
First Service Worship	57	33
Sunday School	28	38
Second Service Worship	204	91
Children's Church	NA	NA
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Total Worship	294	124



House of Hope Haiti

APRIL CWM PROJECT

The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the United Church of Christ and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books and training. Christian Women's Ministries has sponsored two children at House of Hope in Haiti for the past two years at \$360 each. You can see their photos on the CWM bulletin board across from McMains Hall. We hope to sponsor at least these two again for a year and perhaps more through your generosity. Anyone can participate in this ministry of caring by designating your offering to CWM for the April project.

You can make a difference!

MISSION FAMILY 2 will have a pot luck lunch Sunday, April 22nd immediately following the Congregation Meeting at 11:30. We will gather in Family Services. Please bring a favorite dish and join us for fellowship and good food. We look forward to seeing each of you, and welcome those who are visiting.



The 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. Funds go to Huntsville Assistance Program.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4: 10

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

One way you can literally serve others is to serve Communion on Sundays. Please contact Gayle Herber if you are interested in serving Communion.

“The Lord’s Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all who are followers of Jesus Christ. The practice of Holy Communion has become the central element of worship within the Disciples tradition.”



disciples.org/our-identity/communion-and-baptism/

THANK YOU!

Because of your generosity, a check for \$1000 was sent to the Community Free Dental Clinic! The Clinic depends on the community to continue its vital service to the poor in Madison County. Your donation will make a difference to those in need - thank you for caring!

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at:

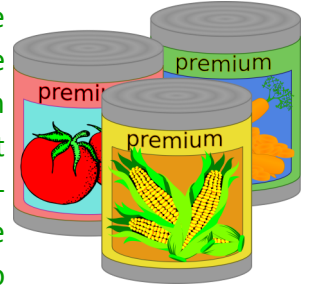
www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com

MISS A SERMON? See previous sermons at:

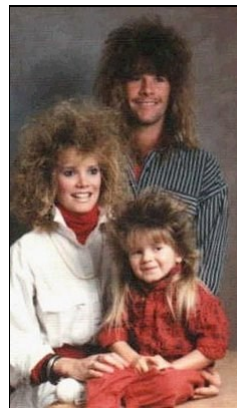
www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/

50%...AND GROWING

The March food donations for Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) were up to 228 items from the February total of 190. With the goal of 400, we are at 50% plus! Our youth faithfully joined the challenge during March to help to reach this total. Thank you to our caring youth.



Good habits are sometimes hard to develop, but our congregation is on the way to remembering to bring food items to donate to the collection for those less fortunate in the community. Could these habits become part of your giving and only 70% of the goal could be reached for April? **Let's give it a try.**



Has it been awhile since your last portrait was taken?

Save the dates: June 14 - 16!

Watch for details!

