



CHANGE IS COMING

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is often quoted as saying, "the only constant is change." This piece of wisdom has floated through my mind often in the past few weeks as I look ahead to future of the church. Some relish change and the new challenges and opportunities it brings, and for some change is something to be avoided at any cost. Transformation is seen as the enemy because it can lead us to reflect on past mistakes and acknowledge our growing edges. Change can be positive and negative depending on the circumstance but whatever group we may be in, we all have to admit to ourselves that a great deal of change has happened and will happen in the future.

In the past days, I have been reading about the difference between technical and adaptive change. Technical problems often have a rather clear cut solution. For instance, a water pipe breaks in the church, so you shut off the water, assess the damage, hire a company to clean up and then complete the repairs. A technical change is just that simple; a new worship time, class, program, or different music. Adaptive change is much more difficult. According to Scott Cormode, a professor at Fuller Seminary, "Adaptive challenges happen when we ask people to adopt new beliefs, when we hope people will pursue better values, or when we help people see that the ways that they have been doing things in the past will not work for them."

Often we believe that all problems can be solved by technical change. It can be easier, and who does not like the satisfaction of fixing a problem, but many times it is just a band aid. It provides the illusion of a solution but does not lead to systematic challenges or improvements. On the other hand adaptive change is difficult and often painful. It takes a great deal of self-reflection and a change in lifestyle, however, adaptive change can lead to a new understanding of ministry and growth in faith and spirit.

In the wake of the Coronavirus, it is clear that the world is changing and our church needs to change with it. If we focus on this opportunity and claim it as an adaptive change, it can lead to a new understanding of our mission as a congregation and as the people of God. Of course, there will be technical changes, when we come back to our building our worship services will need to be different for a time. We will need to continue our focus on social media, as many of our members and people in the community will not want to venture out into large groups. We will need to rethink how we do Sunday School, Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School and Youth Groups.

However, this opportunity should also lead us to a discussion about the nature of our ministry, how we will welcome new people and new ideas, and where God is leading us on this faith journey. There are those who will be new to our congregation and we need to be ready to welcome and support those who visit and wish to attend our church. Our community will have its own unique challenges and necessities and we will need to see how can we offer solutions and provide ways to transform lives.

See *Change* following page...

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 30**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages - 9:15 a.m.

...Change continued.

I am confident that First Christian Church will continue to know real connection with God, with each other and with the world and find adaptive ways to provide a family of faith, a home for mission, and an avenue to welcome the transformation made real through Jesus Christ. As you read this article you know that more change is on the way, so I will simply say how honored I am to be your pastor and that I am sure our church has a bright future. Thanks be to God, amen.

ABRAHAMIC PRAYERS WELCOMES

RABBI ERIC M. BERK

Abrahamic Prayers is a gathering of people from all faith traditions to pray for global peace and healing and to share our beliefs, similarities, and differences. We will meet online via Zoom on Thursday, May 7, at 8pm.

What is the history of the Jewish community in Huntsville? How are they dealing with the present difficulties - of COVID-19, but also political and social realities? How can the faith communities of Huntsville work together to build bonds of trust and fellowship?

Rabbi Eric M. Berk serves as the Rabbi of Temple B'nai Sholom, Alabama's oldest synagogue in continuous use. Prior to his arrival in Huntsville, Rabbi Berk served Congregation Beth Knesset Bamidbar in Lancaster, California for seven years while simultaneously working in the hospice field, serving eight years as Spiritual Counselor, Spiritual Care Coordinator, and Chaplain for Los Angeles' only non-profit, Jewish hospice: The Skirbal Hospice, A Program of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging.

Rabbi Berk's discussion will be introduced by and followed by a period of sung, spoken, and silent prayer.

Zoom connection info and handouts with read-along text will be provided soon. See the event on the church website (www.fcc-hsv.org), keep an eye out on Facebook (First Christian Church (DOC) - Huntsville, AL), or contact Karen Ball for more details.



MAY
BIRTHDAYS



List is not published online

Stream worship service at 10:30 am on Sundays (and previous services are available) at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw

You may also stream service on Sundays at 10:30 am (and see announcements throughout the week) on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409

Finally, stream services at 8:15 and 10:30 am on Sunday at: www.twitch.tv/fcchsv

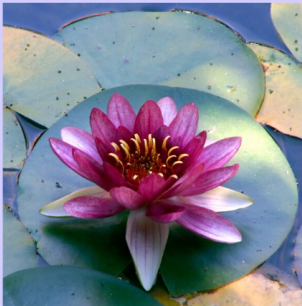
THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Randy & Anita Wood's 45th anniversary; and in honor of Hilary & Sarah Littles' birthdays by Bobbye Riggs.

GRATEFUL LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH SUPPORT

Community Outreach and Christian Women's Ministries are partnering in May to solicit financial support for Grateful Life Community Church, our sister Disciples church in Huntsville whose primary ministry is to the disadvantaged and homeless members of our community. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to FCC with Grateful Life in the memo line and mail it to FCC.

Thank you.

The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center



We are available for telephone or video conference counseling sessions. Call our office today to schedule your session.

256-270-7399

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

List is not published online

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually listed in the Sunday bulletins. Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update. Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150 and leave a message.

Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Macedonia Christian Church, Birmingham, AL