



The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 19

May 13, 2019

www.fcc-hsv.org

ABIDE IN ME

As many of you know Rev. Laura West and I will be attending the 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in Des Moines, Iowa. The General Assembly is a biennial gathering of representatives from the General Church, Regions and individual congregations that meet to share ideas, enjoy fellowship, and undertake the business of the church. The Assembly also provides opportunities for worship, Bible studies, workshops, mission projects, and other events that transform lives and encourage the work of ministry.

The theme for the 2019 General Assembly is “Abide in Me” based on John 15: 1-5...

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

(New Revised Standard Version)

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Linder, from the University of Chicago Divinity School writes...“ Perhaps, then, it should come as no surprise that in the midst of dinner on one of the darkest nights of their lives—on the eve of his betrayal, trial, and crucifixion— Jesus reminds his disciples that they would do well to take a lesson from our verdant partners in creation. When Jesus meets their present crisis by invoking the example of the vines that have delighted and daunted us for generations, he was offering so much more than poetic platitudes or the cheap assurance that all would be well, by and by. Jesus wasn’t soothing his friends with promises of better days, nor coaching them to cling to the memories of happier times past: in fact, he rejects these familiar refuges of fair-weather faith. Instead, Jesus meets his friends’ fear of abandonment and failure with a sturdy assertion of God’s power and their own: “Abide in me as I abide in you.”

So often when we speak of our denomination, or of Christianity as a whole, our words are fearful of what the future will hold. We look at the falling statistical numbers of those who state they are Christian in our culture, the disintegration of existing denominations, the distrust of clergy, and the general feeling of apathy in our nation; and there seems to be little hope to hold on to.

Jesus reminds us that when we are separated from one another we can do nothing, but when we join together, as a vine with branches, we can bear fruit that will nourish not only our community but the world. When Jesus calls us to “Abide in me” he also tells us that he lives and breathes within each of us. We are never alone, lost or abandoned; Jesus remains because he is a part of who we are. This idea comforts us, but we can’t stop there. Jesus also calls us— giving strength for the work we have ahead to place joy in our lives, love at our table, heart in our wholeness and feet to our movement.

Please pray for the success of the 2019 General Assembly and the safety of all who travel to Des Moines, but most importantly, pray that God will give our denomination the strength to fulfill our vision for the future as we strive to become the church that God wants us to be. Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, May 16**, 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, MAY 12

Scripture Acts 11:1-18
Sermon "Who is Welcome in the Church?"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mike Lash & Jan Mackenzie
10:30 Roger Sameck & Mark Stiles

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Rick Shrout

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Kathi Luzar
Gayle Herber & Linda Hooker
10:30 Glenda Luft & TBA
Beverly Cannon & Tré Davis
TBA

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in memory of
Gina Anderson by Reggie & Mary Anderson

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Good Shepherd and the Wolf
Nancy Woodall, John Hall &
Troy Davis, Jr.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

On Break

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	5/5	5/12
First Service Worship	37	38
Sunday School	41	23
Second Service Worship	90	89
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	5	8
Total Worship	132	135

GRADUATIONS

Please contact the church office, 256-881-0150, if you have someone who will be graduating high school or college this spring.

THANK YOU

A grateful Community Free Dental Clinic will receive just over \$1000 from your donations! The funds will help in continuing this vital service in our community. Thank you for caring about those in need.

Can't Make It To Church? Stream it live at:
www.twitch.tv/fcchsv

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



FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

Please remember to bring a non-perishable item, or several, for the food cart outside of McMains Hall on a Sunday. Pick your own Sunday and make it a habit. Let's help keep the pantry full at the Huntsville Assistance Program.

Thank you, Community Outreach Committee

MISSION TRIP

May 27th- June 1st

Location: Mexico City Beach, Florida

Cost: \$0 unless you require your own bedroom.

- Volunteers are needed to chaperone youth to worksites and or cook meals. All food will be purchased and taken to Mexico City Beach.
- Goal of this mission's trip is to help rebuild areas that were hardest hit from last year's storms.
- We are accepting donations such as (hygiene products and laundry soap.
- Mission Trip forms are available in the church office.
- If you would like to attend please email Pastor Paul: paul@fcc-hsv.org

HELPING A SISTER CHURCH

In May, Community Outreach is teaming up with Christian Women's Ministries to collect monetary gifts for Grateful Life Church. This church serves many of the homeless in our area. Your generous gift will help provide building maintenance, transportation, food and other needs they experience as they strive to minister to the disadvantaged and to show them God's love and care. Your check should be made out to First Christian Church with "Grateful Life" on the memo line.

Thank you for all you do for our community, Community Outreach and CWM



2019 CAMP & CONFERENCE

Location: Montgomery, Alabama

When: June 17th – 21st

Who Can Attend?

Chi Rho Camp (6th, 7th & 8th grades)

CYF (9th - 12th grades)

If your youth has volunteered at the church they are qualified for Tiered Pricing.

Camp applications are available in the church office. Please return them by May 24th. Please feel free to contact the office if you have questions at 256-881-0150 or office@fcc-hsv.org

