



The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 30
July 29, 2019
www.fcc-hsv.org

WHO'S THAT KNOCKING?

What would you do if this happened to you? An unexpected guest knocks on your door when you are too embarrassed to let them in your home. How do you deal with the dirty laundry on the floor or the bag of opened bag of chips that have spilled onto the coffee table? How do you deal with yourself in old, torn shorts and hair that is out of control? Imagine the shame that you feel. You want to open the door for your friend, but you also feel ashamed of the conditions in which you live. How do you reconcile the two tensions?

Jesus has a parable about this found in the 11th chapter of Luke. The friend in the parable must have felt terrible when he refused to open the door at midnight. First-century society demanded hospitality, but here was a friend who did not want to open the door. He had legitimate reasons. His children were in bed and he didn't want to wake them up. In a one-room Palestinian home the kids would have almost certainly heard the noise and stirred. Why wake them up and get them worked up in the middle of the night?

Can you imagine the racket had the man agreed to open the door? The kids would be crying and scared at this interruption and his wife would certainly not be happy. How long would it have taken for this man to get himself, his wife, and children back to sleep?

He had a good excuse to refuse to open the door, but what kind of shame would go with that refusal? He had denied common courtesy and hospitality. I believe it was this shame that eventually caused him to open the door. Even the friend's persistence added to the shameful feelings of the man behind the door.

It is interesting that the Greek word translated in the NRSV as "persistence" carries a connotation of shamelessness. While the man knocking is shameless in his request, the man inside is shamed into eventually opening the door. What an amazing twist, this man doesn't open because of social responsibility or a duty to friendship but because the man keeps knocking.

Knocking continued next page...

DUE TO A CONSTRUCTION DELAY, Sunday services will continue in the Sanctuary until further notice.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, August 1**, 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, AUGUST 4

Scripture Luke 12: 13-21
Sermon "Fooling Ourselves"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Donna Blair & TBA
TBA
10:30 Abby Allen & Marie Bittle
Beverly Cannon & Roberta Shivers
Lynn Abernathy

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Bev Williamson

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Nancy Waites
TBA
10:30 Abby Allen & Marie Bittle
Beverly Cannon & Roberta Shivers
Lynn Abernathy

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Rick & Kay Shrout

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Roberta Shivers.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

TBA

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	7/14	7/21
First Service Worship	39	42
Sunday School	29	25
Second Service Worship	87	71
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	NA	NR
Total Worship	126	113

...Knocking continued.

However, what if God was the one knocking at our door? How often does God call to us and we are too ashamed and don't want to respond? We don't want God to know our deep, dark, awful messes that we carry behind our door. We say to ourselves, "God doesn't want to know," or "God wouldn't like me if God knew," or even "I don't want to tell, because then I would be responsible to fix things."

This parable shows us that God is always there. God is persistently and shamelessly knocking on our door. What love God has for us! This isn't a love that will go away. Our God is persistent and acts in our lives at all times, despite the doors that we have between us and God.

This parable highlights the importance of a relationship with God. The man knocking at the door isn't just a stranger, or even a neighbor, but he is directly named a friend. God is our friend who cares enough to stand at the door and continue to knock even when we are ashamed, or full of ourselves, or too busy watching television to get up out of the chair and open the door. God knows what kind of mess lies behind the door, but God continues to wait shamelessly and persistently for us to open up to help us clean up our mess and get ready to do the same for others. Thanks be to God for persistently waiting, Amen.

THANK YOU

As Bob continues to deal with his health issues, we want to take time to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and concern.

Lynn Abernathy

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I am so grateful for the prayers, cards, contributions, and the wonderful meal brought following the sudden passing of my daughter-in-law, Valerie. Your love and caring made this difficult time more bearable.

Thank you so much, Nancy Woodall

SANCTUARY RENOVATION UPDATE

The renovations in the sanctuary and narthex (lobby) have been delayed. We will let you know as soon as possible when the renovations will begin. Once the renovations begin, Sunday services will be held in McMains Hall using folding chairs and a temporary stage. The renovations are expected to take four to six weeks. Please be patient during this upheaval...the final result will be worth the inconvenience.



Bob Senn,
Renovation Chair

Thank you!

The Foster Care Unit of DHR was thrilled to receive twenty four \$25 Walmart gift cards for the social workers to have on hand for emergencies! That's right - 24 gift cards! They were very touched by this gesture of support from FCC. Thank you for caring about the needy in our community.

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.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The August Community Outreach project is collection of needed supplies for schools. Needed supplies include: pencils, paper, glue, rulers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, index cards, and colored markers. Hygiene items include tissues,



hand sanitizer, plastic zip lock bags of all sizes, Clorox sanitizing wipes, and various sizes of band aids. In addition, counselors need personal hygiene items for students (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap--small hotel items are ideal) as well as articles of clothing including underwear. Please place your donations in the basket under the poster in the Commons Area, or you may make a monetary donation to FCC with *School Supplies/Hygiene* on the memo line.

Thanks for your generosity,
Community Outreach

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

One way you can literally serve others is to serve Communion on Sundays. **Please contact Gayle Herber, or the Church Office 256-881-0150, 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/

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at: <https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>

August 2019

Birthdays	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Tyler Hutchinson & Sandra Wilson					1 10 am Conveners' Meeting	2	3
6 Peggy Sington & David Wright							
7 Mary Propes							
9 Mike Lash	4 11:45 am MF4 Leadership Meeting	5 Huntsville City Schools Resume 10 am Quilters	6 6 pm Personnel Mtg.	7 Madison City & County Schools Resume 9 am Emmaus	8 6 pm Cabinet & Board Meeting	9	10
10 Carrie German-Love							
12 Ace Gibbs & Mary Spencer							
13 Mary Beth Wright							
14 Geordie Kennedy							
15 Stephanie Beutjer & James Cannon	11 11:30 am Congregational Information Meeting	12 10 am Quilters 5:30 pm Christian Education Meeting	13 5:30 pm Elders' Meeting	14 9 am Emmaus	15	16	17
16 Betty Landrith & Tom Vann							
18 Roberta Shivers							
20 Carolyn Brown, Miranda Herron & Nancy Woodall							
21 Jasmine Blue & Wana Orr	18 9:15 am Kids Information Meeting 10:30 am Children Worship & Wonder Resumes 11:30 am Youth Information Meeting •Community Outreach Meeting	19 10 am Quilters	20	21 9 am Emmaus 10:15 am ECM Wednesday Worship Resumes	22	23	24
22 Cynthia Roberts							
23 Ella Roberts							
24 Katherine Mackenzie							
25 Chris Chandler & Ruth Lackey							
27 James Ahlbin							
28 Pat Patterson Kay Shrout	25 11:30 am MF3 Leadership Meeting •MF1 Luncheon	26 10 am Quilters	27	28 9 am Emmaus 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Meals Resume 6 pm Kids & Youth Study •Men's Study 7 pm Choir Resumes	29	30	31
31 Cecilia Tumminello							