



The Journey

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TAKING THE RIDE

Fear seems to be the overwhelming topic of conversation on every news feed, internet video, post or article I have read in the past few weeks. Fear of the virus, of escalating tensions in our nation and in the world, fear of change, of economic collapse, of kids going back to school or attending virtual school, fear of everything because it seems that our world is changing at a pace it never has before. I was once told that making decisions based on fear leads to bad decisions, but what happens when you have no other choice, when for one reason or another you are forced to do something that scares you?

A few summers ago my family took a week of vacation before General Assembly to have some time to let our hair down and have some fun. We let the kids choose one thing that they wanted to do, within reason. Joe decided he wanted to go to an amusement park, but Abby told us she wanted to go Zip-lining. If you have never heard of this, basically you climb a tower, are strapped to a steel cable with a pulley, and then sent hurtling out into space, sliding down the cable until you reach the end. One of the rides we went on was over 100 feet in the air, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long, and the guide said I was going well over 40 miles an hour when he hit the brake.

I loved it, Abby had a blast, Joe enjoyed it, but Patti was terrified. She had to psyche herself up every time she climbed a tower. When I asked her why she was doing this she said, "It is for the kids!" and that was true, but I also believe that Patti went zip-lining to overcome her fear of heights and falling. She had to trust her guide to prepare her pulley, use the brake to slow her down, and keep her safe. I know how terrified she was but she went down every zip-line. She was amazing.

There are many things in life that terrify us. Some things we should be scared of, but other fears are only in our minds. Often we become so obsessed with what might happen that we convince ourselves to never to take a risk, to stay with what is comfortable or safe, and let the world pass us by. If we never try to confront our fears, or look beyond them, we limit ourselves and let our fear control us. Patti felt comfortable after her first zip-lining experience, so much so that we went again and it was great, especially because this time she enjoyed it. She did not look terrified, she looked exhilarated. Again, she amazed me.

First Christian Church and the world has undergone a great deal of change in the last few years and for many this can be terrifying. Yet, the church has always moved forward in the face of difficulty because we worked together and sought God's will for our congregation, not our own. We have already made several courageous decisions, not the least of which has been meeting for an outdoor Drive-In service and choosing to extend our virtual presence rather than meet in person. I am amazed and humbled by the faith of our congregation. Together we will walk out into the unknown, let our great Guide prepare us, and then wait for the ride. I guarantee you, it will be worth it. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, August 6**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

UPDATE ON BABY BASKETS FOR NCAC

Christian Women's Ministries ended the year with one project pending completion. This project was for baby baskets for the Healthy Family classes at National Children's Advocacy Center (NACA). With the Covid 19 shut down, safe shopping was difficult for items for the baskets and physical attendance for the Healthy Family classes were cancelled. After much discussion, it was finally determined the classes may not be held anytime soon. Support to the new mothers could continue as needed.

Since some baby items had been donated and purchased by the chairperson, a decision had to be made for the money and products for the project this year. After discussion with the Healthy Family department, it was determined the best use would be for the baby items be taken to NCAC to be distributed as needed and the remaining money to be used to purchase books for this area.

The following was donated: 14 diaper rash ointments, 1 lotion, 1 shampoo, 1 package baby wipes, 23 onesies, 5 bibs, 8 pacifiers, 4 receiving blankets, 10 pair socks, 1 lovey, and a monetary donation of \$680.00 for either books or additional baby items. The generous support from CWM and the congregation was awesome. Thank you for your support of this activity.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN AUGUST

Our focus in August is Morris Elementary/Middle School, a Title 1 school. To prepare for the students' return to classrooms after the first 9 weeks of remote learning, Morris has specifically asked for disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, facial tissue, disposable face masks, and re-useable (not disposable) water bottles instead of the usual variety of school and hygiene supplies.

You may drop off items at the church office, but please call first to ensure someone is there to let you in. The normal north entrance is reserved for ECM staff and children. only Use the church office door, there is an orange sign with Church Office about 40 feet east of the north entrance, and a door bell to press. Monetary donations are welcome and may be mailed to FCC. Thanks for your generosity.

Go, Morris Eagles!

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Not Published Online

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

First Christian Church
Huntsville, AL

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



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Preston Cook's birthday by Bobbye Riggs.

9:00 AM SUNDAY DRIVE-IN/TAILGATE

WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited to come in your vehicle as a family unit and you can stay in your car or you can bring chairs to sit in your parking space. **The service is broadcast on FM 107.9** (limited to the parking lot area) so you may tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. There is also a public address system for those sitting outside their vehicles. We ask that you maintain social distancing and that if you leave your car you will wear a mask. **Please bring your own communion elements.** They will be blessed and we will partake together.

FCC ONLINE

If you use Facebook, be sure to click Like and Follow (when you click on Follow, select See First) to keep up-to-date with church activities. www.facebook.com/fchsv/

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscribe and the Bell icon to get notifications when a new video is posted) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pg/fchsv/videos/ (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

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

SCAMMERS VS. HOLY SPIRIT

by Lillian Daniel

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” - Matthew 10:16 (NRSV)

Let me begin by saying, please do not send me any \$400 gift cards! I mention this because recently hundreds of people received a fake email that purported to be from me but in reality it was the work of an anonymous scammer trying to separate goodhearted folks from their money.

Apparently, this gift card hoax has happened to many other pastors and congregations. There are versions of the scam where the email appears to come from your boss at work or an emergency phone call pretends to be on behalf of a family member in trouble while traveling.

So what is the moral of the story?

Don't buy gift cards for anyone who is not on your Christmas list.

That email scam really dimmed my spirits for a few days, but then I thought about all the people who use technology for good things, like teaching, learning, loving, and worshiping. During Covid-19, there have been so many shining examples of goodness via technology in our churches and beyond. For every scammer, there are a thousand more people who are staying connected with God and each other, no matter the distance.

So don't let the sleazy scammers get you down, my dear church family. The Holy Spirit is much more powerful.

And yes, this devotional really is from me. No, really, it is! Honestly, I can prove it. I'll just go get my credit card and in the meantime, my social security number is...

Prayer - Dear God, grant me wisdom as well as innocence in the wilds of this technological world. Amen.



FAITH HOPE

LOVE

GIVE BLOOD

First Christian Church

Blood Drive

Sunday, August 30th

8:00 to 12:00

Complimentary Covid 19 antibody test with each donation

****All donations remain local****



All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers