



The Journey

Volume XXVIII No. 34/35
August 31, 2020
www.fcc-hsv.org

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7,
IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY.**

What is The Church?

“Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors, and here’s all the people.” If you recognize this children’s poem then you know that the church is your folded hands, the pointed index fingers the steeple, and when you open your hands your wiggling fingers become the people. This is a fun little ditty to teach children, yet according to Kristine A. Culp, in an article entitled “Equipping the Saints” this simple poem expresses some of the most radical ideas of the Christian faith.

According to Culp, Martin Luther stated that the church is neither a structure nor a hierarchy, but truly the people of God. This means that the church is not a building, the programs that are instituted, or even a place of worship. The church is a community of faith, which has heard a life-changing message that must be shared with the rest of the world.

In this community we are all called to be ministers, Luther’s notion of the priesthood of all believers. We are invested with the power of the Holy Spirit, given gifts of ministry, and called to share them for the good of the church, the community and the world. These gifts are a blessing and a challenge for sometimes they exceed our comfort level and God often leads us to new commitments that test and expand our lives of faith.

Also, our call to ministry cannot be contained within the walls of the church. At home, in the workplace, and as we go about our daily lives we must become a vision of what the church can be; inclusive, honest, hardworking, just, merciful, and full of the grace of God. If we do not live out our ministry then our hearts are empty because we have not accepted that transformative power of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Yet, we must also remember the reverse of the children’s poem, “... open the doors and where’s all the people?” If our church is not open and welcoming to new Christians and the ministries they bring, then eventually we will be wondering where all the people are. A part of ministry is learning when to let go and let others and God lead us down the path of faith.

Let us celebrate our ministries in the coming months, share them with all people, and listen to the leadership of others, so that we might truly become the Church, founded by Christ, encouraged by the Holy Spirit, and loved by God. Amen.

Can’t Make It To The Sunday Drive-In Service??

Stream it live Sundays at: 9:00 am www.twitch.tv/fcchsv

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 3**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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



**WEEKLY PRAYER
CONCERNS**



Not Listed Online

	Sunday, September 6
Scripture	Matthew 18: 15-20
Sermon	“A Day of Remembrance”
	Sunday, September 13
Scripture	Matthew 18: 21-35
Sermon	“Walking on Dry Land”
	Sunday, September 20
Scripture	Matthew 20: 1-16
Sermon	“When Bread is Not Enough”
	Sunday, September 27
	Children’s Sabbath
	Youth & Children’s Sunday

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Not Listed Online

CONDOLENCES to the family of Sandra Austin who passed on August 26.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Dick Schock, a former member, who recently passed.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST
Mt. Moriah Christian Church, Letohatchee, 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 Grace Littles’ and J.R. & Felicia Cook’s birthdays by Bobbye Riggs.

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

Christian Women’s Ministries service project for September is Hope Place. Hope Place is an agency of Crisis Services of North Alabama that provides emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, etc. for victims of domestic violence and their children. Please join our Circle members in supporting this worthy cause during September. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting “Hope Place” and the amount. Thank you, Nancy Woodall

**JOIN US FOR THE 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.

Drive in service attendance: August 23 - 61 and August 30 - 44.

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/fcchsv/

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/fcchsv/videos/ (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

CWM WOMEN OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Do you wake up each day and say, "Thank you, God, for another day and all its opportunities." I hope so! To honor that gratefulness, why not set up a jar, bowl, or your official CWM blessing box in an obvious place and each morning drop a coin into that container with a prayer of gratitude. Then if you have an extra special blessing during the day, you can drop in another coin or coins as well. If your box becomes too heavy, trade out the coins for a paper dollar. I started this March 15 when Covid-19 began, and now have over \$7 with just one nickel or more per day. In March we will collect all our blessing box proceeds and donate to the Disciples Mission Fund. Let's honor how blessed we are each day.

Sue Seward, Blessing Box Coordinator

PLAY TO PRAY by Ellen O'Donnell

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NRSV)

As a young doctor, Stuart Brown was doing research into murderers who otherwise had no criminal history. He discovered something amazing, a common thread in 90% of their stories: as children, their play was severely restricted.

Play, Brown said, is any activity that is purposeless, dissolves ego boundaries, and ultimately brings joy. It's also an activity that delights God, who, after all, was the first one to play. What was the Creation, after all?

Dr. Brown spent many more decades studying play before he, an admitted workaholic, got the irony and started to play more himself.

It's easy to buy into this concept of play – but how do we enact it in our busy, overscheduled lives?

You already know the answer: We do less. We allow kids – and ourselves – to have more unstructured time. We allow some messes, keep cardboard boxes around, art carts, costume boxes. We give ourselves permission to stop what we are doing to kick the ball around, doodle and color, make robot noises.

If your eight-year-old is melting down because she is flying from swim team to karate to harp lessons, cut one (or all three) of those things out. Yes, you might be killing her chances of getting into Harvard. But you'll also be giving her a bigger life right now.

Madeleine L'Engle said, "Far too many people misunderstand what 'putting away childish things' means, and think that forgetting what it is like to think, feel, touch, smell, taste, see, and hear like a three-year-old or a thirteen-year-old means 'being grown up.' If this is what it means to be a grown-up, then I don't ever want to be one."

Prayer - God, prevent me from ever fully becoming a grownup. Slow me down, and send the joy of play.



This QR code is linked to the Church's PayPal giving page for your convenience.

Iowa, Midwest Communities Struggle Following Storm



On August 10, a 40 mile wide derecho blew across the upper Midwest; the effects were especially devastating across a large portion of Iowa. During the derecho - a sustained, powerful straight-line windstorm - the winds at times exceeded 100 miles per hour.

Meanwhile, recovery is complicated by COVID-19, with Iowa currently averaging 458 new cases a week across the state. Disease-prevention measures pose challenges to the usual types of response following a disaster, and because of the economic toll of the pandemic, many households have already exhausted what savings and supplies they had.

Rev. John Richardson, Interim Regional Minister in the Upper Midwest Region, says, "An estimated 10 million

acres of corn and soybean crops were destroyed or heavily damaged. Barns, silos, grain bins, and houses were crushed across many counties. Countless decades old trees have been uprooted. At one point over 400,000 people were without electric power. As of today, around the cities of Cedar Rapids and Marion, crews are still working to restore power. Cell phone service was disrupted for several days. And, as is so often the case, the vulnerable are struggling the most. One apartment building, now deemed uninhabitable, housed 75 refugee families.

"The recovery effort will take a long time. As of today, local groups, faith communities and non profits are beginning to offer support and services. Disciples Church Extension Fund has been reaching out to Disciples congregations with damaged buildings since last week. Week of Compassion has been offering support since early last week. We are grateful for both of these vital Disciples of Christ ministries. Your prayers and gifts to Week of Compassion for disaster response are welcome."

At least 10 Disciples congregations have been directly affected with damage to church buildings, members with damage at their homes, or both. With your help, Week of Compassion is responding to meet the needs of both congregations and families at this time.

Disciples are helping in other ways as well. Christian Conference Center, the camp facility for the Upper Midwest Region, has opened as a respite center and day shelter. They are providing a place for people to shower, do laundry, charge devices, or just cool off and rest for awhile.

With support from Week of Compassion, New Disciples Christian Church in Cedar Rapids is preparing to provide food and charging stations. And Disciples across the state have been clearing up debris, preparing meals, and opening their homes to neighbors in need of a place to cool off, charge electronics, or take showers.

Thanks for your care, concern, and continued prayers for those affected by the storm. We will continue to share updates about how Disciples are working to meet needs throughout the long recovery ahead.

Week of Compassion

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