



The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 37
September 10, 2018
www.fcc-hsv.org

TRYING SOMETHING NEW

September is often a time of evaluation and assessment for churches. While new programs begin we also begin to look at the coming year and evaluate our current scheduled events to see what is working, what needs to be renewed, and what needs to end. We know that there is a time and a season for everything, and that all things have a life span. Sometimes room needs to be made for new ideas that will encourage physical and spiritual growth.

Evaluation and assessment are important tools for the church and they are just as important for individuals. Often we do not take the time to look deeply at our lives of faith and see what changes need to take place. Faith should be constantly moving and growing within us. While some things stay the same (our belief in God and in our Lord Jesus Christ, the importance of Scripture in our communal and individual lives, and the need for community to help model the Kingdom of God in the world), our beliefs and values can and should adjust over time as we learn more about ourselves, the world around us and God.

One of my colleagues, Rev. John Richardson, once said, "Often, what we think we know is more of a hindrance to our learning than what we don't know." We think we know what our place in the church is and we believe that we use all of our gifts to support our congregation; but what we do not realize is that God calls us to new ministries, new ways of sharing our gifts, and sharing the good news with others.

September 5th, First Christian Church began doing something new. We are holding Wednesday Night Dinners beginning at 5:30 pm. The hope is that by adding a time of fellowship with a meal we will encourage church and community members to participate in our Wednesday night activities such as our children's group, youth group, bible studies, CWM meetings, committee meetings, choir and praise band. The meals will be simple, but filling. We are hoping to keep costs down so our church family will be able to participate. We ask for a \$5.00 donation for the meal with a cap of \$20.00 per family. We will open the doors to the Family Services room and ask that you enter there, so we can keep track of who is attending. We also ask that you inform the church office by Monday if you are going to attend the Wednesday meal, you can also sign up to be a part of the meal every week.

I hope that in this time of reflection and evaluation you will pen your hearts to God and see where the Spirit leads you. Try something new, if not coming to supper perhaps a new Bible study, a new spiritual discipline, or a new way of serving others in the community. In doing so you will be refreshed, renewed, and ready to continue Christ's mission wherever that may lead. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 13**, 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, SEPTEMBER 16

Sermon Scripture Proverbs 1: 20-33
 Sermon “Wisdom Cries Out”

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Andy Herron & Karen Ball
 10:30 Bob Senn & Gayle Herber

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Delores Edgeton & Linda Hooker
 Nancy Waites & Anita Wood
 10:30 Elaine French & Abby Allen
 Sabrina & Hayley Beckman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY’S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Roger & Jackie Sameck’s anniversary.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Listening to One of God’s Stories: The Light
 Chuck Jackman, Jan Mackenzie,
 Troy Davis & Tatum Payne

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Meets again September 23

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	9/2	9/9
First Service Worship	42	40
Sunday School	38	33
Second Service Worship	72	96
Children’s Church	8	6
Young Disciples	NA	4
Total Worship	122	146

ON SEPTEMBER 12TH our Wednesday night programming continues with a 5:30 pm meal for anyone who would like to come. **Enter Family Services through the outside door (in the Bell Tower Courtyard).** All we ask is that you let us know in advance by calling the office at 256-881-0150. This week’s meal will be homemade **Chicken Parmesan, Eggplant Parmesan, and chicken tenders for the kids along with dessert, and drinks.** We ask for a \$5.00 donation per person, with a \$20.00 limit per family, to help pay for the meal. Over the next few weeks we will send out a menu and ask you to let the office know a week in advance if you are coming to the meal. Also, please plan on staying for our bible studies, youth group, children’s activities and choir as well. We hope to see you here on Wednesday night!
 Pastor Paul

FIFTH SUNDAY GRATEFUL LIFE BRUNCH
 FCC will provide fifth Sunday brunch to Grateful Life (GL) Church on Sept. 30. We are planning to feed 100. Could you help by baking a brunch casserole for that day? An easy recipe will be provided. You would need to deliver your hot, baked casserole in a disposable 9x13 aluminum pan to the FCC side kitchen by 9:15 AM on Sept. 30. Leave it on the GL table in the communion prep kitchen. If you need to drop off the casserole before Sunday, please bake your casserole, cool, wrap in foil, clearly mark for GL 9/30/18, and place in communion refrigerator in side kitchen between 9-5 on Friday. Call Sue Seward, 256-508-5384, if you can help with this service project and to receive the recipe. Thanks! This fifth Sunday brunch is a blessing to GL members and to those who provide it.

The 2018 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line.

**PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, CHILDCARE WORKERS,
SS TEACHERS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK
WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Safe Church training will be held 6-7:00 PM in the Garden Room on Wednesday, Sept. 12. If you wish to come early, dinner will be served at 5:30 prior to this event with a \$5 donation (maximum of \$20 per family) for your meal.. Nursery and toddler care will be provided 5:30-7:00 PM.

Chi Rho and CYF youth are encouraged to attend this training. (Safe church trained adults and youth may attend as a refresher.) If you plan to attend, please sign up in the church office or call Sue Seward (256-508-5384).

If you decide at the last minute you can attend, please come! It is important for all members of FCC to know our Safe Church Policy.

NOTE: All volunteers who work with children and youth must complete this training, be members of FCC for a period of time, and complete a disclosure form/background check before participating with children and youth at FCC.

FALL RETREAT FOR DISCIPLES WOMEN

Please join Disciples women of the Alabama-Northwest Florida region for their annual retreat at Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, AL, Sep 28-30. The program, "One in the Spirit," will be led by Rev Pat Donahoo, Executive Director of Disciples Women for the Christian Church (DoC). Pick up your application forms at the Commons area display. Scholarship funds are available. Contact Mary Ann Anderson for more information at: maryannanderson256@gmail.com



	<p>The youth will be attending the Redstone Arsenal Oktoberfest on September 16th. The cost of attendance is \$14. Please provide your youth with extra money for snacks. If interested in being a chaperone, please contact Pastor Linda at: 256-529-1076.</p>
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND CWM

The September 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* on the memo line. **Some of your donations will help pay the student \$35 computer fee for those who cannot afford to pay it.**



Community Outreach and CWM

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There is a Women's Bible Study starting this Wednesday night, September 12 and will be offered each Wednesday night from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Diane Douglas will be teaching *Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks* by Priscilla Shirer.

Through 7 sessions, discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

The New Testament class (meets in the library) is reading the book; *Faith at Work-Studies in the Book of James*. It covers three main topics: Trials, Works, and Wisdom. Class discussion is led by Bob Senn. **New members are welcome and encouraged.** We occasionally have a DVD on the *History of European Art* which is mainly religious in subject matter.