



# The Journey

Volume XXIX No. 13  
March 29, 2021  
[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## DISCIPLES EASTER OFFERING

Several times a year, congregations receive a special offering to support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on March 28 and April 4, 2021, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts. The Easter offering reaches **deep and wide** with the limitless power of the risen Christ by:

- developing Disciples,
- forming new faith communities,
- connecting with ministry partners around the world, serving God's people in need.

### Deep....

- leadership development programs for college and seminary students
- Bible studies that challenge and inspire
- opportunities for clergy to gather in prayer
- spiritual care for those in prison
- resources for mental health and trauma care
- visionary leadership that calls the church to imagine new ways to witness to God's love

### and wide ...

- global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation, and peace
- colleges, universities, and theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society, and world
- volunteers who help in the aftermath of disasters
- new congregations who worship in a variety of languages and worship styles ministry grants for congregational service ministries that serve hungry neighbors

Your gift has the power to change lives around the world. Please give generously to this year's Easter Offering.

### BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Blood Drive at FCC on Sunday, April 11, from 8:30 -11:30 a.m.  
You may sign up for a time at [donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/701980](https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/701980)



Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April, 1**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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

## HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP

Christian Women Mission (CWM) hopes you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) during April. Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years and has also been devastated by several hurricanes. Life expectancy average is 63 years and adult illiteracy is over 51%. House of Hope is making a difference and so can we through a donation. Checks can be made to FCC with House of Hope in the memo line. Sponsorship is \$360 per year per child; CWM would love to sponsor two children, as we did last year. Please help us achieve this goal.



## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



## Not Published Online

*To My Church Family,*

*I want to thank you for your cards, meals, gifts, visits and especially your love and prayers for me and my family during Bob's illness and passing.*

*Each act of love and kindness brought peace and strength.*

*I am so blessed to be a part of such a caring church family.*

*With love,*

*Lynn Abernathy*

### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We have resumed in-person worship services but you may still stream them live at 9:30 am on Sundays (or watch previous services anytime) on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw)

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 9:30 am, watch previous services, videos for children, and special activities on our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos)

Finally, stream services at 9:30 am on Sunday at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows, the prayer concerns that are normally 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](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or call the church office at 256-881-0150 to leave a message.

**Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**



### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Snow Hill  
Ft. Deposit, AL





*Imagine what  
God can do:*



Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

~ John 20:1

The Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ.

- developing Disciples
- forming new faith communities
- connecting with ministry partners around the world
- serving God's people in need

On April 4, we join Disciples churches across the US and Canada to collect an *Easter Offering* to provide support for general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). You can note "Easter Offering" for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church.

*Imagine what God can do when  
we share our gifts.*

#### SEEKING DONATIONS FOR HOME # 27

We completed Home # 26 last year during the pandemic. We did not work many hours on the house but did contribute \$4,000 to its construction cost. Eight partner families moved into their new homes during the pandemic. Their experiences and how they live their lives have changed dramatically since moving. Their children can run and play outdoors after a long day inside because they now live in a safe neighborhood with adequate space for learning and working from their home. The knowledge that their home was built to code and standards promotes an environment of health and safety. We are making a difference. This new Habitat neighborhood will have 31 homes when completed.



We are changing lives one home at a time. Please help us with time, talent or treasure on Home # 27. Write your check to FCC with Habitat on the memo line if you would like to contribute. Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SHARIFA LOVE-RUTLEDGE

Dr. Sharifa Love-Rutledge, an assistant professor in the chemistry department at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) has been named to a list of "1,000 Inspiring Black Scientist."



The list was compiled by Cell Mentor, an organization that strives to "help hardworking scientists answer the questions that will propel them through satisfying, challenging, diverse careers in the life sciences." The list is made up of postdoctoral fellows, instructors and more.

Dr. Love-Rutledge is one of 18 Black scientists and researchers recognized with this honor from the state of Alabama. She is also the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from The University of Alabama Department of Chemistry. Her area of special research at UAH includes diabetes and insulin resistance, as well as cognitive decline and aging. As the Principal Investigator in the Love-Rutledge Lab, her efforts are focused on applying biochemistry and molecular biology to understanding and preventing diabetes in adults, such as Type 1 Latent Autoimmune Diabetes of adults and Type 2 diabetes.

"At every step of my journey I have relied upon God to open doors for me," she says. "I feel that I was led to be here. As a senior chemistry major, I attended an Instrumental Colloquium at UA. We met several of the faculty and saw the instrumentation. My advisor mentioned to one of the faculty that I was applying. I applied on Saturday, and I was accepted that Monday! I took that as a sign that this is where I was destined to be."

*The above was excerpted from an article that may be read in its entirety at [uah.edu/news/items/dr-sharifa-love-rutledge-named-to-list-of-1-000-inspiring-black-scientists](http://uah.edu/news/items/dr-sharifa-love-rutledge-named-to-list-of-1-000-inspiring-black-scientists)*

## BACK FROM THE DEAD

By Martha Spong

He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?"  
I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

- Ezekiel 37:3 (NRSV)

The preacher's voice rang through the historic sanctuary, amplified not by a sound system but by the gift of colonial architectural acoustics and the power of his own breath. "Prophecy to these bones," he cried, and the silent congregation held its breath in response.

As a little girl sitting in the balcony with my Sunday school class, I heard the power of God in our pastor's voice, even if the scriptural verses about a valley full of dry bones sounded more like Halloween to me than a lead-up to Easter. I was too young to hear the story as a metaphor. It must be true, so what couldn't God do?

That voice sounded in my head many decades later, as I looked for answers in a season of depression and despair. I had a crumbling marriage, young children to support, and no job. Who would put the breath back in my body?

I spent some time lamenting on my couch, hoping vaguely that God would make it better as if by magic. Yet the text tells us there is more to it. Restoration is a combined effort. Prophecy to the bones, says God, and the prophet responds. One day I realized I was not alone. God would bring me back from what felt like the grave, and I would live. The work begins when we speak to each other, and to ourselves.

Who is waiting for this faith, this confidence, to ring out in your voice? Prophecy to these bones. Call out so they can hear you and come back from the dead.

**Prayer** - Holy God, give us strong voices to reach the people who need you most, that we may all live. Amen.

## Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, children/youth gatherings, coffee, and other hospitality services are currently suspended.
- While FCC and the State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level. Virtual services are offered ([facebook.com/fcchsv](https://facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://twitch.tv/fcchsv), or First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube) every Sunday.
- **Attendees, including children, will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the service will be broadcast (107.9) to the parking lot in the event of overflow attendance.
- Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors. The doors by the church office will be locked.
- Greeters will provide hand sanitizer to all who enter and provide masks for those who have not brought their own.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side aisles
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Following the service, rows will **leave by the side aisles** with the east aisle exiting through Family Services and the west aisle through the Narthex doors. (There will be directional signs.)
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Please, **no congregating indoors** before or after service - social distancing outdoors.
- **Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- **Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**