



# The Journey

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May 24, 2021  
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## DEAR DISCIPLES

by Rev. Terri Horde Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (DOC)

Hello, Disciples. This week we mark the ascension of our Lord and we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit next week on Pentecost Sunday. As I was studying the lectionary text this week, I was struck by the excitement of the disciples. Even as Jesus is preparing to leave them, Jesus reminds them, he points them back to scripture. He reminds them of what the prophets foretold about his ministry and his life. And he reminds them that a gift is coming that he is going to send - a gift, a helper, a comforter, the Gospel of John tells us - someone who will help them to remember all the things that Jesus has taught.

And as Jesus blesses them in the Luke version of the ascension, and disappears before them, they are worshiping and praising God. And the scripture ends by telling us that the disciples are continually found in the temple praising God. They have hope after a season of great disruption.

Church, it has been 14, 15 months since most of us were in lockdown in the pandemic. And as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel because of vaccines - thank God for science that is helping us to live more protected lives - I feel like we need a revival, a fresh wind, fresh fire, a reminder of the fact that God has indeed equipped us to emerge from this time, just as he equipped those first disciples, those first believers who lived through the disruption of the crucifixion and the resurrection. They emerged full of hope and praise because they were pointed back to scripture. And they found hope in inhabiting the praise of God.

I hope that as we move forward in this time, as we prepare for celebrating the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, that you, too, will point yourselves back to scripture, that you will continue to build those habits of spiritual practice so that we can do the work that we've been called to do, so that we, too, can be rejoicing in worship, hearing God speak to us, having God provide us with the strength, and the fortitude, the vigor, and the excitement that we will need as we move forward as a new church in a new world. I'm excited. I need a revival. I'm going to take this opportunity this Pentecost to feel the fire, to let it fall, and recommit myself to doing the work of the kingdom. Won't you join me in recommitting ourselves to emerge as a new church for this new world?

May the Holy Spirit give us all that we need. May the Holy Spirit reenergize, refuel, recommit us to doing the work of God's kingdom. Jesus would want it, so let's be followers of Jesus Christ. Let's be the church that we say we are! God bless you, Disciples. Remember that God loves you, and so do I.

### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday in-person worship services are at 9:30 a.m. but you may still stream them live at 9:30 a.m., or watch previous services anytime, on [facebook.com/fcchsv](https://facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://twitch.tv/fcchsv), or search First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube. See **New COVID-19 Protocols** on page 4.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, May 27**, 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.**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Vacation Bible School-In Person!**  
**July 19-23 (9:00-11:30 am)**  
**Ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This year at VBS, we will explore five stories about Jesus from the Gospels of Luke and John. These stories reveal the generosity of God, the transforming power of Jesus' welcome, and offer a model for living and sharing God's hospitality. Children will be invited to see the ways Jesus welcomed and cared for all people and be challenged to welcome and share that same hospitality with everyone. Join us as we discover all are welcome at the table!

**To register your child or to volunteer to help please contact Pastor Laura (256) 881-0150 or [laura@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:laura@fcc-hsv.org)**

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY STARTS JUNE 10**



*Joshua - Winning the Worry Battle*, by Barb Roose will be our study topic. The participant's workbook can be purchased either on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) or [Cokesbury](https://www.cokesbury.com) websites for roughly \$12.00-ISBN 13:9781501813603

**When:** We will meet for 6 weeks on Thursday mornings from 10:00 until 11:30, beginning on June 10th and ending July 15th.

**Where:** The Family Services Room

Covid protocols will be followed as set out in church policy. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Fitzgerald at not published online or by email at not published online



The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, May 31**, in observance of Memorial Day.



**SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**



**Not Published Online**

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**

Mt. Zion Christian Church, Hayneville, AL



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Matt & Karen Ball's anniversary by Stan Ball and in memory of Bess Smith by Susan Sulkowski.

**SEVERAL OPEN DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS**

Sign up dates for **FOOD BASKETS** are available. You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, 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, and go to our Community Outreach committee for local needs.

**GRATEFUL LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH SUPPORT**

Christian Women's Ministries is asking for financial support for Grateful Life Community Church during May. This church, our sister Disciples congregation in Huntsville, serves the disadvantaged and homeless members of our community. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to FCC with Grateful Life in the memo line and mail it to FCC. Thank you.



**JUNE  
BIRTHDAYS**



**Not Published Online**

**UPDATE ON SALVATION ARMY  
MOBILE KITCHEN**

Every third Tuesday of the month, FCC volunteers drive and serve for two locations of the Salvation Army Mobile Kitchen. From 25 -50 people receive a meal prepared by the Salvation Army on Seminole Drive. This service requires two to three people for 1 1/2 hours, 5:15 - 6:45 PM. No special driver's license is required, however the driver must complete an application and have a good driving record for SA insurance purposes. Currently the Chandlers, Coburns, and Swards are volunteering. There is always room for more help. Contact Jeff Seward 256-509-6680 or wjsseward@aol.com for more information. We can schedule a practice run..




**Back by popular Demand!**  
**The First Christian Church Cancel Choir!**  
 Your voice is needed, so you are encouraged and welcomed to join us. Rehearsals resume June 9th from 7:00 - 7:40 P.M. (Masks are required.) Contact Lauren Wilson, Music Director, if interested.  
 More information coming soon!

**HEALS**

(Health Establishments at Local Schools)

HEALS, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides school-based primary health-care in collaboration with Huntsville City and Madison County school systems and local medical, dental, and optometry communities. Providing early intervention and health education to economically disadvantaged children has been shown to lower lifetime medical costs and delinquency rates and to foster better success in school and life. Services are offered free or at reduced rates, based on a sliding fee scale.



During the month of May, Community Outreach requests monetary donations to support the HEALS Dental Clinics, which provide on-site preventive and restorative services to students at Title 1 schools in Huntsville and Madison County. Please give generously!

Thanks, Mary Ann Anderson

<b>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</b>		
May 9 - 70	May 16 - 63	May 23 - 82

## NEW COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The Board met by Zoom on Saturday, May 22, and approved the following protocols. They include changes proposed by the Worship Committee and approved by the Board on May 13.

- **Fully vaccinated individuals may choose to attend with or without masks. Attendees who are not fully vaccinated, and children who are able, will continue to wear face coverings/masks inside the church until further notice.**
- There will only be **one 9:30 a.m. service** offered for the next 12 months. First Christian Church offers virtual services (facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, or First Christian Church Huntsville on YouTube) every Sunday. While FCC and State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level.
- Hand sanitizer and masks are available for those who have not brought their own.
- Prepackaged communion elements will continue to be used and are available in the Narthex.
- The **nursery** will reopen on **June 6** for the 9:30 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. small group time.
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance (6 feet apart for non-household members). Every other pew will be roped off for social distancing.
- **Members may vocalize** during the service, such as stating the Lord's Prayer, litanies, etc. We will begin singing the Doxology within the service and will look at adding more congregational music as state and national numbers continue to improve.
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services remain suspended until further notice.
- **Small groups** (including Sunday school classes) will meet at **8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.** and will begin meeting in person on **June 6**.
- An **Intergenerational Small Group** class for children, youth or any adults that wish to attend that will meet at 10:30 a.m. beginning June 6 and continuing through August.

*Protocols* continued next column...

*...Protocols* continued

- Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.
- Please notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.

## WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE

By Martha Spong

*To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share... I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. - Titus 1:4a & 5 (NRSV)*

As Paul traveled from city to city, planting churches, he could not do the work alone. He needed trusted collaborators, like Titus, who he left behind to organize the leadership of a new faith community. Hearts and minds have been touched by Paul's preaching and teaching, and hope in Christ has been shared. Now it's time for logistics.

We're all called into ministry of some kind, to use the gifts God has given us. After more than a year in pandemic mode, we have learned to count on the people who excel at "put(ting) in order what remains to be done." Whether they offered medical expertise, recruited readers and singers for online worship, compiled and edited videos, devised phone lists for keeping in touch, or wiped down pews between services, our communities of faith have depended on the people who can perceive what's needed and know how to make it happen.

In other seasons of the church's life they serve on search committees, or organize mission studies, or make sure the Sunday School doesn't run out of crayons. They put their gifts and skills to work for the good of the whole when the idea people have moved on to the next project. We rely on their spreadsheets and phone trees and care for others.

We rely on them just as Paul relied on Titus.

## Prayer

Holy God, we thank you for the people who make needed things happen. Help us to find our place and use our gifts to serve you. Amen.

## June 2021

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
		1	2 <i>6 PM Men's Group</i>	3	4	5
6 <i>8:30 Small Groups 9:30 Worship 10:30 Small Groups</i>	7 <i>10:30 Quilters FSA</i>	8	9 <i>6 PM Men's Group</i>	10 <i>10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Board Meeting</i>	11	12
13 <i>8:30 Small Groups 9:30 Worship 10:30 Small Groups</i>	14 <i>9:30 Esther Circle 10:30 Quilters 5:30 Conveners Junior/Chi Rho/CYF Camps</i>	15 <i>Junior/Chi Rho/CYF Camps</i>	16 <i>6 PM Men's Group Junior/Chi Rho/CYF Camps</i>	17 <i>10:00 Women's Bible Study Junior/Chi Rho/CYF Camps</i>	18 <i>Junior/Chi Rho/CYF Camps Genesis/Discovery Camps</i>	19 <i>Genesis/Discovery Camps</i>
20 <i>Genesis/Discovery Camps 8:30 Small Groups 9:30 Tazé Service 10:30 Small Groups</i>	21 <i>10:30 Quilters</i>	22	23 <i>6 PM Men's Group</i>	24 <i>10:00 Women's Bible Study</i>	25	26
27 <i>8:30 Small Groups 9:30 Worship 10:30 Small Groups</i>	28 <i>10:30 Quilters</i>	29	30 <i>6 PM Men's Group</i>			