



The Journey

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.DEAR DISCIPLES BY REV. TERRI HORD OWENS, JUNE 11, 2021

Hello, Disciples.

Tonight as I was preparing to record this message, I received a text. And the text simply said, “We’re praying for you and Walter tonight.” That text came from the Water the Plants prayer ministry, a ministry that's part of our New Church Ministry. Every week, two days a week, they pray for our new church plants, one day early in the morning and another day later in the evening. I'm always humbled by the fact that they are praying for me, and I usually just reply, “thank you so much.”

Well, tonight it really resonated with me, and I simply paused and exhaled, and I said to myself, “Thank God somebody is praying for me.” It reminded me of that old song, “Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind; took the time to pray for me. I'm so glad they prayed. I'm so glad they prayed. I'm so glad they prayed for me.” And the verses go on - my mother prayed for me; my father prayed for me; the preacher prayed for me.

The preacher Paul begins his letter to the Galatians with a reminder that he holds them in his heart. and he begins his letter to the Colossians by saying that he has never stopped praying for them, and wants to remind them that he prays for their strength and their growth in the Lord that they may that they may bear fruit in witness to God's great love shown through Jesus Christ.

Well, I'm a firm believer in prayer. I practice centering prayer, taking time to be quiet and still before the Lord. Quiet contemplation. Deep breathing. Simply allowing God to speak. But I'm also a firm believer in intercessory prayer. Each week I pray on Facebook live on Wednesdays, just taking the requests of the people, raising joys and concerns, offering thanksgiving, lamenting when we need to. I pray even when I don't know the name or the need because I believe that God knows, sees, and understands what I do not.

I also pray for our nation, our society, our world, for the U.S., for Canada. I pray for our congregations, our regional ministers, those who lead our general ministries. I pray for you. I pray for systemic injustice in our society. I pray for the dismantling of racism. I pray for the end to poverty. I pray that all would have enough. I pray for families to have decent and clean affordable housing and health care. I pray for families to earn a living wage so that they can support themselves and provide for themselves so that all can flourish. I pray for a day when all will be accepted and beloved for who they are.

I pray, and I believe, church, that we must always remember to not only sit still before God, but to pray for one another. I pray for you whether you agree with me on a wide variety of topics or not. I pray for your growth in the Lord. I pray for my growth in the Lord. I pray that we may all grow in that grace that allows us to bear witness to God's limitless love as revealed through Jesus Christ.

So this week, I invite you to send somebody a text just to say, “I’m praying for you. I prayed for you today.” Send a note to your pastor, to your spouse, to a loved one, to your children, to your grandparents if they're still with you, to co-workers. Say a prayer. Ask God to bless, restore, heal, do justice. Ask God to bless those you love. Ask God to bless the church that you love. Send a note to someone this week and say, “I’m praying for you.” I promise you, they’ll be blessed.

Remember, Disciples, I'm praying for you. Why? Because God loves you, and so do I.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 1**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.



SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 8
Mission Family Kickoff Event
Details coming soon

Not Published Online

In- Person Vacation Bible School!
July 19-23 (9:00-11:30 am)
Ages 3 through 5th 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

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 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



WE FOUND THE LIST - BUT SEVERAL DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE
Sign up dates for **FOOD BASKETS** are available (see page 6). You may **call the office at 256-881-0150 or email 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.



REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
First Christian Church
Hartselle, AL

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Howard McSpadden's birthday, father of Anita Wood.



OPEN DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS
August 1, 8 & 15
September 5, 12, 19 & 26
October 17 & 31
November 14
December 5, 12, 19 & 26



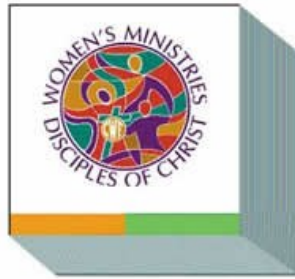


SATURDAY, JULY 10

Inside and outside work. **Please call 256-881-0150 or email publisher@fcc-hsv.org if you plan on volunteering** (we need an idea of how many will be here so we can plan the projects).

Your Blessings Bless Others

Women of FCC, have you taken the time to practice the Spiritual Discipline of keeping a Blessing Box in a prominent place in your home, office, or both where you can drop a coin or coins in to acknowledge a blessing, small or large? Could you pause in a busy day to be grateful for God's daily blessings: a sunny day, a safe journey, a good meeting, a baby's smile, a call or message from a friend, an unsolicited "I love you," meeting a deadline, a gentle rain? Collections will be gathered in the spring of 2022 continuing a long tradition of the Christian Women's Fellowship since the 1880's in supporting the mission of the whole church and specifically supporting women's ministries. Blessing boxes provided by CWM are available now in the Narthex of FCC or from your Circle leader. All women are invited to participate.



**LONG TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Not Published Online

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.

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 pervious services anytime, on [facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv), or search First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube. See **New COVID-19 Protocols** on page 4.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, JUNE 13
Service: 77
Small Groups: 21

THEIR NAME WAS BACHOS

by Kaji Douša

*The Ethiopian eunuch saw Philip no more,
and went on their way rejoicing.*

-Acts 8:38b (NRSV, adapted)

The Bible doesn't tell us the eunuch's name. But the Ethiopian church they founded remembers. Of course.

Their name was Bachos.

Bachos was a devout Jew living in the tradition of Judaism brought to Ethiopia by the Queen of Sheba, who bore King Solomon's child.

Bachos was on pilgrimage. They came to worship in the Temple they'd learned so much about in their studies of scripture. They were seeking. Hungry. Presumably exhausted as they traveled across through the horn of Africa, through Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, to Jerusalem.

Bachos – not considered fully a man – would have been excluded from certain aspects of worship in the Temple, so they began the long journey back home, unsatisfied, still seeking. They didn't quite find what they were looking for in that Holy Land, an experience many who are turned away from religious life for their own identities can find quite relatable.

And in a vulnerable conversation between Jew (Bachos) and Gentile (Philip), they learned from each other. And the African church was born with God's child, Bachos, God's beloved, in whom God was well-pleased, even if certain religious people were not. And Bachos left that encounter baptized and in great joy.

God did this. God put Philip and Bachos together as wanderers on their own pilgrimages.

Which makes me wonder:

What is yours?

Blessing

May it be clear who God putting in your life to show you a new way and send you in great joy. Amen.

SUNDAY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

(Approved by the Board on June 10.)

- **Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors.** The doors by the church office will be locked.
- **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.**
- **One 9:30 a.m. service** is offered for the next 12 months. First Christian Church offers virtual services ([facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.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 are available in the Narthex.
- The **nursery** is open 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., and sing the Doxology within the service.
- 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.**
- 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



July 2021

Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Independence Day 8:30 am Small Groups 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups	5 Church Office Closed In Observance of Independence Day 10:30 am Quilters	6	7 6 pm Men's Group	8 10 am Women's Bible Study	9	10 8 am Property Workday
11 8:30 am Small Groups 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups	12 10:30 am Quilters 5:30 pm Conveners' Mtg.	13	14 6 pm Men's Group	15 10 am Women's Bible Study	16	17
18 8:30 am Small Groups 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups	19 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS	20 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS	21 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS 6 pm Men's Group	22 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS	23 9 - 11:30 a.m. VBS	24
25 8:30 am Small Groups 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups	26 10:30 am Quilters	27	28 6 pm Men's Group	29	30	31