



The Journey

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"If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Sounds so simple, doesn't it? Paul, in his letter to the church at Rome makes it appear to be so very easy. And it is...until, of course, you try to actually do it.

Looking at the news headlines on any given day reveals that we are not very good at doing this hard stuff of the Christian Way. It's so much easier to give in to the impulses of our lizard brains that are constantly reacting out of instinct instead of responding out of gracious understanding. Read the headlines again, and you will see that we still find it easier to hurl juvenile insults, degrade one another's humanity, or pull the trigger than to live peaceably with all. Paul would be disappointed. But I think he would understand.

We are just so very human, aren't we? Jesus, however, calls us to do the super-human thing, the beyond-our-lizard-brain thing:

- turn the other cheek
- love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
- do not judge, so that you may not be judged

We often forget these instructions of Jesus, especially when we ourselves are wounded. But only those who have been wounded have the capacity to understand what it means to wound another person. Embracing the Spirit-with-us gives us the wisdom and ability to refrain from adding yet more woundedness to the world.

Thomas a Kempis wrote:

"Don't be angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be."

Like Paul, Thomas puts the first focus on us, on what we can do to better ourselves for the sake of the world. May we be blessed to continue in the recognition of the Spirit that comes at Pentecost that enables us to do the hard stuff, and which, in turn, spreads the peace of God and the unity of God's children to even the darkest places.

Brad



The Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.



The *Journey* is published on the first and third Tuesday of the month.
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 26**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150

Mark Your Calendars
Wednesday, July 23, 5:30 - 7:00 pm!



Time to get out your ice cream freezers and recipes for the annual FCC Ice Cream Social and Competition. You can taste many flavors and vote for your favorites with your bucks. We are adding a special celebration this year with a Nonagenarian birthday party for several FCC members who have reached (or will soon reach) the young age of 90. Come help us celebrate them with cake and ice cream!



VBS 2025

Vacation Bible School is rapidly approaching! Our event will be July 7-10th (Monday-Thursday) and will be themed Waves of Wonder. We are currently still in need of a couple of people to be group helpers/leaders. These volunteers will assist children in getting place to place.

I want to thank all of you who donated to our amazon list! We received over 500 Dollars in supplies! We also received a sponsorship from Publix for our snack supplies! Please pray for our volunteers and the children that join us for this week of faith, fun, and fellowship!

OUTREACH FOR JUNE & JULY

First Stop for the Homeless partners with agencies in a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to offer case management, medical care, mental health care, and other services to the homeless community. Through Outreach efforts, our bustling Day Center, and comprehensive Case Management program, we help to provide a path out of homelessness. This approach is intentional in its focus on empowering (not enabling) the homeless community towards independent living.

You can support this organization with donations made by noting "First Stop" for any amount, by check to FCC or our PayPal account by clicking on the Donate button on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give For more information, go to the First Stop, Inc., website at firststop.org



**LONG TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Not Published Online

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. Call the church office at 256-881-0150 or send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the list.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Letohatchee, New Hope, AL



THE FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Jordan & Kelsi Green's anniversary by Rick & Kay Shrout.

ATTENDANCE

June 22: Worship Service: 89
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 23
June 29 Worship Service: 86
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 16



RESOLUTIONS AND BUSINESS ITEMS

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will gather for the 2025 General Assembly on July 12-15 in Memphis. The slate of Resolutions and Business Items is available for review online at ga.disciples.org/resolutions-businessitems/.

In addition to Pastors Brad Henderson and Alyssa Burton, Karen Ball and Margaret Vann will also be attending as congregational voting representatives. You may contact any one of these four if you have feedback to share.

