



The Journey

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LESSONS ON STEWARDSHIP

When I was in third grade my parents sat down with me and told me that I was old enough to have responsibilities around the house. Before this discussion I would help when they asked, but now I would be responsible to make sure these tasks were completed. So we made a list of duties, nothing too complicated, like cleaning my room or taking out the trash. However, what got me really excited was they were going to pay me an allowance. They started with three dollars a week, but there was an addition. I would get an extra fifty cents and I was expected to put that in the offering plate every week.

I did not know it at the time, but this was my parent's first attempt to teach me about stewardship. As I got older, my duties changed, and I received more money, but they would always set aside just a little more, usually a dollar, so I could put something in the offering plate. When the church had special offerings, they always let me put the check in the envelope, or place the cash in the plate as it was passed. My parents not only wanted me to see that they gave to the church, they wanted me to be active in giving as well.

As time passes I still think about these early lessons on stewardship. When our kids were younger, Patti and I always made sure they had something to place in the offering plate. We too want our children to know how important it is to give to the church financially, however, we also talk to them about using all of our talents and abilities to help our congregation, community and world. So even though they may grumble about getting out of bed early on a Saturday, they will help the youth group with their mission events. They will come to help clean the church, stack chairs, or put away tables after dinners or meetings. They assist in packing Vacation Bible School kits or volunteer to teach the children who attend. We want them to know that stewardship is not just about money, it is about time and commitment as well.

In the next few days you will receive a letter from our Moderator, Brad Clasgens, about this year's Stewardship Drive. You will also receive a pledge card in that letter. The cards will be available at services on Sunday or in the office. It is my hope that once you receive this letter and card you will take time to reflect and pray. We are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel when it comes to COVID-19 and your gifts in 2020 have allowed the church to continue its ministry. Now, how is God calling you to provide for this congregation next year? We have a lot of work to do, how will you participate in spreading the Good News of Christ? After this time of reflection, please fill out the pledge card and return it to the office, email or call us with our decision, or place it in the offering plate. This will help our congregation move into 2021 confident that our ministry will not only continue, but grow.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

The Church Office will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, November 19**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

Sanctuary Service Protocols



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

- There is only one 9:30 a.m. Sunday service offered currently. Virtual services will continue with live streaming and recorded services uploaded to social media platforms.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, and youth gatherings are temporarily suspended.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services are also suspended.
- High risk members and families with children unable to reliably social distance are encouraged to remain home for virtual services offered on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), [twitch.tv](https://www.twitch.tv), or [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
- 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.
- **Attendees will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Bring your own communion elements (we have prepackaged if you forget or do not have them).
- 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.
- Every other pew is roped off for social distancing.
- 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 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.**

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Fairfax Christian Church, Valley, AL
United Christian Church, Montgomery, AL

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually 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 and leave a message. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

**ALABAMA AND NORTHWEST FLORIDA CHRISTIAN
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES (CWM)**

REGIONAL PROJECTS

CWM has 2 projects that we are asking you support this month. One is The Wellhouse (TW).

Interstate I 20 from Atlanta to Birmingham is considered the sex trafficking Super Highway. Female victims that are rescued are provided medical, spiritual, mental and emotional care. Programs offered include: 24/7 crisis line, trauma center, immediate shelter, long-term recovery program, transitional living apartment community for grads of their programs. Your monetary donations are tax deductible. For more info check out www.the-wellhouse.org

The second project is Bread for the World (BFTW). This project believes it is the moral calling for Christians to be politically engaged. Practicing faith-filled citizenship is our right under the US Constitution. We are serving God when we raise issues of hunger and poverty with our government. Hunger is at historic levels amid this pandemic. BFTW asks us to urge our government to pass a comprehensive COVID-19 relief package that includes assistance for families struggling with hunger. When we add our voices to BFTW we are building the political will to end hunger. You can do this by going to BFTW website (www.bread.org) and following the links to send a letter to our AL Senators and Representatives. You can use the letter already pre-written with the ability to add your own comments, or write your own. Enter your name, address and zip code and the letter will automatically be sent to your Congressional members. Easy peasy! Monetary donations can also be made which will help BFTW in their efforts to lobby members of Congress regarding hunger, however they are NOT tax deductible.

Ruth Lackey,
CWM Nov. Service Coordinator

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Gina Anderson by Mary Anderson.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN NOVEMBER

Founded in 1954, the Harris Home for Children is a private, non-profit agency that provides full-time foster care services for neglected adolescent children in our community and around the state. It is the only emergency crisis service for children in Alabama. Harris Home provides foster care, therapeutic care, and educational services to nurture and empower its children to become capable and compassionate adults. Your monetary donations will purchase linens, household and hygiene supplies, and Christmas gift cards for the residents.



**Harris Home
for Children**

Thank you for giving!
Mary Ann Anderson

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS REPLACEMENT PROJECT



This year we won't be doing our traditional stocking filling with Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR). They have enough stockings committed for that project this year and suggested an alternative, particularly regarding dealing with COVID19 and providing a safe way to donate toys. The Chamber of Commerce/team from Cummings Research Park created a Toy Drive Wish List s on Amazon.

If you have an Amazon account, and would like to support CCYR, follow this link www.amazon.com and it will take you to the CCYR Toy Drive Wish List. Select the items you wish to purchase from the list and add them to our cart. **When you check out you will see Julia Kaye as a delivery option**, she is the Chamber of Commerce contact who is collecting the toys. Select her as the delivery option for your order and check out.

Thank you for your support,
Christian Women's Ministries

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 40

JANUARY THROUGH OCTOBER 2020

GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive a FCC giving statement with your donations from January 1 until October 31 you will need to contact the church at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or phone the office at 256 881-0150 (leave a message if there is no answer). We can mail it to your physical address or email your statement (if you call, please state the email address where you want the statement sent.) We will only send these partial year statements to those who request them. Thank you for continuing to support First Christian Church during these challenging months.

Early or Late by Martha Spong

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee.

- Psalm 63:1 (KJV)

In my life I've committed myself to many different prayer practices. I've prayed the hours, and worked through devotional books, and written my own prayers in the margins of my Bible. Early this year, my wife and I shifted to a shared practice, reading a devotional book early in the morning. We settled on the couch in our living room, bringing our coffee. Some days our dogs joined us.

When the pandemic set in – and the need to be in certain places at certain times shape-shifted into everyone working and going to school from home – we let that devotional time stretch out. There were no middle schoolers waiting for the bus outside, no SUVs whipping around the corner where we live and speeding down our street to get their kids to school on time. Our conversations in the still mornings deepened, reflecting on this time and the church, and looking for God in the midst of such a strange season.

Then September came, and our schedules changed again. My wife moved back into her office; our son started a hybrid school year. Nothing is the way it once was, no two days in a row are the same, and our reflective time has been disrupted. I wake up most mornings and read the news on my phone. That's a harder place to find God, early or late.

Like all seasons of the spiritual life, I've come to a place where something needs to shift, whether my schedule or my practice. There is no one method that is always right. It's the seeking that matters.

Prayer - Holy one, early or late, we seek you. Help us to find you. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING 2020

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

On November 22, we join Disciples churches across the US and Canada to collect the Thanksgiving offering. Amid national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty, and staff.

The fifteen colleges and universities and the seven theological institutions in covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) encourage students in their intellectual pursuits and nurture them as leaders to transform church, society, and world. You can learn more about the Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM) general ministry of the church at disciples.org/higher-education. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving offering help support these efforts in education and leadership formation.

Please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.

FCC ONLINE VIDEOS

Miss a service? Watch previous services on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8p3R1t1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1p1). For a mixture of children's stories, special music, and special activates on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/disciplesofchrist).

UPCOMING SCRIPTURES & SERMON TITLES

November 22, 2020

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 15-23

Matthew 25: 31-46

Sermon: "When Did We See You?"

November 29, 2020

Scripture: Isaiah 64: 1-9

Mark 13: 24-37

Sermon: "What Are We Preparing For?"