



The Journey

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WHEN LOVE TRANSFORMS US

A few years ago at a leadership retreat, the Rev. Danny Ginn, from Oxford Christian Church in Kansas, spoke about the struggle to do God's will in our lives. Rev. Ginn reminded the participants that letting God become the focus of our lives is difficult because we are all ego driven. What we want, what other people think, and the image society tells us to conform too, have great influence and it is hard to continue the process that is necessary for transformation. God prevails in this struggle through unconditional love, acceptance, and humbling grace.

In the gospel of John Chapter 15 Jesus told the disciples that, "You did not choose me but I choose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." This powerful statement reminds us that everything we have, everything we are, and everything we will be belongs to God. We are chosen to bear the fruit, the good news of Jesus Christ, to the ends of the earth and when we look beyond ourselves for our purpose we find that this is our mission.

Individuals and congregations often shy away from this struggle because they perceive change as a threat and a personal loss. When new ideas and new understandings of the church come into focus do we celebrate, or mourn a perceived loss of control and identity within the church? This loss is threatening to the comfortable nature of our community and so we distance ourselves from new ideas until they fade away.

In this season of Epiphany we must remember that central to the life and message of Christ is the love and acceptance of God. Since we are created in the image of God and are called to pattern our lives on Jesus, he becomes our model of love. Christ's love was open, full of forgiveness and the hope of repentance and so we must model these traits. When we do we will find that the good news not only spreads through the world but it spreads throughout our being filling us with the love, peace and hope of God. Amen.

Pastor Paul

Please make your plans to attend the **Community Unity Service** at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church (215 Winchester Rd.) at 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 21.



WE'RE READY, ARE YOU? We need new talent in the FCC Chancel Choir and Praise Band! Making music is a great form of worship, prayer and fellowship and a vital part of the FCC ministry. If you play an instrument and/or sing please join us! All skill levels are welcome. For more information contact Lauren at 88fingers1963@gmail.com or Christopher at mcdnld_chrs@yahoo.com.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 18**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Office Hours: 9am - 5pm M-F**
Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages - 9:15 a.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Sermon Scripture Mark 1: 21-28
Sermon "Teaching With Authority"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dale Thomas & Justin Givens
10:30 Bob Senn & Andy Herron

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Linda Hooker & Jackie Sameck
Ann Thompson & Anita Wood
10:30 Pam & Charles Gilliland
Troy Davis, Sr. & Ty Davis
Mary Ann Anderson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Bob Strong by Velma Strong.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus in the Wilderness
Pastor Laura
Jan Mackenzie,
Brianna Jackson
Evan Sexton

YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	1/7	1/14
First Service Worship	44	46
Sunday School	42	35
Second Service Worship	79	77
Children's Church	6	8
Young Disciples	NA	5
Total Worship	129	136

The 2018 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, 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.

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM

January has traditionally been blanket month for CWM service activity. Once again, CWM is partnering with Church World Service in their Blankets+ program. We are the "+" in the blanket project. FCC in Huntsville, Alabama, can make a difference all around the world as the need arises. \$10 can provide a warm blanket for anyone left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. Please consider a monetary donation to FCC with CWM "Blankets" in the memo line.



Margaret J. Vann

DRAFT INTERIOR SIGNAGE

Please take a look at the draft interior signs posted around the church. These are in response to several notes in the recent all-church survey stating that it was hard for new persons to find their way around the church. Contact Bob Senn if you have suggestions on location of the signs or the content.



Once they have been "approved," a professional sign company will make the final signs for installation.

Thanks, Renovation Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The youth ministry is in need of a few volunteers willing to serve one Wednesday a month so that Pastor Linda is able to attend the Worship meetings. Please contact her directly for more information at FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com or at (256) 529-1076.



Volunteers needed to serve in our Youth Sunday morning program from 9:15-10:15. Curriculum is biblically rooted and easy to teach. Please consider volunteering.

Please contact Pastor Linda
FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com

NURSERY OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We are now offering a nursery on Wednesday Nights. The nursery is for nursery and toddler age children and is available from 5:45-8:15 pm. This allows parents to attend one of the adult Bible studies and/or choir practice! We hope to see continued growth in our Wednesday night ministries.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

We still have car decals to purchase for \$5.00. All donations will go to Grateful Life Ministry.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.*

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.



Every dollar donated goes to
Grateful Life (Disciples of Christ) Ministry

Our 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of Choice.

You may either donate Food or write a check or place cash in the Souper Bowl buckets beginning January 21 through February 4th



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP AT PINTS & PIXELS RESTAURANT ON JANUARY 21ST

Pints and Pixels has more than 35 arcade games from the 80s and 90s, 15 pinball machines, televisions time warped to 80s music videos, and food!

Time: Right after Second Service

Location: 115 Clinton Avenue

