



The Journey

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THE WORK OF LOVE

It is that time of year again when red and pink cards with hearts and cupids show up on the aisles of stores and you can find chocolates and flowers everywhere. Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, a Catholic priest who lived in Rome in the 3rd Century. At the time of Valentine's life, many Romans were converting to Christianity, but the Emperor Claudius II was not a believer and created strict laws about what Christians were allowed to do. Claudius believed that Roman soldiers should be completely devoted to Rome and therefore passed a law preventing them from marrying. St. Valentine began to marry these soldiers in secret Christian ceremonies and this was the beginning of his reputation for believing in the importance of love.

Eventually, Valentine's acts were discovered and he was put in prison. While imprisoned, Valentine cared for his fellow prisoners and his jailor's blind daughter. Legend has it that Valentine cured the girl's blindness and that his final act before being executed was to write her a love message signed 'from your Valentine'. Valentine was executed on February 14th in the year 270, but it was not until more than 200 years later that February 14th was proclaimed St. Valentine's Day.

Like many Christian holidays, Valentine's Day has become more secular and is now associated with romantic love, with around one billion cards being exchanged and thirty six million heart shaped boxes of candy sold each year. While I am not adverse to a holiday that focuses on the ideal of love it is important to know that Christian love should be viewed much differently. Christian love is not just an emotion; it is the actions that spring from that emotion.

In First Corinthians chapter 13 we read that, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

The modern view of love is portrayed in the media as love at first sight, passions that inflame the soul, and desire that overcomes reason. For Paul, love was less of a feeling and more of a way to live and act in the world. He reminds us that we could be empowered with all spiritual gifts, have faith that could change the world, understand the mysteries of the universe, and give away all that we own, but if these things are performed for the wrong reasons, if they are not done in a spirit of love, then they amount to nothing. For Paul, all good things are worthless if they are not done in the spirit of love.

For Paul love is the model for Christian life, how we are to treat others in our family of faith and in the world. He believed that if you cooked Christianity down to its essence, boiled away all of the other concerns, you would find one thing that remains. What remains is not a doctrine, a set of rules, a creed or a confession. When you take our faith to its core, what remains is love.

Yes, Valentine's Day is coming, and it should be celebrated. We need to spend time with the people we care about and deepen our relationships. Yet, let us also move into the world and love others as God loves us. Let us share this powerful and life-changing love that takes work, but is well worth the effort.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents Day.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 13**, 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, FEBRUARY 16

Scripture Matthew 5: 13-20
Sermon "Salt and Light"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Andy Herron & Gayle Herber 10:30
 Justin Givens & Mike Lash

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gayle Herber

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Frank Fitzgerald & Marilee Keim
 Carl & Carol Jones
 10:30 Ty Davis & Jackie Sameck
 Gayle Herber & Glenda Luft
 Bev Williamson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Donna Blair.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Sower
 Pastor Laura, Abby Allen, & Macey Johnson

YOUNG DISCIPLES WORSHIP

Meets Second and Fourth Sundays

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Nancy Waites

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith
 Sound - Malcolm Landreth

ATTENDANCE	2/2	2/9
First Service Worship	28	39
Sunday School	30	29
Second Service Worship	97	96
Children's Church	6	9
Young Disciples	NA	5
Total Worship	131	149

**A CELEBRATION AT COFFEE TIME
 ON FEBRUARY 16!**

Please join Mission Family 1 in the Commons Area between 9:00-1030am to celebrate Valentine's Day and the birth of Morgan Barr, daughter of AJ Barr and Casey Harris, and granddaughter of Chris Barr. Morgan's baby dedication will be a part of the 10:30 am service that day. We will have a money tree for Morgan if you would like to contribute a card, gift of cash, or a Target/WalMart gift card. Please stop by before or after Sunday School for coffee and finger foods to celebrate with the Barrs and enjoy time with your church family!

INVEST IN FUTURES!

SPECIAL OFFERING FEBRUARY 16-23

"We are all co-workers together in God's service," writes Paul in 1 Corinthians 3. Some of us plant, some of us water. But God gives the growth.

Through *Week of Compassion* – the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – we can serve the fruitful future for which God yearns. *Week of Compassion* partners to alleviate suffering across the world, whether after disastrous storms or in response to ongoing need. You can find stories and more information at weekofcompassion.org.

On February 16 and 23, we join Disciples churches across the US and Canada to collect a special offering for *Week of Compassion*, supporting the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. Please give generously

FAMILY GAME DAY

WhooHoo! Our first all church family game day is almost here! Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 23**, at 4:00 pm! Two family games will be hosted for this first gathering: Bingo and Bunco! There are posters in Commons area to sign up for either or both game(s). There will be snacks and winning prizes! Winners will be featured in the Journey, too! There will also be an area for our youngest members to color, build with legos, story time, and/or video. And feel free to bring your favorite family game to recruit players just coordinate with your MF Convener to ensure that tables will be made available. Come one, come



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful outpouring of love we experienced at our baby shower. We feel overwhelmed by and deeply grateful for your support for us and for our baby (who is almost here!). Thank you especially to everyone who helped to coordinate and make this event happen – those who set up, cleaned up, and prepared such delicious food! Cash gifts went towards the purchase of a crib for our baby's nursery. We are thrilled that she will be welcomed into such a loving church family, and can't wait to share her with you very soon.

Love,

Clara Reed-Lee and Nathan Lee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS & GROUPS

February 19: Marry Me Chicken, Butter Me Up Noodles, Sweet Garden Peas, All Dressed Up Angel Food Cake, and assorted drinks. **Please call in your reservation (256-881-0150) by Thursday, February 6,** so we will have a headcount for how much food to purchase.

Following the 5:30 pm meal are small groups including: Kids'/Youth, Men's, and Young Adults. The Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 pm.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Dr. Joyce Neighbors who passed on Friday, February 7.

The Free Dental Clinic is the February local outreach focus for FCC. Located on Whitesburg Drive, this clinic is available, by appointment, to serve those in Madison County living at or below the poverty line with an acute dental crisis. The clinic needs monetary support for necessary supplies to aid the volunteering dental professionals providing the services. Oral health greatly affects general health. Please consider this opportunity to support local outreach with donations to FCC earmarked *Free Dental Clinic*.

OAK FIREWOOD

Thanks to the following volunteers; Grad, Dick, Walt, Roger, Chris, AJ, Paul and Joe, we were able to create over a dozen loads of firewood from the downed oak tree in front of the church. There are still four loads of fire wood available. Let me know if you would like one load for a donation toward the property plan to create four new handicap parking spaces in front of the church.

Thanks, Bob Senn

(256) 881-6327 or bnsenn@aol.com

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Stream it live at:

<https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>