



# The Journey

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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the church. This is one of my favorite holidays in the church calendar. Christmas and Easter are the holidays that get most of the attention, and there is a reason. However, Pentecost celebrates the third aspect of the Trinity, the one that does not get as much attention, the Holy Spirit.

This is because the Holy Spirit is at its best rather nebulous. In the Old Testament we hear of the Spirit as a wind that hovers over the waters of creation. That same Spirit was with Moses as the Red Sea receded and he led the Israelites into the wilderness away from Egypt. We hear about the Spirit again as wisdom or Sophia. The Holy Spirit even makes an appearance at the baptism of Jesus, in the form of a dove. In addition, we hear about the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, the different languages spoken by the disciples, and the eloquent speech made by Peter. It is hard to pin down the Holy Spirit and give it shape and character since it can be so many things.

Most of us have an image of God, be that as a Father or Mother, the Creator, and King of the Universe, etc. We have seen images of Jesus repeatedly, but images of the Holy Spirit are hard to come by. I believe that this is because the Holy Spirit must be experienced, it must be felt, the Spirit fills us, renews us, and makes us whole. The Holy Spirit is the gift given by Christ so that we can be his people and share the message of peace and redemption Jesus came to proclaim.

One of the ways we think about the Spirit is light, be that the light of the tongues of flame resting on the apostles, the light of truth that filled Jesus, and it is even symbolized in the lights, or the candles, on the communion table. We hear about light banishing darkness in the scriptures, a light that will burn away evil and sin, leading to a renewal of the world. However, all too often I believe we shy away from the light of Christ because we feel safer hidden in shadows.

In the shadows we are very good at hiding injustice or hiding ourselves from our shame. We shield ourselves from poverty, hunger, victimization of the weak, violence, racism, and other evils so our lives will be more comfortable or peaceful. In the shadows we can disguise our sin and brokenness from ourselves and from those around us. In the dark recesses of our souls we think we can hide from God.

In the past weeks the shadowy history of racism has once again been exposed in our nation and we as a people are struggling not only with this reality but with what we must do to change hearts and minds so all people are afforded justice and freedom. We must remember George Floyd, but also all those who came before him, who have been victims of racism, oppression, and violence. We must also pledge to become anti-racist, pro-reconciliation Christians, who listen to the stories of others and share in the work of making all people equal. Most importantly, we must continue to share the gift of the Holy Spirit so humankind will know we are not alone. We are filled by the love of God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, June 11**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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

**Online Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. (Where to stream following page)**

## WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Community Outreach Committee's project for June is collecting financial donations for the Foster Care Unit of DHR (Department of Human Resources). There are over 400 children in foster care in Madison County and funding is not adequate to cover all their needs. These children are in care through no fault of their own; they have been abused and neglected by those who should have protected them. Community Outreach, with your help, would like to give the Foster Care Unit \$25 Walmart gift cards to have on hand to use throughout the year to help our children who are suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally. A check can be made to FCC with "CO gift cards" in the memo line and mailed to the church. Thank you for caring about the vulnerable children in our community.

## CHURCH SCHEDULE UPDATE

Regular office hours, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., have resumed with one staff member in the office each day. The office is closed from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. for lunch. The current staff schedule is Monday - Rick, Tuesday - Alyssa, Wednesday - Matt, Thursday - Pastor Paul, and Friday - Pastor Laura.. The staff will continue to work remotely from home when they are not in the church office.

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

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Stream live at 10:30 am on Sundays (or watch pervious services anytime) on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw)

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 10:30 am (and see announcements throughout the week) on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409](http://www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409)

Finally, stream services at 8:15 and 10:30 am on Sunday at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](http://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)

## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

**CONDOLENCES** to the family of \_\_\_\_\_, brother of \_\_\_\_\_, who recently passed.

## REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian Church  
Tuskegee, 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](mailto: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**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!**

**Temporary Office Entrance.** Our Early Childhood Ministry has re-opened and will temporarily be using the north entrance to the church (by the office) exclusively for health safety reasons. You must use the exterior office door, approximately 40 feet to the left of the north entrance as you face the building, for church-related access. There is a doorbell button to press. **Church key cards will be temporarily deactivated until regular church activities resume.**



**This entrance is temporarily for ECM staff and children only.** The church office entrance is to the left.

