



# The Journey

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

## WEEDS OR WHEAT?

The last two weeks the gospel lectionary readings have focused on stories about sowing seed and about wheat. Growing up in North Carolina I never really thought about wheat. I simply was not the major crop in our area. No one I knew grew wheat in their backyard garden and even on the farmland my Grandfather's family owned in Illinois they grew corn and soybeans. Wheat was something bread was made out of, I knew this because it had a picture of wheat on the package.

Then we moved to Kansas, and I learned a great about wheat. I remember my father telling me that Wichita was surrounded by seas of wheat. I loved the beach as a child, but I did not know to interpret this image until I saw the fields. They were huge, acres upon acres of wheat some stretching out as far as the eye could see. When the wind blew the stalks would rustle making a quiet noise that reminded me of the waves coming in and out.

It was also amazing to me that often farmers would often let weeds, those plants they did not want, grow in amongst the wheat. Weeds have always been a problem. The U.S. Department of Agriculture admits that over 50% of our flora is made up of species that are considered undesirable by some segment of society. Weeds are a part of life. When you have a home garden it is easy to spend a few moments picking them, but when you have hundreds, if not thousands of acres, it is impossible.

This week Jesus tells a parable about planting and sowing. Like us, the servants are eager to go pull up all of the weeds, but the landowner does not want to harm the good wheat, so he tells them to leave the weeds alone. They will be taken care of after the harvest. Jesus equates the weeds to those that do evil in the world, while the good seed represents the children of the Kingdom of God, but what happens when a weed becomes wheat?

When I read this passage I was reminded of Dandelions. Most of us consider this plant to be a weed, something to pull out of our yards and dispose of before they take over. Yet, in the past, people actually cultivated Dandelions. The leaves, stalk, and flowers are all edible. They can be used to make tea or even wine. The roots have been used for medicine for years to treat stomach and liver conditions. Dandelions fell out of fashion when people wanted nice green lawns filled with grass. They became a weed in our minds, not a helpful plant.

This reminds me that we have to be careful with our labels, just as we have to be very cautious when we want to decide who is welcome in our community. Maybe this is a reminder that you and I are not to judge. Perhaps we simply do not have the ability to discern the good and the bad for everyone. Notice that it is the Son of Man, Jesus, who not only sows the good seed but also decides what is wheat and what is a weed. This does not mean that we have no responsibilities. We are called to be the ones that grow, the ones that share, and the people that produce the love of God in the world. Even in the midst of the weeds there can be light and life. Therefore, let us have faith and let that faith take root, for the harvest will come. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, July 16**, 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.**

## 9:00 AM SUNDAY DRIVE-IN/TAILGATE

### WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited to come in your vehicle as a family unit and you can stay in your car or you can bring chairs to sit in your parking space. We will be broadcasting the service on an FM transmitter, so you will be able to tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. We will also have a public address system for those sitting outside their vehicles. We ask that you maintain social distancing and that if you leave your car you will wear a mask. Please bring your own communion elements, they will be blessed and we will partake together.

### WEDDING SHOWER FOR

#### ALYSSA BALDWIN AND ANDREW BURTON

July 26, 2020, 2:00 PM

An invitation is extended to all to celebrate with Alyssa and Andrew following their July 11, 2020 wedding. The couple are registered at both amazon.com and target.com. We can look forward to hearing from Alyssa at that time via Zoom



sharing her joy as a newlywed. Please watch for more detail on Facebook and via a church wide email.

### YOU WERE SO GENEROUS!

Through your generosity, just over \$1200 was donated to help meet the needs of children in foster care in Madison County (the Community Outreach Project for June). The agency is so appreciative of your concern for these children who were removed from their homes through no fault of their own. Children are removed only under dire circumstances and their needs are great in so many areas. FCC's donation will help with expenses not covered by state allocations. Thank you for caring about our community's vulnerable children.



## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Not Published Online

**CONDOLENCES** to the family of Nancy Welsh, sister of Carolyn Brown, who recently passed.

### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Big Union Christian Church, Letohatchee, 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**

**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Rebecca Denise Ball by Matt, Karen & Stan Ball; and in memory of Nancy Welsh, former member and sister of Carolyn Brown.

## JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2020

### GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive a FCC giving statement with your donations from January 1 until June 31 you will need to contact the church. You can email us at [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or phone the office at 256 881-0150.

We can email your statement if you include the email address you want it sent to, or we can mail it to your physical address. We realize that many people do not care about receiving this information so we will only send it to those who request it. Thank you for continuing to support First Christian Church during these challenging months.

### FCC ONLINE

If you use Facebook, be sure to click Like and Follow (when you click on Follow, select See First) to keep up-to-date with church activities. [www.facebook.com/fcchsv/](http://www.facebook.com/fcchsv/)

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw) (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscribe and the Bell icon to get notifications when a new video is posted) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pg/fcchsv/videos/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/fcchsv/videos/) (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

### HELP THE CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP AT AMAZON

If you shop on Amazon, why not help the church out at the same time? You get the same price and Amazon makes a contribution to the church. **First Christian Church-Huntsville** is a listed charitable organization with AmazonSmile and receives 0.5% of the eligible purchases you make on Amazon. To use AmazonSmile, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> (this address is for First Christian Church in Huntsville and will automatically credit 0.5% of your purchases to the FCC account) and sign on your Amazon account as usual. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile program and there is no additional expense to you or deductions from the donation amounts generated from your purchases.

## *Disrupted*

By Kenneth L. Samuel

*As an eagle stirreth up her nest ... so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. - Deuteronomy 32:11-12 (KJV)*

Social grievance and angry protests across the country. School systems thrown into quandary over online learning. Stagnant business operations and economic growth. Racial tensions at boiling levels. Political polarization and personal stress. Over-zealous policing and under-funded mental health resources. Mounting pressures imposed by an unabated pandemic. Social malaise spiraling upwards.

The daily disruptions we encounter are more than just disquieting. They run deep and shake the institutional foundations that once constituted our social order. The Coronavirus and the virulent strife over longstanding racial injustice have upended the world as we once knew it.

We look to God and Scripture for avenues of relief from the mounting tensions. If we look closely, what we find are not reliefs from our turmoil but reasons to engage it. The God who leads us beside still waters is also the God of our most disturbing provocations.

*“As the eagle stirreth up her nest, so the Lord alone led Israel.”*

For eagles, the first step in learning how to fly is to get out of the nest. The very structure upon which the nest is built must be left behind if the eaglets are to realize their wings and find their potential in the air.

The transition from comfortable nest to airborne ascension cannot be completely stable and secure. Real progress is often accompanied by drastic disturbance.

Prayer

Great Disrupter, thank you for wings that will not conform to the constraints of our nests. Amen.