



The Journey

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SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN McMAINS FELLOWSHIP HALL THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 18.

DO NOT BE AFRAID

When I was a child I was afraid of the dark. When I was alone in my bedroom, with the lights out, my imagination would run wild and I would see monsters in my closet, ghosts in the corner, and lurking creatures under my bed just waiting to grab an outstretched foot or hand. That meant that many nights I would run and jump into my parent's bed claiming that I had a nightmare or that I had seen something scary in my room. My father would always get up and check, and when he came back he would tell me, "There is nothing to be afraid of." Then he would send me back to bed and I knew I was safe because my father said I was.

As an adult I have outgrown my fear of the dark but other fears have replaced it. I worry constantly about my family, money, the church, the world around me, and let's be realistic, in our world there is a lot to worry about. The news of even more mass shootings, when we hear about troubles on the boarder, children being separated from their parents and placed in holding cells, the rise of the cost of higher education and the burden of student loans, the rising cost of healthcare, just to name a few. These are things that cause me to stay awake at night and now there is no comforting adult to tell me, "There is nothing to be afraid of."

Our faith tells us that Jesus is the great comforter, but is Jesus able to speak to adult fears that come in the middle of the night and cause us to toss and turn sleepless in our beds? Is Jesus able to speak to us when our dreams march by like defeated soldiers? Can Jesus say something to us when it is three o'clock in the morning and we can't sleep? Christ wants to ease our fears, to free us from our burdens, and to provide peace.

I think of the day he was confronted with the surprising sight of a man being lowered through a roof so he could receive Jesus' blessing. We are told that the man was paralyzed, and it must have been a severe condition because he had to be carried on a stretcher by his friends. We may think there are a great deal of differences between the paralyzed man and us, but are we not paralyzed too? Are our hands free, able to extend in gestures of help and love to anyone, anywhere? Are our legs unburdened, able to walk into any place of human misery in an act of reconciliation? Are our tongues free to announce to any who hear that God loves all God's children? "Do not be afraid!" says Jesus, "For I am with you."

Perhaps, to ease our fear, we need a reminder that we can do something about the things that keep us up at night. We are not helpless because Christ has empowered us to be the family of God. If we stand up and stand together we can find solutions to the problems humanity faces, we can reach out to our neighbors, we can provide justice and mercy to those who are oppressed, we can be the people of God if we let go of our fear and embrace the freedom Jesus offers. Don't be afraid! Be free to live a life that lasts beyond death. Be free to live in this world unafraid. Be free to be the people of God! Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, August 15**, 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, AUGUST 18

Scripture Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2
Sermon "Making the Magic Real"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Pam Clasgens & Gayle Herber
10:30 Lee Boles & Lisa Fitzgerald

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gayle Herber

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Anita Wood
Carl & Carol Jones
10:30 Jon & Holly Ahlbin
Ty Davis & Gayle Herber

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Patti Allen

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Annie Jo Wood, mother of Randy, by Randy & Anita Wood; and in memory of Valerie Woodall, daughter-in-law of Nancy Woodall.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Orientation with Parents & Talking to God
Pastor Laura, Holly Ahlbin & Abby Allen

YOUNG DISCIPLES

On Break

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
Assistant Director - Michael Smith
Sound - Michael Smith & Malcolm Landreth
Stream Operator - Michael Smith



WELCOME ALYSSA BALDWIN

Please welcome Alyssa Baldwin, our new Youth Director. There will be a welcome reception for Alyssa this Sunday following second service.

BIBLE STUDY STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

If you are interested in furthering your study of the Bible, reading the writings of theologians throughout the Christian era, and enjoying discussion and fellowship with others through this 30-week study, then this is the study for you. Our texts will include the main study manual entitled *Christian Believer – Knowing God with Heart and Mind* and an additional text containing readings from spiritual greats like John Wesley, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Clement of Alexandria, John Calvin, St. Augustine, Martin Luther King, and others. We will meet weekly, Thursday morning from 9:30 until noon in the church library. Tentative class start date will be September 5, 2019. **If you think you are interested or have any questions please contact Lisa Fitzgerald at 256-508-4837 or lisafitzgerald@hughes.net**

SUNDAY WORSHIP MOVING TO

McMains Fellowship Hall August 18

The renovations in the sanctuary and narthex (lobby) began on Monday, August 12. **Sunday services will be held in McMains Fellowship Hall starting this Sunday, August 18.** The renovations are expected to take four to six weeks. Please be patient during this upheaval...the final result will be worth the inconvenience.

Bob Senn, Renovation Chair

ATTENDANCE	8/04	8/11
First Service Worship	39	43
Sunday School	35	42
Second Service Worship	87	98
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	4	NR
Total Worship	130	141

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

One of the goals of the FCC Hospitality Committee is to promote fellowship and getting to know one another by encouraging you to wear your nametag on Sunday and at church events. If you need a nametag or want a new one, we will have a sign-up sheet in the commons area beginning in August, and we will provide one. You can also email Cathy Rosol, Hospitality Committee Chair, at crosol.cr9@gmail.com to request a nametag. We want to get to know you by name!

SUMMER BLAST FOR THE AQUARIUS CLUB

Caring and supportive of those less fortunate has been a description of FCC members for years. Thank you once again for the outpouring of love and contributions for the Aquarius Club project. Summer Blast was a blast and couldn't have been so without each of you.

Jill Hall and Community Outreach

Many thanks for all your prayers and concern. Prayers were answered and I'm cancer free and have had the last radiation. What a wonderful caring Church Family you all are.

Blessings,
Carolyn Brown

JANUARY - JUNE GIVING STATEMENTS are available outside McMains on Sundays and in the Church Office during the week. Please contact the Church Office if you are unable to pick up your statement and wish for it to be mailed to you.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at:

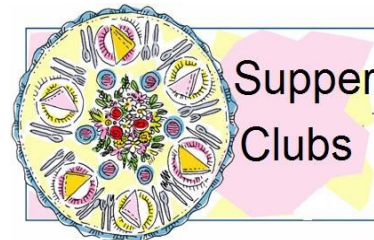
<https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The August Community Outreach project is collection of needed supplies for schools. Needed supplies include: pencils, paper, glue, rulers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, index cards, and colored markers. Hygiene items include tissues, hand sanitizer, plastic zip lock bags of all sizes, Clorox sanitizing wipes, and various sizes of band aids. In addition, counselors need personal hygiene items for students (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap--small hotel items are ideal) as well as articles of clothing including underwear. Please place your donations in the basket under the poster in the Commons Area, or you may make a monetary donation to FCC with *School Supplies/Hygiene* on the memo line.



Thanks for your generosity,
Community Outreach



FCC has several groups of 10-12 adults who meet monthly for breakfast, lunch, or dinner to enjoy good food and conversation. Join us and experience new restaurant adventures or home-cooked meals! This is a great way to spend quality time with a few friends from church. During August, sign up in the commons area, or contact Cathy Rosol at crosol.cr9@gmail.com or 256-701-2836.