



The Journey

Volume XXVIII No. 33
August 17, 2020
www.fcc-hsv.org

**THERE WILL NOT BE A JOURNEY THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24.
PUBLICATION WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, AUGUST 31.**

THE BLESSING OF BREAD

I have always found the process of baking bread fascinating. My father used to bake bread and we would use it in his churches, and later in my mother's church, during communion. I can still see my father in the kitchen, hands covered in flour, mixing the ingredients, kneading the dough, and forming the loaves. What I liked the most about my father making bread, other than eating it, was the smell that filled the entire house. It permeated everything, filling your senses, and letting you know that something wonderful was happening thanks to simple kitchen chemistry.

Bread is simple but it is nourishing. It is easy to make but difficult to master. When done correctly it has wonderful results but if a step is missed or if something goes wrong it can be a disaster. Is it any wonder that Jesus uses bread often as an allegory for the love of God. From the parable of the woman making bread, the use of bread to feed the multitude, eating bread and fish after the resurrection, or breaking bread at the Last Supper, Jesus takes a common staple that would be on any table, and uses it to express the good news he came to share. This is my body broken for you. Take and eat, do this in remembrance of me.

However, bread that is left out too long will go stale, and eventually it will mold and begin to rot. Bread was meant to be used and to be shared. In the same way the blessings we receive from God can so stale if they are not used. Like the parable of the woman making bread, when we use our blessings we will find that they are returned, maybe not in the way that we gave them, but in relationships, service, good will, and acts of justice. When this happens, the Spirit of God fills the room, like the wonderful scent of bread baking, filling us with joy and hope for the future.

Just as Jesus used bread to share his message of hope and peace with others let us use this time to reconcile with our neighbor, open our heart to the stranger, and continue the process of transformation that we began when we accepted Christ into our hearts, minds, and lives. I hope you will join us as we worship online or in our drive-in services as we accept our great commission to spread the good news throughout the world. Grace and peace to you all, Amen.

Can't Make It To The Sunday Drive-In Service??

Stream it live Sundays at: 9:00 am www.twitch.tv/fcchsv

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, August 27**, at Noon. Email to: 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. **The service is broadcast on FM 107.9** (limited to the parking lot area) so you may tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. There is also 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.

Drive in service attendance: August 16: 55



**WEEKLY PRAYER
CONCERNS**



Not Published Online



**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**



Not Published Online

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Union 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 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 honor of Rick & Kay Shrou's 42nd anniversary.

NEXT WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Don & Bev Williamson's 57th anniversary

Sunday, August 23

Scripture Matthew 16: 13-20
Sermon "The Confession of Faith"

Sunday, August 30

Scripture Matthew 16: 21-28
Sermon "Take Up Your Cross"

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/

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw (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/ (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN AUGUST

Our focus in August is Morris Elementary/Middle School, a Title 1 school. To prepare for the students' return to classrooms after the first 9 weeks of remote learning, Morris has specifically asked for disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, facial tissue, disposable face masks, and re-useable (not disposable) water bottles instead of the usual variety of school and hygiene supplies.

You may drop off items at the church office, but please call first to ensure someone is there to let you in. The normal north entrance is reserved for ECM staff and children. only Use the church office door, there is an orange sign with Church Office about 40 feet east of the north entrance, and a door bell to press. Monetary donations are welcome and may be mailed to FCC. Thanks for your generosity.

Go, Morris Eagles!

CWM WOMEN OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Do you wake up each day and say, "Thank you, God, for another day and all its opportunities." I hope so! To honor that gratefulness, why not set up a jar, bowl, or your official CWM blessing box in an obvious place and each morning drop a coin into that container with a prayer of gratitude. Then if you have an extra special blessing during the day, you can drop in another coin or coins as well. If your box becomes too heavy, trade out the coins for a paper dollar. I started this March 15 when Covid-19 began, and now have over \$7 with just one nickel or more per day. In March we will collect all our blessing box proceeds and donate to the Disciples Mission Fund. Let's honor how blessed we are each day.

Sue Seward, Blessing Box Coordinator

IN THE STORM

by Martha Spang

A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.

Galatians 5:9 (NRSV)

One of my commitments for 2020 was to start baking bread again, and the first attempts were about as disappointing as anything we try for the first time in a long time. I was particularly disappointed in the rise of an early loaf. A baking website I follow recommended a brand of yeast I couldn't find in my local grocery store, so I ordered a 16-ounce bag online in late February. Little did I know there would be a pandemic-induced shortage!

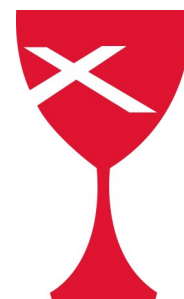
The new yeast – no doubt much fresher than the packets on a high shelf at the store down the street – made a huge difference. The whole loaf of bread was affected by the tiny amount of yeast mixed in with the flour and other ingredients, in this case for the better.

I am like my loaves of bread. The things I incorporate, the spiritual influences and personal contacts and media sources, have the power to leaven me, to transform me.

Some days they change me for the better, like the beautiful loaf of whole wheat bread I made for my family this week. Sometimes they change me for the worse, and I feel spread out on the pan of life like a dough that did not come together. Today, may I choose the yeast that makes me better.

Prayer

Creating God, you have given us all the ingredients for a holy life. Help us to choose well. Amen.



FAITH HOPE

LOVE

GIVE BLOOD

First Christian Church

Blood Drive

Sunday, August 30th

8:00 to 12:00

Complimentary Covid 19 antibody test with each donation

****All donations remain local****



All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers