



The Journey

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Dear Church –

My heart is still singing from the holy time we shared in Des Moines last month. The Spirit was present and real in worship. The discussions were deep in the workshops. The joy was tangible at the meal events. Our programming for youth and young adults included education about the governance of the church, and we saw how important multi-generational worship is when we gather. Many of those gathered spoke strongly for justice in the business sessions, at the candlelight vigil and the post-assembly rally. As the General Youth Council reminded us with their resolution, we must continue to invite one another to listen and discuss, even when we disagree. To walk together in love even when we disagree is at the heart of being “Disciple”.

I am genuinely hopeful for the future of this Church. I saw signs of life and growth everywhere, of Disciples who are learning to abide whether that means waiting with expectation or tarrying a while in the Presence. While we spent some time celebrating our past, I also heard from many dedicated Disciples that we are a group whose time has come in this fragmented world. A look at the MissionFest projects made me both proud and excited about the ministry that Disciples are engaged in across the US and Canada. To quote the Week of Compassion team, “Good work, Church!”

In partnership with the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, we celebrated the 50th Anniversaries of The Design and the Merger Agreement, two documents which shaped our current manifestation as church together. As many of us gathered to look forward in the “Design at 100” and “Second 50” workshops, I was encouraged by the presence of two of our former GMPS, Sharon Watkins and Dick Hamm, as they facilitated a conversation about what our church needs to look like in the next 50 years. Disciples from across our church stood to speak truth into the room, naming both our challenges as well as our hopes. This kind of real talk must continue to be part of our work as we move forward together. The conversations revealed that we are not as afraid of change, and that we are confident in God’s ability to empower us for ministry.

In the midst of the celebrations, we marked two very important occasions. One was the culmination of a major part of the 2020 Vision. Former General Minister and President Dick Hamm set the vision before us in the 1990s and he was there to announce the achievement of one of the goals of beginning more than 1,000 new faith communities. While not every start continued, we have more than 60 percent who did. But another effect of those planting operations was to work new church ministry into our DNA, to make the planting embedded in who we are today.

We were also blessed to affirm our full communion agreement with The United Church of Canada. We were already in partnership through two of our Canadian congregations and our shared relationship with the United Church of Christ. This agreement closed the triangle to make all three denominations stronger with shared ministry. Not a merger, but a partnership, this agreement will be celebrated in October in Winnipeg.

Disciples, while we are primed for growing into what the Lord has in mind for us - to become a healing, helping force for good in this fragmented world - we must make it a priority to be connected to the Vine, Jesus Christ, through the disciplines of prayer and Bible study. We must be strengthened in our spiritual beings in order to bear the fruit that is only possible through Christ. I invite you to do that work together, wherever you are, wherever you serve. We will be stronger as a church because of it. We must continue to abide, to remain, to persist. I am looking forward to what we can accomplish before we meet again in Louisville, KY, in 2021. I am honored to be on this journey with you.

With God’s love, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 12** 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, SEPTEMBER 15

Scripture Luke 15: 1-10
Sermon "When Everyone Looks"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Gayle Herber & Andy Herron
 10:30 Kerry Williams & Lisa Fitzgerald

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Nancy Woodall

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & TBA
 Linda Hooker & TBA
 10:30 Beverly Cannon & Marilee Keim
 Bev Williamson & Troy Davis, Jr.
 TBA

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Chuck & Penny Jackman

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Mary
 Ann Anderson

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Creation
 Margaret J. Vann, Pastor Laura & Joe Allen

YOUNG DISCIPLES

On Break

NURSERY VOLUNTEER

Nancy Waites & Jon Ahlbin

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	9/1	9/8
First Service Worship	35	29
Sunday School	40	37
Second Service Worship	78	74
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	5	6
Total Worship	118	109



Hey Kids!



Sunday, September 8th, we will begin Children's Choir following second service. Join us downstairs in the Choir Room for music activities and singing! Rehearsal will last approximately 35-40 minutes.

Bring On The Music!

LAUREN and **CHRIS**

HYGIENE ITEMS FOR GRATEFUL LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Outreach is sponsoring a hygiene item collection for Grateful Life during October. They are our sister church for disadvantaged individuals in our community. Their location is on Oakwood Avenue.

Our assistance will help meet some immediate needs and those going into the winter months. Since Grateful Life has been reorganizing their shelves for these items, they will have an inventory of needed items completed soon. Monetary donations will help the most so that Community Outreach will be able to purchase specific items or sizes. Dental products, foot powder, sanitary products, and band aids are always needed but the sizes for Depends has not been determined. Questions or concerns: call Bev at 256-783-0795. Thank you for your continued support.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS & GROUPS

September 18, Potato bar, salad, dessert, and assorted drinks. **Call in your reservation by Thursday, September 12, at 256-881-0150.**

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

Can't Make It To Church? Stream it live at:
<https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>

MISSION FAMILY 3 TAILGATE PARTY

Mission Family 3 will be having hotdogs and hamburgers at our Tailgate lunch on September 15. Join us at 11:30 in Family Services. You can bring a side dish or dessert and enjoy the fellowship!

2019 REGIONAL WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

Women from our AL/NWFL congregations will meet for fellowship, service, and fun at the fall retreat Sep 27-29, 2019, at Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, AL. Marilyn F Williams, President, International Disciples Women Ministries (IDWM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) US/Canada, will lead the retreat with the theme "Put on the Whole Armor of God." Registration forms are available online at alnwfldisciples.org/womens-ministry/ and at the Commons Area display. Registration by mail or online is due NLT Sep 20. Scholarships are available.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

All women of the church are invited to join CWM's small groups, which focus on study, service, and fellowship. We have day and night study groups, a quilting and crafting group, and a prayer shawl group. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Ann Anderson at:

maryannanderson256@gmail.com.

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10 NRSV

One way you can literally serve others is to serve Communion on Sundays. Please contact Gayle Herber, or the Church Office 256-881-0150, if you are interested in serving Communion.

HELP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Christian Women's Ministry has chosen Hope Place as our September project. Hope Place provides safe and confidential emergency shelter, meals, counseling and court advocacy for victims and their children who are fleeing domestic violence. The shelter depends on donations from the community, along with grant money, to keep serving those who need it. Please join CWM in supporting this worthy service with a check to FCC with "Hope Place" on the memo line. You may either drop it in the Sunday offering or leave in the church office.

Thank you, Nancy Woodall

