



The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 6
March 20, 2023
www.fcc-hsv.org

SPRING AND NEW LIFE

It is strange to think that only a few weeks ago we were still wearing our winter coats and the sun was going down before we sat down to supper. Now flowers are blooming, the birds have returned, and the trees are starting to bud. Spring is not around the corner, Spring is already here. In the church when we think of Spring we think of Easter and the renewal that it brings, however we are still in the season of Lent, reflecting on our lives and bringing before God our sin and brokenness. This time of contemplation is leading us to the ideals of transformation and rebirth found in Easter. In our Sunday morning worship services, even though the alter is draped in black, the candles are missing, and the cross is hidden, there is still a joyful spirit, because we know that soon our time of mourning will be over and our faith will be renewed.

April 2 is Palm/Passion Sunday, and opportunity to celebrate the crowds cheering for Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, but also a time when we look ahead to his last week on earth and the cross looming in the distance. It is easy to allow the joy of resurrection to overshadow the sacrifice of the cross but you cannot have one without the other, there can be no faith without sacrifice.

Our Lenten services are opportunities to contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and to worship together as a community. They begin with Palm Sunday but **do not forget our Maundy Thursday service, on April 6 at 7:00 pm.** This year the First Christian Church choir will be presenting a Tenebrae service. The word "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. We will also hold a communion service, a reminder of Jesus' presence with us even in the midst of pain and loss. The worshipers will then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection.

All of these events either help us to prepare or realize the significance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross and his resurrection for the sake of the world. Such a gift is not to be taken lightly, but treasured and allowed to nourish our souls so that through our words and our lives others may see the love of God revealed. This year let us all experience the joy and renewal that Easter brings.

Amen.



If you would like to donate items: Drop off times are this week Monday - Wednesday 9 am until Noon, Wednesday & Thursday 4 until 7pm, and Friday 4 until 5 pm.

The Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 6:00 a.m. until Noon.

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 30.** Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150



The choir has empty seats and is hoping you will consider joining this small but musical group and help fill those seats. All voices welcome!

Rehearsals will resume Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lauren Wilson Carter, Director of Music, at *****

Reminder : All voices welcome!

Worship Committee



BLESSING BOX reminder: If you have been depositing coins in a blessing box this year as a "thanks giving" offering, please count up your blessings and turn in a check to your circle leader or the church at the end of March or beginning of April. Designate to CWM Blessing Box. Our combined blessing box offerings will be sent to the Disciples Mission Fund.



IT'S A GIRL! Congratulations to Miles & Katherine Boles Stumb, and big sister Mae, on the birth of Anne Miles Stumb Duffy & Lee Boles are the proud grandparents.

Please give a warm FCC welcome to new member Jamison Kraus who joined our church on March 13

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana
Fort Walton Beach, FL

Weekly prayer concerns are published in the Sunday bulletins. Send your requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

DESPERATELY POOR CHILDREN NEED OUR HELP



Christian Women's Ministries (CWM) hopes you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) and Pringle House of Jamaica during April.

Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years and has also been devastated by several hurricanes. Life expectancy average is 63 years and adult illiteracy is over 51%. We will also be donating to the Pringle Home of Jamaica, which provides the same services for the impoverished children there. We can make a difference in the lives of children in two third world countries by donating to support these causes. Checks can be made to FCC with "CWM April project" in the memo line. The need is great; please join CWM in changing lives.

ATTENTION: Parents, Sponsors, and Volunteers (age 16 and older) who work with children and youth.

It is a requirement of the FCC Safe Church Policy that you receive training to provide a safe and healthy environment in which young people can learn about and experience God's love. If you are NOT on the approved Safe Church Policy list, please plan to attend the **Safe Church training on Wednesday evening, March 29, 6:00 p.m in the Family Services Area.** After the training, you will have the opportunity to fill out the Volunteer Application and Disclosure Form.

Sue Seward, Safe Church Trainer

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Jamison Kraus

Phone

Email

Ken & Daphne Brown

Address Change

Huntsville, AL 35805



**Food
Pantry of starting a new, beneficial
habit?**

Are you up to the challenge Why not start a new habit this Sunday? Bring one food item for the food pantry cart. Of course, more donations would be better.

As inflation continues to grow, many families are suffering from food shortages. Our food pantry cart is located to the right as you enter the church. Can you help your neighbor?



The 2023 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150 to select a Sunday

to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line.

You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket through this QR code linked to our website.



In Huntsville and other communities, feminine hygiene products deserts exist. Girls and sometimes their mothers cannot attend school because the family cannot afford feminine hygiene products, and so the girls stay home from school or their mothers from work. Our emphasis will be on the girls' needs.

Community Outreach (CO) supports three schools with needs for girls without monies to buy these products. The schools are Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School. CO has been informed that school nurses, because of health reasons, prefers that sanitary pads be supplied.

CO has a collection site in the church and delivers the donations to the Health Officer, at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They have distributed the donations as needed at the schools. This past month 14 packages were delivered. Margaret J. Vann

ATTENDANCE

March 12: Worship Service: 101
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 794
March 19: Worship Service:
Small Groups (During week & Sunday):



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Palm Sunday 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt	3 10:30 am Quilters 5:30 pm ECM Board Mtg.	4 10 am Fleming Farm Circle	5 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study • Phoebe Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	6 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7	8
9 Easter Sunday	10 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters 5 pm Conveners’ Mtg	11 6 pm Elders’ Meeting	12 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study • Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	13 6 pm Board Meeting	14	15
16 10:30 am Evangelism Mtg 2 pm Pickelball	17 10:30 am Quilters	18	19 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	20	21	22
23 2 pm Pickelball	24 10:30 am Quilters	25	26 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	27	28	29
30 2 pm Pickelball 4:30 Church Game Night						