



GET READY FOR CHANGE

When faced with new circumstances in your life, you have at least three options for how to respond. First, you can stay bewildered. You can let this event knock you flat on your back and then stay there. Second, you can engage in denial. You can look at the facts and ignore them. Or third, you can, slowly perhaps, assimilate this new information. You may get knocked as flat on your back as the next person by this new realization, but eventually you pick yourself up. You embrace this new truth and then go through the long, sometimes painful, process of re-assessing life in the light of this new evidence.

This is the choice we face during Holy Week and Easter. When faced with the incredible proclamation that Jesus rose from the dead, you can choose to say that you don't know what to make of this but then neither are you going to try. You can deny it, the whole thing is fiction, a pious wish but something that never really happened. Or you can move past the shock toward acceptance. But let me caution you: if you are going to accept the truth of the resurrection, it will change you totally.

Easter is the center, the good news, of our faith. The resurrection is an act of power and love that is the ultimate answer to the promises of God, proof that death was defeated and new life offered to all people. It also provides hope for our future as we look forward to the day when Christ will come again. However, we often forget that Easter Sunday does not signal the end of this celebration. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, will not end until Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd. During this season we are reminded that the glory of resurrection is only the beginning of our journey of faith. Through the appearances of Jesus to his followers after he was raised from the dead, we find that there are still lessons to be learned and work to be done.

At its essence, the season of Easter is a reminder that new life brings change, yet we are so deeply tied to old convictions and our own brokenness that this prospect brings a sense of loss and overwhelming fear. It is at these times that we must remember that resurrection cannot occur without loss and pain. Jesus had to suffer and die on the cross so he could be raised from the dead, so too are we called to suffer, deny our selfish hearts, and give of ourselves, so that we may become true followers of God.

This may seem like an impossible task, but our God has always made the impossible, possible. The courage and strength that is needed can be found in many ways, Bible study, meditation, prayer, and corporate worship, in fact, the church was created to unify believers as the family of God so we could mutually encourage our lives of faith. It is my sincere hope that the Easter season will be a time of renewal for us all. As we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ let us remember our call to faith, encourage one another in love, and spread the good news of the gospel throughout our community and world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April, 8**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP

Christian Women Mission (CWM) hopes you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) 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%. House of Hope is making a difference and so can we through a donation. Checks can be made to FCC with House of Hope in the memo line. Sponsorship is \$360 per year per child; CWM would love to sponsor two children, as we did last year. Please help us achieve this goal.



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

SEVERAL OPEN DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS

Sign up dates for **FOOD BASKETS** are available. You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email publisher@fcc-hsv.org to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion.



Donations are \$25.00, with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line, and go to our Community Outreach for distribution.

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We have resumed in-person worship services but you may still stream them live at 9:30 am on Sundays (or watch previous services anytime) on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 9:30 am, watch previous services, videos for children, and special activities on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos

Finally, stream services at 9:30 am on Sunday at: www.twitch.tv/fcchsv

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows, the prayer concerns that are normally 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 to leave a message.

Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana
Fr. Walton Beach, FL



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Matt Ball's birthday by Karen & Stan Ball.

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR HOME # 27

We completed Home # 26 last year during the pandemic. We did not work many hours on the house but did contribute \$4,000 to its construction cost. Eight partner families moved into their new homes during the pandemic. Their experiences and how they live their lives have changed dramatically since moving. Their children can run and play outdoors after a long day inside because they now live in a safe neighborhood with adequate space for learning and working from their home. The knowledge that their home was built to code and standards promotes an environment of health and safety. We are making a difference. This new Habitat neighborhood will have 31 homes when completed.



We are changing lives one home at a time. Please help us with time, talent or treasure on Home # 27. Write your check to FCC with Habitat on the memo line if you would like to contribute. Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

CHURCH CALENDAR - APRIL

The following are the known* church related activities.

- 5 10:30 am Quilters
- 8 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
6 pm Zoom Board Meeting
- 12 9:15 am Esther Circle
10:30 am Conveners
- 15 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 22 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 26 10 am Bible Study - The Walk
- 28 9 am Breakfast Bunch

* Previously, activities were listed on the calendar based on Facility Requests submissions. Some meetings are now being conducted virtually, or in other ways, so the church office has no way of knowing that those meetings are occurring. Please contact the church office (256-881-0150 or publisher@fcc-hsv.org) if you would like your group or committee, including the point of contact, included on the calendar.

HE KNEW by Kaji Douša

"Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine." – John 12:28-30 (NRSV)

Jesus knew.

He knew.

His place and his mission were clear - clear in their brutality, wonder and possibility, but clear. He was not comfortable with what was to come. But he had a sense of where it was headed and what it would glorify.

He knew.

The folks around him did not enjoy the same clarity. Maybe God saw this. And God sent signs. Even a voice offered an endorsement loud enough for all to hear.

The crowds wondered: What is this? Thunder? An angel? Terrifying sounds that evoke ... what?

I hear Jesus' response: "That voice you heard? The sound that just gave an arresting, incontrovertible testimony? That voice wasn't for me. Because I already knew. It was for you. Because you refused to understand."

It may very well be that God has placed a call on us, and we may have heard it but seen very little support. And maybe God has offered supporting documentation to the ones around us to recognize that call, too.

Once you know? The corroborating calls are for them, not for you. You know that creation needs care and that you have a role in

Knew continued next column...

...***Knew*** continued.

that. The thunder is not for you. I'd guess that you know. Somewhere in you, you know very deeply, what God has to say.

But if you don't?

Then the next angel's for you.

Prayer

God, help me hear and see just as clearly as Jesus did. Send help if I need it. Amen.

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Blood Drive at FCC on Sunday, April 11, from 8:30 -11:30 a.m.

You may sign up for a time at donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/701980



Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, children/youth gatherings, coffee, and other hospitality services are currently suspended.
- While FCC and the State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level. Virtual services are offered (facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, or First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube) every Sunday.
- **Attendees, including children, will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the service will be broadcast (107.9) to the parking lot in the event of overflow attendance.
- Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors. The doors by the church office will be locked.
- Greeters will provide hand sanitizer to all who enter and provide masks for those who have not brought their own.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side aisles
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Following the service, rows will **leave by the side aisles** with the east aisle exiting through Family Services and the west aisle through the Narthex doors. (There will be directional signs.)
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Please, **no congregating indoors** before or after service - social distancing outdoors.
- **Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- **Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**