



# The Journey

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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

As shops and restaurants open again and things get back to what we would consider “the new normal” we are all looking forward to opportunities we have missed. I have to admit my pleasure that coming to church seems to be one of them for many of you. It has been wonderful to see so many faces that I have only seen on Zoom meetings or voices that I only heard on phone calls. I love to hear the voices of our children in church and am glad to know the nursery, Worship and Wonder, and children and youth events are happening once again. It is also heartening to see visitors and to know they are greeted warmly by church members before and after our services. I am truly thankful for all of these blessings.

However, there are still a few firsts that I am looking forward to. I cannot wait until the summer blockbuster movies come back to theatres and I can sit in a reclining chair, with a big bucket of popcorn in a dark room watching larger than life stories on a gigantic screen. I love movies, I have always enjoyed going to the cinema. One of my first clear memories is my father taking me to see “Star Wars” when it was rereleased in 1979. Movies were a treat when I was growing up, and I can remember looking forward to the next galactic space battle, adventure in a foreign land, or coming of age story on the big screen.

Even when we got a VCR and could watch movies at home without a subscription service, we still preferred going to see a movie at the Wilson Theatre close to the mall. To this day, I want to see some movies on the big screen. They cry out for them, especially the big summer movies we all seem to wait for and there is nothing like seeing these films with a group of people, hearing the cheers and the boos, the laughter and the quiet tears. For that couple of hours the people in the theatre are unified, we all have the experience of seeing and hearing the story together.

There are just some things that are better together, and our faith is one of them. As wonderful as it is to be able to view our worship services at home, in my experience, our services are better when we can see the people, hear them recite The Lord’s Prayer and sing the Doxology, smell the flowers and the candles and feel the padding in the pews and the bread and cup in our hands. I understand that not all people can join us in person, and so I am thankful for the technology that allows us to stream or worship services, but for me they are better when I am here with all of you.

If you are attending in person already thank you for being a part of our services. If you are still at home, I want to thank you too. Your prayers and support are welcome, but I have to admit that I hope you will come back. I would like to see you, we would like to see you, and I think you will agree that seeing and hearing the story of Jesus together unifies us and calls us to share the message in new ways. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, June 24**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Vacation Bible School-In Person!**  
**July 19-23 (9:00-11:30 am)**  
**Ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This year at VBS, we will explore five stories about Jesus from the Gospels of Luke and John. These stories reveal the generosity of God, the transforming power of Jesus' welcome, and offer a model for living and sharing God's hospitality. Children will be invited to see the ways Jesus welcomed and cared for all people and be challenged to welcome and share that same hospitality with everyone. Join us as we discover all are welcome at the table!

**To register your child or to volunteer to help please contact Pastor Laura (256) 881-0150 or [laura@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:laura@fcc-hsv.org)**

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT FOR JUNE:  
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

The Community Outreach Committee's project for June is collecting financial donations for the Foster Care Unit of the Department of Human Resources (DHR).



There are over 400 children in foster care in Madison County and funding is not adequate to cover all their needs. These children are in care through no fault of their own; they have been abused and neglected by those who should have protected them. Community Outreach, with your help, would like to ensure that the Foster Care Unit has funds on hand to use throughout the year to help our children who are suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally. A check can be made to FCC with "CO/DHR" in the memo line. Thank you for caring about the vulnerable children in our community.



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET ...sorry, but the list is missing.**



**SHORT TERM  
PRAYER CONCERNS**



**Not Published Online**

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](mailto: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**

Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian Church,  
Tuskegee, AL

**HELP!**

The signup sheet for the Food Baskets has vanished and there is not a backup copy. You will need to contact the office and sign up again if you had previously signed up for a Sunday. **Call the office at 256-881-0150 or email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) to re-sign up otherwise we cannot list the person you wish to honor or remember.**

If you have not signed up, you may still 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.

## Your Blessings Bless Others

Women of FCC, have you taken the time to practice the Spiritual Discipline of keeping a Blessing Box in a prominent place in your home, office, or both where you can drop a coin or coins in to acknowledge a blessing, small or large? Could you pause in a busy day to be grateful for God's daily blessings: a sunny day, a safe journey, a good meeting, a baby's smile, a call or message from a friend, an unsolicited "I love you," meeting a deadline, a gentle rain? Collections will be gathered in the spring of 2022 continuing a long tradition of the Christian Women's Fellowship since the 1880's in supporting the mission of the whole church and specifically supporting women's ministries. Blessing boxes provided by CWM are available now in the Narthex of FCC or from your Circle leader. All women are invited to participate.



### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday in-person worship services are at 9:30 a.m. but you may still stream them live at 9:30 a.m., or watch previous services anytime, on [facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv), or search First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube. See **New COVID-19 Protocols** on page 4.

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Service: 68

Small Groups: NR

***We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.***

- 21st Century Vision Team

## SUNDAY SMALL GROUP CLASSES

**31 Flavors: Meets at 8:30 a.m.** A wide cross-section of people meets in the Garden Room. The class is currently viewing and discussing the Ray Vander Laan video series set in the Holy Land.

**New Testament: Meets at 8:30 am** in Family Services. A DVD program entitled *The New Testament* by lecturer Professor Bart Ehrman. It approaches the NT from a historical perspective, bracketing questions on belief and theological truth to acquire a historical rich grounding for our understanding of these foundational documents. Each class session stands alone and is led by Bob Senn. New members are encouraged and are welcome. Please enter FSA through the front Garden entrance.

**Growing Christians: Meets at 10:30 a.m.** downstairs in room 209. This diverse group is currently studying Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson's video series *The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation*. This course covers the first 1,500 years of Christianity as it evolved from an obscure, persecuted sect of Judaism to the official religion of the Roman Empire to European Christendom.

**G.I.F.T. (Generations in Faith Together) Intergenerational Class: Meets at 10:30 a.m.** in Family Services. For June, July & August all children, youth & interested adults will gather for one intergenerational class. The class will be led by Pastor Laura and Alyssa Burton. Each week will be a different focus, so come join us when you can! 1st Sunday of Month - Scripture Study with Skit or Arts & Crafts. 2nd Sunday of Month - Bible Games. 3rd Sunday of Month - Hands-On Mission Projects. 4th Sunday of Month - Creative Prayer Stations. 5th Sunday of Month - Family Focus Seminar.



## MORE THAN MERE BELIEF

By John Edgerton

*Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.*

- Exodus 4:29-31 (NIV)

Aaron has finished up performing miracles for the people, signs convincing enough to make them believe that God is very real and very powerful.

But mere belief is not enough. After all, the people believe lions to be very real and very powerful. The people believe Pharaoh's army to be very real and very powerful. That's not what God is after.

It is only when Aaron tells the people that God sees their misery that belief becomes worship. It is only when Aaron tells the people that God is concerned about them that they become God's people. The mere existence of God is not enough to count as good news to a people in deep distress. But a God who sees their misery and is concerned for them? That is a God worthy of worship.

Needing something from God doesn't make your faith deficient. Being in deep need is what makes your faith more than mere belief.

Where are the places of misery in your life? What are those parts of your spirit being broken by the world? Turn to God, holding those broken places in your hands before you like precious offerings to God. Because they are precious to God, the God who already knows your misery and is concerned for you.

### PRAYER

God, there is so much breaking inside of me. Pour your healing blessings on my bowed head.

## SUNDAY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

(Approved by the Board on June 10.)

- **Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors.** The doors by the church office will be locked.
- **Fully vaccinated individuals may choose to attend with or without masks.**
- **Attendees who are not fully vaccinated, and children who are able, will continue to wear face coverings/masks inside the church until further notice.**
- **One 9:30 a.m. service** is offered for the next 12 months. First Christian Church offers virtual services ([facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv), or First Christian Church Huntsville on YouTube) every Sunday. While FCC and State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level.
- Hand sanitizer and masks are available for those who have not brought their own.
- Prepackaged communion elements are available in the Narthex.
- The **nursery** is open for the 9:30 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. small group time.
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance (6 feet apart for non-household members). Every other pew will be roped off for social distancing.
- **Members may vocalize** during the service, such as stating the Lord's Prayer, litanies, etc., and sing the Doxology within the service.
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services remain suspended until further notice.
- **Small groups** (including Sunday school classes) will meet at **8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.**
- Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.
- Please notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service