



# The Journey

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

## LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

In Huntsville children, teens, parents, teachers and administrators are struggling with the current medical crisis and how best to go back to school. All too often, it seems as if there are more questions than answers and we struggle with keeping our children safe and giving them the education they need to grow and flourish. State by state, county by county, district by district, schools have had to put together individual reopening plans based on ever-changing scientific data, recommendations and local conditions.

In many cases families have made decisions about education with limited information. While virtual school may be available, many areas are unable to answer questions about the curricula, testing, possibility of help and availability of technology resources and internet. Administrators face tough questions about the safety of in-person classes in their buildings regarding cleaning, sanitation and ventilation, social distancing, masks versus face shields, class sizes, hallway and room management, busing, contact tracing and so much more. Others consider hybrid models of in-person and online education. In Huntsville children and youth will go to in person classes half of the time and virtual classes the other half so social distancing can be maintained. Even with the options available, many families feel like there are no good choices.

This is just an example of the frustration we all feel over the current world situation. Many have Zoom fatigue, are tired of staying at the house and just want a return to normal. However, we also know that this is the wrong time to pretend as if COVID-19 never happened. Death rates keep climbing across the country and the hope of a vaccine seems far away. The command in Luke 10:27, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself," has never been more urgent.

Instead of feeling frustrated and helpless, we can lean on God for wisdom and listen for God's instructions. We can act on those instructions to help find new and creative ways to educate ourselves and to advocate or take charge of our own personal health and safety. We can also express grace to those whose beliefs are different from our own. A small amount of discomfort is a small price to pay if others around us feel safer and a part of our community. By following Christ's ethic of love, we can forge a path that not only helps us but also helps those who follow us. We can build a better tomorrow even in these uncertain times, but only if we allow faith, not fear, to be our guide. Amen.

Christian Women's Ministries service project for September is Hope Place. Hope Place is an agency of Crisis Services of North Alabama that provides emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, etc. for victims of domestic violence and their children. Please join our Circle members in supporting this worthy cause during September. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting "Hope Place" and the amount. Thank you, Nancy Woodall

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 17**, 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.**

**JOIN US FOR THE 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:  
September 13: 52 (+ 1 dog)



**WEEKLY PRAYER  
CONCERNS**



**Not Published Online**

**Sunday, September 20**

**Scripture** Exodus 16: 2-15  
Matthew 20: 1-16

**Sermon** "When Bread is Not Enough"

**Sunday, September 27**

Children's Sabbath  
Youth & Children's Sunday

**Sunday, October 4**

**Scripture** Psalm 19  
Matthew 21: 33-46

**Sermon** "The New Tenants"

**Sunday, October 11**

**Scripture** Philippians 4: 1-9  
Matthew 22: 1-14

**Sermon** "Accepting the Invitation"

**Sunday, October 18**

**Scripture** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22: 15-22

**Sermon** "Examples of Faith"

**REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST**

First Christian Church  
Pensacola, FL

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](mailto: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 QR code is linked to the Church's PayPal giving page for your convenience.



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Jackie Volinski's birthday by Ron Volinski

### 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/fchsv/](http://www.facebook.com/fchsv/)

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw) (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscibe and the Bell icon to get notifications when a new video is posted) or on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/pg/fchsv/videos/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/fchsv/videos/) (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)



### HELP THE CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP AT AMAZON

If you shop on Amazon, why not help the church out at the same time? You get the same price and Amazon makes a contribution to the church. **First Christian Church-Huntsville** is a listed charitable organization with AmazonSmile and receives 0.5% of the eligible purchases you make on Amazon. To use AmazonSmile, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> (this address is for First Christian Church in Huntsville and will automatically credit 0.5% of your purchases to the FCC account) and sign on your Amazon account as usual. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile program and there is no additional expense to you or deductions from the donation amounts generated from your purchases.

Remember to log on AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> if you shop at Amazon!

### GOINGS-ON AND COME-UPPANCES

By Martha Spong

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

Psalm 121:8 (NRSV)

In a decorative box on my dresser - full of tiny school pictures, long unworn jewelry, and miscellaneous souvenirs - there is a brown paper napkin with a note written on it, a word of assurance offered during a time of turmoil in my life. It promised the love and faithfulness of the writer, and it included a phrase from this psalm reminding me of God's love and faithfulness.

Sometimes I take that note out and read it, thinking of the day I received it, in the midst of shifts and changes that threatened my security and had me worrying about my future.

Sometimes I take it out and read it, marveling at how many ordinary days have gone by since then and giving thanks for the non-dramatic daily-ness of life.

Sometimes I read it when I wonder what God wants me to do next or how to use the gifts God has given me.

Sometimes I think of it when I have to face my errors and limitations and be humbled by them.

Whenever I hold that long-treasured note in my hands, I give thanks for the way God comes through no matter what in the world is happening, keeping hold of me day and night, my help in all things and all times – both when I am doing everything well and when I am failing to accomplish anything much at all. When I go out the door and when I come in again, I give thanks that God keeps hold of me.

Prayer

Loving God, keep on keeping me, I pray, through goings-on and come-uppances, from this time on and forevermore. Amen.