



The Journey

Volume XXVIII No. 44
November 2, 2020
www.fcc-hsv.org

THE CHRISTMAS AFTER HALLOWEEN CONSPIRACY

Is it already time to start putting up Christmas decorations? This was the question Patti asked when realized that Halloween was Saturday. You may remember that last year I relented and agreed to help Patti put up our Christmas decorations early, for me, because the year before we were moving and did not get to have much of a Christmas celebration. This year Patti has declared that she is sick of COVID-19 and staying in and around the house so, if she was going to have to be here, she would at least put up the Christmas decorations so we could all celebrate early. That is why I spent the weekend bringing the trees and the decorations up from the garage.

I can understand her train of thought. Last weekend, before we were quarantined, when Patti and I went shopping, everywhere we looked we saw Christmas trees, wreaths, ornaments, lights, and presents galore. While some places did have small sections devoted to Thanksgiving they focused on preparations for the feast, not a day of remembrance. I guess that Thanksgiving is just not as marketable as Christmas.

In the next few weeks we move into a time of great celebration. Thanksgiving Sunday is in three weeks and soon the season of Advent will be in full swing, but even though Christmas is not far away we cannot forget about Thanksgiving. It is a time to remember our blessings, to be grateful for all we have been given, and promise to be good stewards of our resources so they can be used to help others and further the purposes of God.

In this season let us remember how God has blessed First Christian Church. It is wonderful to participate in a congregation that treats members like family, enjoys each other's company, and truly works to serve the community and the world. Even when COVID-19 has dominated the landscape we have still been able to reach out to others through our virtual services, studies, and events. We have provided food and warm clothing for the homeless, supplies for local schools, materials for local children, and hope for those who feel lost in a time of great turmoil.

This year we have shown just how creative and faithful we can be, now we must continue to work together so we can share the good news of Jesus Christ and share our blessings with the world. We must continue to bear spiritual fruit, fruit that will last, so that it can be shared that all may know they are invited to join our congregation and have a place at the welcome table of Jesus Christ. God bless you in this holiday season. Amen

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Stream it live at: [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv), [facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), or [youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/)

IN-PERSON SERVICE ATTENDANCE:

November 1 - 41

November 8, 2020

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 and Matthew 25: 1-13

Sermon: "Faithfully Waiting"

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, November 5**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

Sanctuary Service Protocols

- There will only be one 9:30 a.m. Sunday service offered for now. Virtual services will continue with live streaming and recorded services uploaded to social media platforms.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, and youth gatherings are temporarily suspended.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services are also suspended.
- High risk members and families with children unable to reliably social distance are encouraged to remain home for virtual services offered on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), [twitch.tv](https://www.twitch.tv), or [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
- 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.
- **Attendees will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Bring your own communion elements (we have prepackaged if you forget or do not have them).
- 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.
- Every other pew is roped off for social distancing.
- 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 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.**



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

CONDOLENCES to the family of Albert Rivas, husband of former member Katie Rivas, who recently died.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST
First Christian Church, Valhermoso Springs, AL

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 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 WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Kelsi Shroul Green's birthday by Rick & Kay Shroul.

I'm Back! by Kenneth L. Samuel

When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus. -John 12:9-11 (NLT)

Some of us are old enough to remember the TV series, Dark Shadows. I was most fascinated by the lead character, Barnabas Collins.

No matter what was done to kill Barnabas Collins, he kept on coming back. In various episodes, Barnabas Collins was stabbed, shot, thrown down flights of stairs, pushed off cliffs and poisoned. But invariably, Barnabas Collins would show up again and again in succeeding scenes.

The secret of Barnabas Collins' invincibility was this: he had already died and come back from the dead, so no new or subsequent configurations of death could actually kill him. The people of Collinsport, Maine, where the drama unfolded, could never seem to figure this out.

Aside from the spoof and the spookiness of Dark Shadows, persons who live without the fear of death do possess a certain power. Jesus told us not to be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that if a person hasn't found something they are willing to die for, they are not fit to live.

It is only when we face and overcome our fears of death that we become free to live.

According to John's Gospel, when the chief priests learned that Lazarus had been brought back from the dead by Jesus, they decided to kill Lazarus again.

Will we ever learn?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for the death of our deadly fears. Amen.

WATCH FCC VIDEOS

Miss a service? Watch previous services on [YouTube](#). For a mixture of children's stories, special music, and special activates on [Facebook](#).



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN NOVEMBER

Founded in 1954, the Harris Home for Children is a private, non-profit agency that provides full-time foster care services for neglected adolescent children in our community and around the state. It is the only emergency crisis service for children in Alabama. Harris Home provides foster care, therapeutic care, and educational services to nurture and empower its children to become capable and compassionate adults. Your monetary donations will purchase linens, household and hygiene supplies, and Christmas gift cards for the residents.



Harris Home
for Children

Thank you for giving!
Mary Ann Anderson