



## Thanksgiving and Advent message from the Office of General Minister and President

November 22, 2021

Hello, Disciples. My name is Lee Hull Moses and I serve in the Office of the General Minister and President. I bring greetings from our General Minister and President, who is on sabbatical for the next couple of months.

As many of us in the United States pause for the Thanksgiving holiday this week, I want you to know how grateful we in the Office of General Minister and President are for all of you, for the ministry you do, the ways you are serving your neighbors near and far, the ways you are caring for each other, the ways you are bearing witness to the limitless love of God we know through Jesus Christ.

Advent begins this week, right on the heels of Thanksgiving, as it often does – this season of waiting and watching and hoping, and as we enter Advent, I’ve been thinking about some words from poet Jane Kenyon – She was giving advice to writers, but I think it’s good advice for people of faith, too. She says: “Be a good steward of your gifts. Protect your time. Feed your inner life. Avoid too much noise. Read good books, have good sentences in your ears.”

I love that last bit – read good books, have good sentences in your ears. I’ve been trying to do that lately with my first cup of coffee in the morning, I try to keep starting the day with some good sentences, some good words – sometimes a poem, or a few pages of the novel I’m working on. Often, I find myself turning to the Psalms, those ancient words always remind me that throughout human history people have turned to God in complicated times to lift up their fear and their hope, their grief, their anger, their gratitude. The Psalms are very good words.

And there are so many good sentences, so many good words to keep in our ears, as we walk through the Advent season there’s the visions of the prophets, there’s Mary’s Magnificat, the words of the angels that tell us we do not need to fear...

Personally, my favorite Advent words are from Zechariah, who promises that by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us and guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79) And then, of course, there is the Word, the Word who was with God, who is with God, who became flesh and lived among us – the word we are waiting for, the word who has already come.

So, church, what words will be in your ears in this season of waiting and watching? I pray that they will be words of blessing, gratitude, and hope.

### IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We offer in-person worship services Sunday mornings at 9:30 or you may also stream them live at 9:30, or watch previous services anytime, on [facebook.com/fcchsv](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv), or [youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw)

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 2**, 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.**



Not Published Online

**JOIN THE COFFEE CREW**

Looking for a way to serve the church? Join the Coffee Crew! It is not rocket science, but rocket scientists are welcome. Drop a coffee pouch in the machine and press brew, get some orange juice out of the Parlor kitchen refrigerator., and set up on the cart in the Commons area. Bingo! You've helped to facilitate fellowship at the church. (Kitchen orientation is provided.) Depending on the size of the crew, you serve about once every other month. Email publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call 256-881-0150 and say that you want to sign up for the Coffee Crew!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

There will be a very important Congregational Meeting concerning the 2022 Church Budget on December 12. It will take place after the Lessons and Carols 9:30 am Worship Service. Please plan to attend.

**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Sue Christiansen to honor her birthday by Chet & Louise May



**OMITTED DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

December : Rick Russell  
 December : Rodger Qualls

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

- Nov. 29 10:30 am Quilters  
 5:30 pm ECM Board Meeting
- Dec. 1 11:30 am Phoebe Circle  
 6 pm Men's Group  
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Dec. 2 6 pm Board Meeting
- Dec. 6 10:30 am Quilters
- Dec. 8 6 pm Men's Group  
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Dec. 11 10:00 am til noon **Christmas Fest**
- Dec. 12 9:30 am **Lessons & Carols**  
 10:30 am **Congregational Budget Meeting**

**CONDOLENCES** to the family of Pat Plunkett, former member, who passed on November 26.

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**  
 United Christian Church, Montgomery, AL

**ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER 28**  
 Worship Service: 78 Small Groups: 22

## WE BELONG by Marilyn Pagán-Banks

*But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.* - Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.” (Author, spiritual leader, and political activist Marianne Williamson in *A Return to Love*.)

After these unending months of navigating Covid-19 and the long struggling amidst the unveiling of Covid-1619, I have been compelled to remind the community, the church, and myself: we belong to a people “born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.”

This has led to conversations on the street and in the church where we give ourselves freedom to dream, permission to ask for exactly what we want and to show up in new, bold, authentic, and creative ways.

No more apologizing for putting more of the church's resources towards acts of kindness and works of justice instead of pouring most of what we have into one hour a week.

No more trying to fit a narrative, a history, a story that isn't ours and doesn't want us anyway.

We are claiming our place. Creating our space. Embracing our power. Celebrating our ancestors. Reclaiming our heritage of strength in community. Stirring up the gifts of the people. Each person. We are dismantling and building all at the same time— with unchecked joy and audacious possibility.

**Prayer** - God of Glory, thank you for your still speaking word that reminds us that we belong to you and to one another.



## 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.

The 2022 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line, .

