



# The Journey

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

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS

I admit that getting into the Advent and Christmas spirit is a little harder for me this year. I have always thought that Christmas items show up to soon on the shelves of stores, but now my family traditions are changing as well. We decided, for the sake of Safety, not to journey to Michigan to see my family for Thanksgiving. We did have a Zoom chat the day after Thanksgiving, and I was glad to see their faces and hear what was happening in their live, but it was not the same. This change affected me more deeply than I thought it would, until I realized that it had been years since we missed this holiday tradition..

We need to remember that while Christmas and Advent are times of joy for some, they are times of sorrow for others. The loss of loved ones and the absence of family, can lead to feelings of loneliness and isolation. The holiday season can be incredibly difficult for those who do not fit into our societal molds and often their pain and discomfort is masked by the celebratory spirit around them.

As followers of Christ we are called to make sure that those who are hurting find solace and comfort. I hope that in the weeks to come you will take a look around you and seek out those who may be lost on lonely. In this time where visiting can be difficult, send a card or call someone who needs a friendly voice. They will appreciate it and you will help spread the joy that is Christmas.

As exciting as Advent and Christmas can be, as Christians our celebration is deeper because it is not based on the needs of our society or the materialism of our culture, rather it is based on the ultimate gift of God to us. The glory of Jesus Christ was not reflected in his birthplace; it shined in the sky as the angels sang of his coming, rang forth in the message of the Shepherds, and found true measure in Mary as she treasured their words and pondered them in her heart.

The most important aspect of this season is not the preparation of our homes but the preparation of our lives for the coming of Christ. Together we celebrate the certainty of God's promises, that the Emmanuel, the God with us, came to earth to experience humanity, and doing so provided forgiveness and salvation for all.

It is my hope that each and every one of you will find joy in the season of Advent, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May the love of God enfold you, the blessings of Jesus Christ flow down upon you, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit give you strength so that the year ahead will be filled with wonder and joy. Thanks be to God, Amen.

There will be a virtual **Congregational Meeting** is on Sunday, December 20, to approve the 2021 budget. Details for accessing the online meeting will be in next week's *Journey*.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 10**, 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.**

### “ZOOM” INTO A BABY SHOWER

Please join us on Zoom as we celebrate with Kyle and Carrie Love on Sunday, January 10, from 2-3 pm. Their baby is due in February!

They are registered at [babylist.com](http://babylist.com). If you prefer to buy locally please have your gift to the church by January 3. You can leave it in the office during the week or in the Narthex on Sunday.

Let's shower Kyle and Carrie with our congratulations upon the arrival of their first child!

Watch the Journey for Zoom information!

### FINANCIAL AID FOR THE FORGOTTEN ONES, NEEDY ADULTS

Needy Adults are often a forgotten population but one that is frequently in desperate need, particularly in these difficult times. For several years, Community Outreach has contributed financially during December to the Adult Services Unit of DHR and CASA to be used throughout the year in their work with needy adults.

As you make your Christmas list, please consider a donation to these two agencies. Checks can be made to FCC with *CO December project* in the memo line. The project will go through the end of December. Your support will make a difference to our community's vulnerable adults who are supported by DHR and CASA.

Thank you for caring, Community Outreach

### CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

#### CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS REPLACEMENT PROJECT

This year we won't be doing our traditional stocking filling with Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR). They have enough stockings committed for that project this year and suggested an alternative, particularly regarding dealing with COVID19 and providing a safe way to donate toys. The Chamber of Commerce/team from Cummings Research Park created a Toy Drive Wish List s on Amazon.

If you have an Amazon account, and would like to support CCYR, follow this link [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and it will take you to the CCYR Toy Drive Wish List. Select the items you wish to purchase from the list and add them to our cart. **When you check out you will see Julia Kaye as a delivery option**, she is the Chamber of Commerce contact who is collecting the toys. Select her as the delivery option for your order and check out.

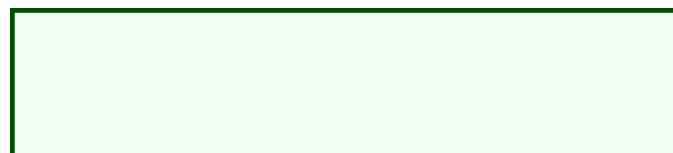
Thank you for your support, CWM



### WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online



#### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Ambassadors for Christ Christian Church  
Greenville, 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](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 WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Anita Wood's birthday by Randy Wood and Maranda Wood Holley.

### Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- 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/fcchsv](https://facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://twitch.tv/fcchsv), or search First Christian Church Huntsville on [youtube.com](https://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.**
- 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.**

### HARRIS HOME FOR CHILDREN

Thank you for your generous donations of \$795 to our November project, the Harris Home for Children. To learn more about the history and work of this organization, go to:

[harrishomeforchildren.org](https://harrishomeforchildren.org).

Community Outreach

### A USED HEAVEN AND A USED EARTH

by Vince Amlin

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. - Isaiah 2:4 (NRSV)*

My friend Mike is the cofounder of The Repurpose Project in Gainesville, Florida, "a creative reuse center, a.k.a. weird thrift store." The goal of the shop is to support a "used economy," avoiding the costs—to consumers and to the planet—of creating new products.

It's part sliding-scale general store, where folks with low incomes can find what they need at a bargain. Part architectural salvage, where residents can imagine new homes from old. Part studio space, where artists create beautiful installation pieces. Part playroom, where kids and grown-ups can grab glue guns and bring something fun to life from the world's largest junk drawer.

It is all a little bit of heaven.

Revelation gives a vision of a new heaven and a new earth. But Isaiah is more sustainable. He offers the people a used heaven and a used earth.

Bins of swords are dug out from behind the old 45s and turned into plows. Rusty spears are untangled from the nest of cell phone chargers and shaped into hooks. The tools of war are put to better use at a bargain price.

It would be a shame to just throw them out, given all they've cost us.

And considering the energy that's gone into making them, the users too, get repurposed by their creator. Glued back together for new life.

Imagine. Us sword-lifters and war-learners, put back to work as farmers and urban gardeners. A little bit of heaven.

### Prayer

Creative Reuser, do not dispose of me. But give me a second life.