



The Journey

Volume XXIV No. 47
 November 21, 2016
www.fcc-hsv.org

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Tuesday, November 22**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

FOCUS ON THANKSGIVING

The word “focus” has an interesting background. It comes from the Latin word for hearth. In pre-modern societies, the hearth was the center of the home. Here the family gathered for cottage industries, for cooking and eating, for warmth in the winter, and for a cozy place to share one’s day and enjoy one’s company. The hearth focused the family in its being and doing so that its unity and purpose could become manifest and accomplished.

And that is what focusing does in the church. It takes all our individual and collective efforts and concerns, pulls them together in the presence of God, shapes them according to the will of God, and gives them a cozy familiarity as we gather around the Table. This focusing shows us how God calls us to share in the gospel in concrete, transforming ways.

As Disciples of Christ, the Table is the focus, the hearth of our faith together. Here the reason for our thanksgiving is focused as we experience afresh the amazing grace and unfathomable love of God. Here we recognize how large the Body of Christ is as we envision this hearth encircling the globe and as we meet our brothers and sisters who praise Jesus in every land and every tongue. And here, fanned by the flames of God’s Spirit, we discover our mission focused by Broken Bread and the Wine of the new covenant. So this coming Thanksgiving weekend, join us at the hearth of God’s everlasting and redeeming love as we focus on our faith together and thank God for the many blessings we receive.

*“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ...
 I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of Thanksgiving,
 and will call upon the Name of the Lord.” - Psalms 116:12, 17*

Thankfully I’ll See you Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

Happy Thanksgiving

The church office will be **closed on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25**, for the Thanksgiving holidays.

ATTENDANCE	11/13	11/20
First Service Worship	50	49
Sunday School	36	34
Second Service Worship	85	100
Children’s Church	4	7
Young Disciples	5	NA
Total Worship	144	156

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 Office Hours: 9am - 5pm M-F
 Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages - 9:15 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Old Testament Isaiah 2:1-5
Epistle Romans 13:11-14
Sermon Text Matthew 24:36-44
Sermon "Living In the Meantime"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mack Vann & Lisa Fitzgerald
10:30 Joe Brockway & Roger Sameck

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Mike & Becky Lash
Eddie & Valerie Parks
10:30 Beverly Cannon & Ruth Lackey
Charles & Pam Gilliland

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Carolyn Brown

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in in in honor of Katherine Boles' birthday by the Boles family and in memory of Ann by Don & Norma Muncy.

SUNDAY'S FLOWERS are in Thanksgiving for all FCC members and supporters.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

Flower Guild

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Prophets Show the Way to Bethlehem
Janie Clasgens
Sarah Brockway

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

Dorcas, Follower of Jesus, Helps the Poor in Judea
Pastor Laura
Christa Brockway



ADVENT SCHEDULE

November 27, 5:00 pm

Hanging of the Greens with reception following



December 24, 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services with Communion

December 25, 10:30 am

Single Christmas Day Service
(Sunday School at 9:30 am)

STOCKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The time has come to fill stockings for Christmas Charities! The stockings will be available every Sunday in November and need to be returned to church by Sunday, November



27. Every year First Christian fills 100 stockings that Christmas Charities then gives to needy children in the Huntsville and Madison County area. There will be a wide range of ages of children to assist, so pick up a stocking and have fun shopping to make a child's Christmas

merry and bright.

In November, CWM is again supporting the AL/NWFL regional CWM project, The WellHouse in Leeds, AL. From its website: "The WellHouse seeks to rescue and provide opportunities for restoration to victims of human trafficking who have been sexually exploited while also educating the public on the exploitation of the vulnerable, all through the power and principles of the Christian faith." If you would like to support this project, please drop a check in the offering bowl or church office marked for "CWM WellHouse."

THERE WILL BE NO PICKELBALL ON SUNDAY,

NOVEMBER 21 OR 27..

Support us when you
shop this holiday

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shop at smile.amazon.com.

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

WE JOIN FORCES WITH HEROES TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN

Community Outreach and Christian Women's Ministries are working together to support Shop With a Hero, a project designed to give "at risk" children in the Huntsville/Madison County School Systems a Merry Christmas. On December 10, 2016, each "Hero" will be paired with a child and given a \$100 gift card. The "Hero" will help the child purchase presents for their family and themselves. You can sponsor a child /children anytime until the event on Dec. 10 by writing a check to FCC with Shop With a Hero (SWAH) on the memo line. Any amount is appreciated. We are signing up heroes and volunteers to help with this project, so please consider volunteering on Dec. 10 to help the children shop and to help wrap their gifts. For more information contact Jeff Seward or visit www.shopwithahero.info.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS MAILBOX

Starting December 4th, and running until January 1st, our Church Christmas Mailbox will be back so that we can exchange Christmas cards among the congregation. If you will deposit them in the large Christmas Mailbox, we will sort them and put them out for you to pick up. You will be able to pick them up in the Commons Area at the "Post Office". **We will not mail these cards**, so only the name is needed on the envelope. **You will have until January 8th to pick them up.**

VINTAGE VAGABONDS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sign up now for a guaranteed spot on the VV trip to Yesterday's event center in Athens for lunch and musical entertainment on Friday, December 16. Cost is \$11 paid at time of sign up with check made out to FCC (Note: VV Dec.). Sign up sheet and folder are in the church office. Reservations must be completed by Friday, December 9. We have only 20 reservations. Contact Sue Seward for more information.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

If you would you like to honor a friend or remember a loved one with a poinsettia for our Advent tree, please make a \$10 donation to cover the cost of a poinsettia and list your donor information on the signup sheet posted on the flower sheet across from McMains Hall. Make your check payable to FCC, write "poinsettia" in the memo line, and drop it in the offering plate or church office. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret J. Vann at phone 256.533.4213 or email: trilliumjv@knology.net.

