



CAMERON'S CORNER

An article in The Atlantic magazine on line (April 3, 2024) written by Derek Thompson is entitled "The True Cost of the Churchgoing Bust." The article begins with, "More than one-quarter of Americans now identify as atheists, agnostics, or religiously 'unaffiliated,' according to a new survey of 5,600 U.S. adults by the Public Religion Research Institute. This is the highest level of non-religiosity in the poll's history."

No surprise to me. The well written article builds the case for what Americans are missing by their religious dis-affiliation. Americans are losing a sense of community, "family," and belonging. I believe this is one incredible opportunity for us at First Christian Church. We are a supportive, caring, true community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to embrace and welcome EVERYONE, without exceptions, as God has welcomes us. We demonstrate this by our open communion table (all are welcome to participate), open mindedness (no creed, but Christ), and open arms welcoming everyone (all are accepted).

The Atlantic article says, "Just as America's churches were depopulated, Americans developed a new relationship with a technology that, in many ways, is the diabolical opposite of a religious ritual: the smartphone." Interesting isn't it? The smartphone as wonderful as it is, is not a source of "community" despite what TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram say. The author continues with our smartphones, "digital life is disembodied, asynchronous, shallow, and solitary." That is the very opposite of true embodied community in the church!

Thompson concludes, "Finally, religious ritual often requires that we make contact with the sacred in the presence of other people, whether in a church, mosque, synagogue, or over a dinner-table prayer. In other words, the religious ritual is typically embodied, synchronous, deep, and collective." Amen brother! Exactly, what church is. We are family, we love one another as only a family can, and we receive direction for our lives from scripture, sermon, song, and private contemplation. Church at its best.

God is the answer. Jesus is the answer. And First Christian Church Huntsville is the place to find the answer in a loving and acceptance faith community.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Cameron

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150

Online and In-Person Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
3209 Whitesburg Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802



UPDATE - IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

We will be producing an updated Church Directory in October with names, addresses, phone numbers, and family email addresses. We can list up to two phone/cell phone numbers (if you are providing two numbers, please attach a name to each number) and one email address per family. **If we do not hear from you by Wednesday, September 27**, we will publish the information you provided in the February 2023 Directory. To update your information, please email [office @fcc-hsv.org](mailto:office@fcc-hsv.org) or call 256-881-0150.

You do not need to contact the Church Office if there are no changes.

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of each month.

The deadline for the next *Journey* is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 2, publisher@fcc-hsv.org**



The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center in Huntsville has provided services to individuals, couples, families, and congregations in our community for 25 years with the support of local individuals, businesses, and churches, including FCC. The Vine's annual fundraiser will be held on April 18, 530-800pm, at the Huntsville Roundhouse and will feature dinner, live music, wine tasting, wine pull, a market, and a live auction. Please click on the link below for more information on The Vine's services, to purchase tickets, or to donate <https://vinepcc.com/product/branches-of-the-vine-ticket-2/>

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

New Vision Christian Church
Birmingham, AL
Grateful Life,
Huntsville, AL

ATTENDANCE

April 7: Worship Service: 67
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 96
April 14: Worship Service: 80
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 80

HEALS CLINIC HELPING CHILDREN



In April Community Outreach is collecting small toys and other items, such as socks, for the HEALS Clinic. This clinic provides dental care for many school age children. The items are needed to provide encouragement for these children as they undergo dental procedures. HEALS is now also bringing the clinic to children on a van. Over 1300 children were served by HEALS last year. A basket will be available in the Commons area for your donations. You can also write a check to FCC with HEALS on the memo line.

As always, thank you for donating
Community Outreach

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MATTHEW 25:35

APRIL PANTRY NEEDS

Critical Needs: Cereal, Shelf-Stable Milk, Macaroni & Cheese, Tuna & Chicken, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Toilet Paper, and Jelly.

Low Inventory: Crackers, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Noodles, and Bar Soap.

ECM TEACHER APPRECIATION

May 6th-10th is teacher appreciation week at ECM. FCC-HSV will be sponsoring a my favorite things snack cart. Please contact Alyssa for a list of items needed to make this InReach activity a success!

HABITAT NEWS



Our four studs have been installed in the house. Photos are on the bulletin board outside of the Parlor door. Please consider making a donation to our Habitat Fund if you can not volunteer to work on the house.

Our home is awaiting some sub-contractor work so no volunteers are needed at this time. Watch the bulletin board on Sundays for the next work day.

Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

THE FOOD BASKET for April 28 is given in honor of Karen Ball's birthday by Matt Ball and on May 5 in honor of Margaret and Mack Vann's anniversary



CHILDREN IN DESPERATE NEED GLOBALLY

We know there are children living in desperate conditions all over the world. Please join CWM in sponsoring at least two children who are being helped by Global Ministries (co-sponsored by DoC and UCC). The Children's Program in Zimbabwe and Family Village Farms in Panni, India both provide programs that educate, feed, house, and provide a safe, nurturing environment for children at risk. It costs \$30 a month per child in Zimbabwe and \$35 a month in India. It is our goal to sponsor at least one child for a year at each locale. Please join CWM by donating to make life better for a child in a far away land so different from ours. Checks can be made to FCC with CWM April project in the memo line. Thank you for caring about children in need wherever they are.

HELLO CHURCH FAMILY!

There are many opportunities for volunteering within our children and youth groups. We need volunteers to help with young disciples, worship and wonder, nursery, Sunday school, youth group, special events, and VBS! One requirement to work with our children and youth programming is that volunteers must be safe church trained. Luckily, Sue Seward will be hosting a safe church training session on April 17th at 6pm. Please email Alyssa@fcc-hsv.org or call 256-881-0150 to let us know you are coming!

BLESSING BOX \$\$\$ DUE



For 60 years Disciples Women have expressed their gratitude to God through the Blessing Box ministry. It is considered an over and above way to help fund the wider mission of the church. Since 2007 50% of Blessing Box donations go directly to ministries carried out by women of the church through the International Disciples Women's Fellowship. What better way to support enterprising women around the world. Write your check to the church with "Blessing Box" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generous donations,
Sue Seward & Ruth Lackey
Blessing Box coordinators

May 2024

Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:30 Phoebe Circle 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group •Men's Bible Study •Women's Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	2 9 am Deadline for May 6 Journey 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	3	4
5	6 10:30 am Quilters	7 10 am Fleming Farm Circle 4:30 pm Elders' Meeting	8 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group •Men's Bible Study •Naomi Circle •Women's Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	9 6 pm Board Meeting	10	11
12 Mother's Day Pentecost Special Offering	13 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters	14	15 Last Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group •Lois & Eunice Circle •Men's Bible Study •Women's Bible Study •Octagon	16 9 am Deadline for May 20 Journey	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday Pentecost Special Offering	20 10:30 am Quilters	21	22	23	24	25
26 Senior Sunday	27 Church Office Closed 10:30 am Quilters	28	29	30	31	