



# The Journey

Volume XXV No. 44  
October 30, 2017  
www.fcc-hsv.org

To celebrate Halloween last year my family went to a local farm that had a corn maze. As a child I enjoyed mazes and puzzles. I liked the twists and turns and the struggle to find the correct answer. As I grew older I began to enjoy labyrinths, which are not mazes but paths that help in meditation and prayer. As I walked through the corn maze I could see why I now like labyrinths better. In the maze I got confused, had trouble finding the correct way, and finally filtered to the back of the group letting others lead; in a labyrinth I usually feel meditative and comfortable.

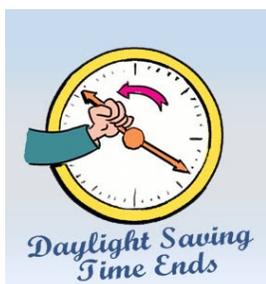
For most of us, our lives are more like a maze than a labyrinth. There are twists and turns, choices to be made, we find ourselves at dead ends and have to retrace our steps to get back on the right path. One of the blessings of being a part of a community like First Christian Church is that we do not have to take this journey alone. If we find that we are lost there are people around us who care enough to help us find our way and walk with us in difficult times. With Christ as our guide, and with the support of others, even the complicated maze of life can be traversed, but sometimes we have to step back and let God lead.

Next Sunday we have an opportunity to talk about stewardship within the church family. Stewardship is using our gifts and talents for the glory of God and we are called to be good stewards all the time, not just on Sunday morning. When it comes to money, we must use it wisely, in a way that will honor God and help our community. But stewardship is not just about money. It is also about time, talents, resources, and how they are all used to support one another and build the Kingdom of God.

One of the keys of stewardship is trust in our Creator. We believe that God loves and cares for us, that God will always be with us, and when we feel lost and alone, God is there to provide direction, purpose and hope for our lives. Perhaps you know friends or neighbors that feel as if they are alone. If so, invite them to church or one of our events. Invite one of your coworkers to our Christmas services. Let the young people in your life know about our children and youth programs and Sunday school classes. Let us take the journey of faith together sharing the loving spirit of community we have found with others, because with Christ as our guide we will never be lost.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Pastor Paul*



Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, November 2**, at Noon publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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 5**

Sermon Scripture                      Matthew 23: 1-12  
 Sermon                                      "A Walking Sermon"

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15    Karen Ball & Gayle Herber  
 10:30   Dave Crockett & Frank Fitzgerald

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Rick Shrout

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15    Donna Blair & Anita Wood  
          Rick & Kay Shrout  
 10:30   Nancy Adams & Marie Bittle  
          Beverly Cannon & Matthew Beutjer  
          Nancy Woodall

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Gayle Herber

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Charlotte Hampton's birthday by John Paul Hampton.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*The Promised Land*  
 Linda Lykins  
 John Hall  
 Braly Beutjer  
 Evan Sexton

**YOUNG DISCIPLES** (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

ATTENDANCE	10/22	10/29
First Service Worship	44	48
Sunday School	33	39
Second Service Worship	91	94
Children's Church	10	8
Young Disciples	6	NA
Total Worship	151	150

**BAKE SALE**



The bake sale is just around the corner. I will have the cake containers and the pie and cookie containers in the office starting the week of November 5th for you to pick up. I will also have the volunteer sign-up list in the Commons Area by then. So please sign up to help set up or work on Saturday during the sale. Let's make this a great success so we will have more to give to our local missions. I plan on putting this event on Face Book in early November so if you see it, please share it. Thanks...Dinah Love

I am collecting fabric for a school project. Please bring any fabric scraps( 4" X 4" minimum) that you might want to get rid of. Diane's daughter, Brittany, is a teacher at a middle school in Hartselle. The middle school is in the process of collecting fabric to make "fidget blankets" for Alzheimer patients. They will pass the fabric that they collect to the Hartselle high school who will then design and make the blankets. They will take notions, ribbon, fabric yardage, etc. Until Diane told me about these blankets, I had never heard of them so I "googled" it. They are sensory blankets or quilts with buttons, zippers, etc. We will collect the items for the next 2 weeks or through November 6th. I will have a marked basket in the Commons Area for you to put your donated fabric and items in.

Thanks...Dinah Love

**PROPERTY WORKDAY**

We have indoor (primarily painting and cleaning) and outdoor (landscaping, clean up, and some painting) projects for a Property workday on Saturday, November 4, from 8 - 12. Please reply to this email by Wednesday, November 1, if you will be able to participate. That will give us a head count so we can plan accordingly

### 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 26. 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.



### YOUTH PROJECTS

The Youth will be collecting warm weather clothes beginning November 5th as part of their outreach. This year we seek to partner with our Sister church Grateful Life and ensure that all those in need of warm clothing receive them. Please drop donations in box located in the Commons Area.



The Youth will also be collecting books as part of their monthly Community Outreach and has partnered with the NICU Foot Prints Ministry and the Huntsville Hospital Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit to collect books for siblings. The Youth will be working towards volunteering during Christmas and other traditional holidays to work on crafts and reading books.



Please help us to collect one bin of new or slightly used books to be taken the week of Thanksgiving. Thank you for your generosity!  
Pastor Linda

### FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

Sunday, November 12, is **Fill the Cart for the Food Pantry**. Bring one non-perishable item or several. St. Paul's has empty shelves. Let's help fill them. As always your donations of food items are appreciated at any time.



Thank you,  
Community Outreach Committee

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is dedicated to serving hungry seniors in our community. If you know of any seniors that could benefit from this service please tell them about Meals on Wheels. Their phone number is 256-382-0920 and they are located in the Senior Center at 2200 Drake Ave. Meals on Wheels can also accept donations. You can give to this organization through FCC by putting "Meals on Wheels" on the memo line of your check made to FCC. Another way you can help is to volunteer to deliver meals, as some of our members are already doing. Just call to get more information.

Thank you, Community Outreach

### FAITH MARKETPLACE

On **November 4**, from 8AM-2PM, Faith Presbyterian Church will host their Marketplace in the Fellowship Hall. Many items will be available for purchase, such as handmade baskets, blankets, and purses, Christmas wreaths, and stained glass, just to name a few. Proceeds go to Faith's Mission Partners which include many of the organizations FCC supports. This is a good way to get your Christmas shopping done.

Thank you, Community Outreach

Please mark your calendars for these worship services:

Sunday **December 3** is the first Sunday of Advent. The Hanging of the Greens will be incorporated into the unified worship service. **Church will be at 10 with Sunday school at 9.** If asked to help or participate, please do.

**December 24** will also be a **unified service with worship at 10 and Sunday school at 9.** That evening we will have a **5 o'clock** Christmas Eve service for the entire family; and we will have a simple **11 o'clock** service for all.

The church will be putting out a card with all the Advent events listed for your planning.

See you in church,  
Margaret J. Vann, Worship

**CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?** Stream it live at: [www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com](http://www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com)

**MISS A SERMON?** See previous sermons at: [www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/](http://www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/)