



# *The Journey*

Volume XXV No. 47  
November 20, 2017  
[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## REMINDER

The Church Office will be closed on November 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## RETURNING THANKS

Thanksgiving has always been a special time for my family. Since there are so many ministers in my extended family we cannot get together for Christmas easily but we can travel, and come together for Thanksgiving. As a child we would gather at my Grandmother's house, have a huge meal, and then sit around the TV and watch the football games. Often this was the only time in the year that I saw my mother's side of the family together in one place. It is one of those traditions that we continued even when my Grandmother moved into assisted living and the site shifted to my Aunt and Uncle's home. My Grandmother's birthday was also around the Thanksgiving holiday so we had two reasons to celebrate. My Grandmother passed away last year, but we still celebrated Thanksgiving together and remembered her presence at the table.

As exciting as Thanksgiving, 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, instead it is based on truly giving thanks to God for all we have been provided. The gifts of family and friends, food and shelter, and the glory of Jesus Christ, not reflected in his birthplace; but in the sky as the angels sang of his coming, in the message of the Shepherds, and 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. We give thanks for all the blessings that we have been given, including the gift of Jesus for the world, but we are also called to return thanks, to share our resources, and to provide for those in our community and in the world who are in need.

It is my hope that each and every one of you will enjoy Thanksgiving, the season of Advent, and have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Give thanks with family and friends, or even if you are alone, remember that you are never alone for Christ is with you. Look upon one another with kindness and joy. Invite someone to your meal, provide canned goods or give to Sack Sunday, sponsor a needy family for the holidays, give so that others might experience your joy, and remember that love was born on Christmas, a love that is nurtured in our hearts and shared by our words and actions.

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 season ahead will be filled with wonder and joy. Thanks be to God, Amen.

*Pastor Paul*

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Wednesday, November 22**, at Noon [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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 26**

Sermon Scripture                      Matthew 25:31-46  
 Sermon                                      "Compassion for the Flock"  
 Pastor Laura West in the pulpit.

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15    Bob Senn & Dave Crockett  
 10:30   Frank Fitzgerald & Jan Mackenzie

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Donna Blair

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15    Linda Hooker & Ann Thompson  
          Carl & Carol Jones  
 10:30   Linda Davis & Troy Davis, Jr.  
          Ruth Lackey & Ty Davis  
          Nancy Woodall

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Lynn Abernathy

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of  
 John & Jill Hall's anniversary.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*The Prophets Show the Way to Bethlehem*  
 Linda Lykins, Lee Boles, Tré Davis, &  
 Anna Roberts

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

*The Parable of the Farmer and the Seed*  
 Christi Sexton, Dave Sexton,  
 Sara Brockway, & Cara Sexton

ATTENDANCE	11/12	11/19
First Service Worship	35	51
Sunday School	53	40
Second Service Worship	88	86
Children's Church	11	8
Young Disciples	6	NA
Total Worship	140	145

**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

**VINTAGE VAGABONDS  
 HOLIDAY LUNCH**  
**December 6, 11:00-12:30 Family Services**  
**Gibson's Brunswick stew!**

Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share and bring a friend, too. Let's enjoy some Holiday cheer together.

Call Bob Cloyd or Sue Seward for more information.

During the month of November, CWM is again supporting the regional CWM project - The WellHouse in Leeds, AL. The WellHouse is a faith-based, Christ-centered nonprofit organization offering immediate shelter and a Next Steps to Freedom program to women who have been trafficked or sexually exploited. If you would like to support this project, please drop a check in the offering bowl or church office marked CWM WellHouse in the memo line. The women's ministries at First Christian appreciate your participation in our monthly service projects.

Support us when you  
shop this holiday

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shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

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



### SAVE THE DATE

FCC Community Blood Drive  
Sunday, December 10  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Thanks from the bottom of our sacks! Because of your generosity, Sack Sunday was a huge success and many needy people will have a happier holiday season. A total of forty boxes of food was delivered to the 5 charities.



Thanks and God bless,  
Community Outreach

**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/)

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, December 10, after second service  
(11:30) to approve the 2018 budget.**

Please prayerfully consider pledging for 2018. If you intend to pledge, and haven't done so yet, please return your pledge card to the offering bowl or church office prior to the Congregational meeting on the 10th. Your pledge is important for underwriting the proposed 2018 budget. Pledge cards are on the table in the Narthex next to the main entrance and in the church office.

Thank you for your consideration and support.  
Dave McMahon  
Stewardship Chair

### THANK YOU

Our Fall Property Workday was held on Saturday, November 4. Three restrooms were painted, the parlor restroom got a deep cleaning, Worship and Wonder was cleaned, and leaves were removed from the grounds and roof. A special thanks to Paul, Patti, Abby, and Joe Allen, Dick Christiansen, Dinah Love, Linda Lykins, Roger Quarles, Bob Senn, and Rick ShROUT for their elbow grease and hard work.



### SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICE TIMES

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 10:00 am with Sunday school at 9:00 am.** If asked to help or participate, please do.

**December 24** will also be a **unified service with worship at 10:00 am and Sunday school at 9:00 am.** That evening we will have a **5:00 pm** Christmas Eve service for the entire family; and we will have a simple **11:00 pm** 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 Chair



## 2017 ADVENT CALENDAR



### **Christmas Fest**

**Saturday, December 2, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Christmas Crafts, Visit from Santa, Sharing the Christmas Story, & Snack Lunch.

### **Hanging of the Greens Combined Service**

**Sunday, December 3, 10:00 am**

A celebration of Scripture and Greenery to prepare the church for the season of Advent.

### **Kids Caroling**

**Sunday, December 10, 11:30 am**

### **ECM Christmas Sing**

**Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 pm**

### **Parents Day Out**

**Saturday, December 16, 10 am - 2 pm**

A free childcare event with food, crafts, and games for children nursery - 5th grade. Call the church office, 256-881-0150, to sign up.

### **Christmas Musical Celebration**

**Sunday, December 17, 10:30 am**

A special Christmas performance by the Chancel Choir and Praise Band.

### **Combined Worship Service**

**Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am**

### **Family Christmas Eve Service**

**Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm**

Special family Christmas Eve Service with Communion.

### **Midnight's Call Christmas Eve Service**

**Sunday, December 24, 11:00 pm**

Special late night Christmas Eve Service with Communion.