



# The Journey

Volume XXV No. 51  
December 18, 2017  
www.fcc-hsv.org

## Love – December 24

by Caroline Herron

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.<sup>17</sup> In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world.<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love" 1 John 4:16-18 (RSV)

This verse is one that plays through my head on a regular basis; as Oprah Winfrey said, "I believe that every single event in life happens in an opportunity to choose love over fear." I find myself continually choosing between fear and love- will I allow fear of rejection to outweigh the love of reaching out to a friend? Will I allow fear of financial insecurity to outweigh giving to those in need? If love knows no fear, then every choice I make is an opportunity to "abide in love", reject fear, and continually be "perfected in love." In this effort to discipline myself to love, I find it helpful to identify which of my fears is attempting to hold me back from the loving choice. Am I afraid of rejection? Of change? Of insecurity? Of pain? Being aware of the fear helps me to overcome it. Next time you feel a reluctance to make the loving choice, ask yourself if that reluctance is fear, and then choose love over fear.



## Prayer

Gracious God, we know that your promises are secure but that often you give answers that do not meet our expectations. In the birth of a child we have seen your glory, now send your Spirit to the wild corners of our hearts. Grant us wisdom and understanding that we will overcome our fear and spread the good news that has transformed our lives. Amen.

**The Post Office is back** and ready to receive your Christmas cards. You will find it in the Commons Area. Place your cards in the postal box and our youth will help to deliver the cards to the congregation. **It will be open now thru Jan. 1st.**

**Remember these cards must be picked up. They will not be mailed out.**

Dinah Love

## DECEMBER 24 CHURCH SERVICES

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Traditional Service  
5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 pm Midnight's Call Christmas Eve Service

## CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 22, closes at 12:30 pm  
December 25, closed.  
December 29, closes at 12:30 pm  
January 1, closed.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 21**, 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, DECEMBER 24**

**10:00 am Unified Service**

Sermon Scripture Luke 1: 26-38  
 Sermon "Expecting the Impossible"

**5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service**

**11:00 pm Midnight's Call Christmas Eve Service**

**ADVENT CANDLE**

10:00 Glen, Laura, Alice & Isobel Hiller  
 5:00 Troy, Linda, Ty, Troy Jr., Tré & Iman Davis  
 11:00 TBA

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

10:00 Karen Ball & Justin Givens  
 5:00 Dave Crockett & Frank Fitzgerald  
 11:00 TBA

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Delores Edgeton

**SERVING COMMUNION**

10:00 Eddie & Valerie Parks  
 Ann Thompson & Margaret J. Vann  
 Beverly Cannon  
 5:00 Brad & Pam Clasgens  
 Ruth Lackey & Cara Sexton  
 Sabrina Beckman  
 11:00 TBA

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Dinah Love

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Ann Lawrence  
 Hampton's birthday by J.P. Hampton

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

Worship with families in the sanctuary.

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

Worship with families in the sanctuary.

ATTENDANCE	12/10	12/17
First Service Worship	46	46
Sunday School	30	20
Second Service Worship	79	127
Children's Church	6	NA
Young Disciples	7	NA
Total Worship	138	173

**Christmas Morning Devotional**

By Holly Ahlbin

Merry Christmas! As we've waited for and anticipated another year of celebration of our Savior's birth, we are reminded of how hard the wait can be. Each year brings new



struggles and new joys, new heartaches and new loves, new reasons to fear and new reasons for hope, and always a stronger yearning for peace within us and around us. I needed Christ's birth last year, and I need his birth even more this year than before. I need the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes to tell me that even in the most desperate moments, there is still much joy and glorious love! Merry Christmas, friends! Christ is born for this!

"Hail! the heav'n born Prince of peace!  
 Hail! the Son of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings,  
 Risen with healing in his wings  
 Mild he lays his glory by,  
 Born that man no more may die:  
 Born to raise the sons of earth,  
 Born to give them second birth.  
 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

**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 [trilliumjv@att.net](mailto:trilliumjv@att.net) or phone 256-533-4213.

### IRS CREDIT FOR 2017 GIVING

Thank you so much for your tithes and offerings; they have a tremendous impact on the missions and ministries of our church. Please remember that all contributions toward 2017 giving must be received by the church office **before 12:30 pm on Friday, December 29, 2017** (that is when the office closes for New Year's Eve) or **postmarked by December 30, 2017** (if mailing, make sure to note collection times to ensure the appropriate postmark.) or **placed in the collection plate by Sunday, December 31, 2017**.

**Post dated checks received after December 31 (unless received by mail postmarked December 31 or prior) will be credited to your 2018 giving and not 2017 per IRS regulations..**

### YOUTHTOPIA

**THEME:** "Be Salt and Light" (Matthew 5:13-16)

**Date:** January 26-28th

**Location:** Camp Chandler

**Cost:** \$125.00

**The deadline for all applications is January 8th.** Please submit payment and application to Pastor Linda.

### HELP THE CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP AMAZON

If you shop at Amazon, why not help the church out at the same time? **First Christian Church-Huntsville** is a listed charitable organization with AmazonSmile and receives 0.5% of the eligible purchases you make on Amazon. To use AmazonSmile, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> (this address is for First Christian Church-Huntsville and will automatically credit your purchases to the FCC account) and sign on your Amazon account as usual. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile program and there is no additional expense to you or deductions from the donation amounts generated from your purchases.

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

**THANKS** to Alma and Daniel Kingsbury, Peggy Sington, Nancy Adams, Jeff Seward, and Bob Senn for grooming and decorating our courtyard for the Christmas season. Alma and Daniel drove up from their new home in Opelika for this purpose. Be sure to enjoy the courtyard this winter.

### GIFT CARDS FOR NEEDY ADULTS

For several years, Community Outreach has donated \$25 Walmart gift cards in December to DHR, CASA, and Grateful Life to be used throughout the year in their work with needy adults. This is often a forgotten population but one that is frequently in desperate need. There are two ways to support this project: purchase a card (and put in offering plate or give to a Community Outreach member) or make a monetary contribution and the committee will purchase a card for you. The deadline for donations is December 31. Your support will make a difference as these three organizations help our community's vulnerable adults. Thank you for caring.

### YOU ARE INVITED!

We welcome you to attend *Jesus and Java* to see what our Youth are learning. Your presence allows our Youth to get to know you better, know your name and learn from you. If we reflect on the Bible, the Israelites often would turn to the Elders for advice, wisdom and knowledge. This is a relationship that is very important for this generation of youth to have, so please consider this opportunity. Please contact Pastor Linda Davis at [FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com](mailto:FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com)



The 2018 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line.