



# The Journey

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www.fcc-hsv.org

## THE LIGHT STILL SHINES

This week we took down the Christmas decorations in my home and at the church. I have to admit that when I see the decorations go down there is a sense of relief and sadness. Relief because the seasons of Advent and Christmas are over, the church's busiest time of year is done once again, and now we look forward to Lent and Easter. Sadness because sometime it seems as if the joy of Christmas has been packed away as well. Winter looms ahead of us and spring seems very far away. School begins again and a New Year means new projects and much to do. With the celebration of Advent, we begin a journey to the wonder of Christmas, now it feels as if we are standing still, waiting and watching for the miraculous to appear again.

I heard someone call this time the winter blahs and was not surprised to read in *Psychology Today* that studies have found that people's moods dip during January. They suggest it is because of a lack of light. Dr. Morton Harmatz, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, states that "Light seems to function as a natural antidepressant, though scientists aren't exactly sure how." Christmas is a season of lights, sounds and colors, but now the ordinary closes in and it is hard to keep the joy of Christ in our hearts.

Yet, we cannot forget about Epiphany, or the celebration of God's manifestation to the world. In the stories of the Wise Men, Jesus' Baptism, the calling of the Disciples, and the Transfiguration, we study the life and ministry of Jesus on earth, hearing again of the light and life Christ provides to all people. We must realize that, just as Jesus grew and developed over these years, our faith must change and increase in the season ahead. We cannot remain static, for without growth we become dry, brittle, and lifeless with no spiritual fruit to nourish others or ourselves.

Through the model of Jesus' life, we can see that these spiritual changes are necessary and we should celebrate the exciting possibilities that we find as we worship our Lord and Savior. We must let the light of Christ shine in our hearts so we can chase away the winter blahs and make this a time of spiritual growth and renewal.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 23**, 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, JANUARY 19**

**Scripture** John 1: 29-42  
**Sermon** "What Are You Looking For?"

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15 Nancy Woodall & Margaret J. Vann  
 10:30 Andy Herron & Justin Givens

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Gayle Herber

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15 Donna Blair & Gayle Herber  
 Kyle & Carrie Love  
 10:30 Ty & Troy Davis, Sr. & Ty Davis  
 Elaine French & Marilee Keim  
 Bev Williamson

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Patti Allen

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Henry Waites  
 by Nancy Waites.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*Jesus in the Wilderness*  
 Pastor Laura, Penny Jackman & Troy Davis, Jr.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

Nancy Waites & Anita Wood

**AV SUPPORT TEAM**

Technical Director - Chuck Herber  
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith  
 Sound - Malcolm Landreth

ATTENDANCE	1/5	1/12
First Service Worship	45	42
Sunday School	40	34
Second Service Worship	85	87
Children's Church	7	3
Young Disciples	NA	3
Total Worship	137	135

**2019 GIVING STATEMENTS**

2019 Giving Statements are available in the Church Office during the week and on Sundays in the Narthex on **January 19th and 26th**. Please be sure to pick yours up so we can save on postage. Thank you.

Please give a warm FCC welcome to our new members, David & Brooke Uptagrafft, who joined during second service on Sunday, January 12.

**"PHANTOM" BABY SHOWER**

Mission Family 2 plans a "Phantom" Baby Shower for Kelsi Shrout Green, daughter of Rick and Kay Shrout. Kelsi is currently living in San Diego, CA, while her husband, Captain Jordan Green, is a Marine pilot deployed to Iraq. Their baby is due February 29. With Jordan's current assignment, it is possible that he will not be home for the birth of their child. Rick and Kay plan to be in California to be with Kelsi. During the coffee hour, between services, on **January 26, 2020, 9:15-10:15**, Mission Family 2 plans a simple "Phantom" Shower for Kelsi at which time folks will have a chance to add to a money/gift card tree to send to Kelsi from her church family back here in Huntsville. A card will be available to sign sending personal congratulations.



During the coffee hour, between services, on **January 26, 2020, 9:15-10:15**, Mission Family 2 plans a simple "Phantom" Shower for Kelsi at which time folks will have a chance to add to a money/gift card tree to send to Kelsi from her church family back here in Huntsville. A card will be available to sign sending personal congratulations.

**JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM**

January has traditionally been blanket month for CWM service activity. Once again, CWM is partnering with Church World Service in their Blankets+ program. We are the "+" in the blanket project. FCC in Huntsville, Alabama, can make a difference all around the world as the need arises. \$10 can provide a warm blanket for anyone left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. Please consider a monetary donation to FCC with CWM "Blankets" in the memo line. Thank you, Margaret J. Vann



### COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* - 1 Peter 4:10 NRSV

One way you can literally serve others is to serve Communion on Sundays. **Please contact Gayle Herber, or the Church Office 256-881-0150, if you are interested in serving Communion.**

“The Lord’s Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all who are followers of Jesus Christ. The practice of Holy Communion has become the central element of worship within the Disciples tradition.” [disciples.org/our-identity/communion-and-baptism/](https://disciples.org/our-identity/communion-and-baptism/)



### SEVERAL OPEN DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS

The 2020 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is now up and 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. The donated funds go to our Community Outreach ministry.

The **Annual Planning Event** scheduled for Thursday, January 19, has been rescheduled to February.

### JOIN THE COFFEE CREW

Looking for a way to serve the church? Join the Coffee Crew! It is not rocket science, but rocket scientists are welcome. Drop a coffee pouch in the machine and press brew, get some orange juice out of the refrigerator, and set out some snacks from home or use the ones in the Parlor kitchen. Bingo! You’ve helped to facilitate fellowship at the church. (Kitchen orientation is provided.) Depending on the size of the crew, you serve about once every other month.



Email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or call 256-881-0150 and say that you want to sign up for the Coffee Crew!



**Food Pantry**

Please remember to bring a non-perishable item, or several, for the food cart outside of McMains Hall on a Sunday. Pick your own Sunday and make it a habit. Let’s help keep the pantry full at the Huntsville Assistance Program.

Thank you, Community Outreach Committee

### CAN’T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Stream it live at: <https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>