



The Journey

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It is always a strange feeling when the Christmas decorations are taken down. The trees and the tinsel are gone, wreaths disappear from doors, candles are placed back in storage and we return to ordinary winter days looking forward to the hint of spring. This past Sunday the Sanctuary, especially the chancel, seemed rather empty. I missed the greenery, the poinsettia tree, and the manger scene. It just felt as if something was missing.

I have 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 often called the season of lights, for obvious reasons, but now that this season is over how do we keep the spirit of joy and celebration alive in our hearts when we are faced with the winter blahs? After all, as a new year begins so do new responsibilities. This is one of the busiest times of the year in the secular world. The New Year often brings new leadership, strategic plans, and goals that need to be accomplished. In the church, often after the holiday season, all we want to do is take a little time and rest.

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 ourselves or others.

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.

Pastor Paul

2018 GIVING STATEMENTS

2018 Giving Statements are available in the Church Office during the week and on Sundays in the Narthex on **January 27th**. **Please be sure to pick yours up so we can save on postage.**

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, January 24**, 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, JANUARY 27

Scripture Luke 4: 14-21
 Sermon "Listening Again"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Jan Mackenzie & Mark Stiles
 10:30 Roger Sameck & Mike Lash

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Delores Edgeton

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Lee & Duffy Boles
 Marilee Keim & Kay Shrout
 10:30 Sabrina Beckman & Troy Davis, Jr.
 Glenda Luft & Nancy Woodall
 Lynn Abernathy

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Chuck & Penny Jackman

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in celebration of Jordan Green's birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

The Mustard Seed
 Abby Allen; John Hall; Macey Johnson & Greyson Rogers

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Follow Me
 Pastor Laura, Ashley Rogers, & Ty Davis

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith
 Sound - Michael Smith & Malcolm Landreth
 Stream Operator - Michael Smith

ATTENDANCE	1/13	1/20
First Service Worship	45	34
Sunday School	22	20
Second Service Worship	80	74
Young Disciples	NR	NA
Children's Church	6	4
Total Worship	131	112

ANNUAL TRAINING & PLANNING EVENT FOR COMMITTEES

Has been cancelled for Saturday, January 26, and will be rescheduled for a later date.

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. -Margaret J. Vann



YOU ARE INVITED to join the Youth Ministry for a Valentine Day Lunch in the Family Services Room. This is our way of saying thank you for all of your support.



WHEN: Sunday, February 10th
TIME: 11:30 till 1:30PM.

NEW PLANS FOR A NEW YEAR!

Community Outreach is moving our monthly meeting to the third Sunday at 11:30 am. Our next meeting will be in the FCC Parlor on February 17. This is a great time for new members to attend and share their feelings about how best to meet local needs. All are invited and we hope to see some new faces with fresh ideas!

The 2019 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.



The Youth Ministry invites you to show off your cooking skills with a pot of Chili. February 3rd from 11:30-1:30 (After Second Service). The Youth Ministry will provide the condiments and drinks. A trophy will be given to this year's best Chili Cook.

COMMUNITY FREE DENTAL CLINIC AND FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

For the February outreach project, Community Outreach and CWM have joined together to financially support the Community Free Dental Clinic, which serves low income adults. Since opening in 2013, the Clinic has provided dental care to 7000 adults, primarily with extractions. All of the dental and nursing staff are volunteers and funding comes from, individuals, groups, and a few grants. Nurses take a medical history and provide education to the client on their situation, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, both prevalent among the clients. Just recently, a limited number of cleanings and fillings have been added to services available; however, there is a charge for fillings because of the expense of the materials. Only those within 150% of the poverty level are eligible to receive services at the Community Free Dental Clinic (a sobering statistic - 14% of Huntsville's population meets that criteria). To participate, please make your check to FCC with Dental Clinic in the memo line to help this agency that provides a much-needed service. Thank you for caring about those in need in our community.

**NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS IN JANUARY
WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUPS HAVE RESUMED**

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at
www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com

RUMMAGE SALE



MARCH 1ST 8 AM- 5 PM

MARCH 2ND 8 AM-NOON

Time to clean out those closets and save your items for donations!!

Sign up posters for workers/volunteers will be in the Commons Area on February 3.

RUMMAGE SALE MEETING: February 24th following Second Service with a light lunch provided.

DROP OFF ITEMS: February 24th -28th

LARGE ITEM PICK UP: February 25th- 28th

GUIDELINES: No broken electronics or appliances; no CRT TVs or monitors; no personally recorded audio or video. Please try and box items that go together and tape remotes to the electronics they go with.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Jeni Hankins will be in concert at the United Church of Huntsville (7906 Whitesburg Dr.) on Saturday, January 26, at 3:00 to benefit the Huntsville Assistance Program. The suggested donation at the door (cash or check) is \$20, although all donations will be appreciated. There will be a reception with refreshments following the concert, with a chance to meet and visit with Jeni.

For additional information, call 256-797-6883.

First Christian Church owns four cemetery lots in Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, AL 35811). These lots are available at market value, either in pairs or four total. We are offering these to our members and friends before advertising through various outlets. If you would like more information, please contact Lee Boles.

Leeboles@aol.com for the Trustees