



The Journey

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CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING following second service on Sunday, February 18.

THE SEASON OF LENT

The forty days of Lent (actually there are forty-six days, but the six Sundays are not counted) are a time for spiritual growth through repentance, fellowship, prayer, and concentration upon our baptismal covenant. In penitence and contrition we bring before God the brokenness and sin in our lives and ask for God's forgiveness and healing. In doing so, the church engages in a common process of remembrance and renewal.

Many of us have heard the tradition of giving something up for Lent like caffeine, desserts, or meat. This small concession is supposed to remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus by surrendering something that we enjoy. Yet, I believe that Lent should be a time when we begin spiritual practices and seek out ways to care for the needs of others. We can read a portion of the scriptures every day and use a commentary to discover the deeper implications of the passage, begin a practice of prayer or contemplation, give our time and money to a local charity, attend one of our weekly bible studies, or seek out worship experiences that help us confess our wrongdoing and ask for forgiveness.

This year First Christian Church of Huntsville will be holding an Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 6:00 pm. On Ash Wednesday we confront our own mortality and confess our sins before God within the community of faith. The form of the service focuses on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Ashes are used as a sign of mortality and repentance and the Imposition of Ashes, placing ashes on our foreheads or hands, can be a powerful way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. During Holy Week First Christian Church will be holding a Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm on March 29th.

You will also notice changes in our Sanctuary beginning on February 18th, the first Sunday of Lent. The communion table will have a traditional black pall, which is a cloth laid over a casket in funeral services, draped over it in remembrance of Christ's death, the cross and candles will be removed until Good Friday, and the tone of the worship services will be more subdued and contemplative. While every Sunday is a celebration of the Easter promise and the joy located within, during Lent we are preparing ourselves for the crucifixion, for it is only in Christ's sacrifice that we can find forgiveness, repentance and new life.

I hope that those of you who are able will attend these services so that as a community we can worship together, ask for forgiveness, and look forward to the celebration of Easter. May God bless you through the season of Lent, Amen.

Pastor Paul

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 8**, 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.

Please give a warm FCC welcome to our newest member, Heather Black, and returning members Lloyd Unfred & Cathy Rosol.

You are invited to join the Youth Ministry for a **VALENTINE DAY LUNCH** in the Family Service Room on February 11th. This is our way of saying thank you for all of your support.



DATE: Sunday, February 11th

TIME: After 2nd Service till 1:30 pm.

OUCH! MY TOOTH HURTS!

For most of us, that means we call a dentist but for the poor in our community, that is not an option. In 2013, the Community Free Dental Clinic opened their doors to care for needy adults in Madison County and since that time, the Clinic has treated 6000 people. It is staffed with all volunteer dentists and assistants. There are also nurses who check vital signs of the patients and help with education on dental hygiene and other health issues. The Clinic mainly does extractions but is now able to do fluoride treatments as a preventive measure. CWM has selected the Clinic as our outreach project for February and invites you to join us by making a financial donation to this organization that is dependent on local revenue. You can make a check out to FCC with "dental clinic" in the memo line. Thank you for caring.

The collection for the Food Pantry is falling off, so Community Outreach is issuing a challenge to the congregation to try to get our item count up to 400 a month.



If each family brought at least one non-perishable item per Sunday, then we could easily make this count per month. This is such an inexpensive thing and so easy to do.

There are families in need of our help.
What do you say fellow members?

TIME TO CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS!!

RUMMAGE SALE MEETING: February 18th following Second Service with a light lunch provided.

LARGE ITEM PICKUP: February 24th- 28th

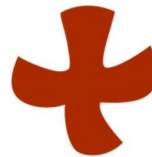
ITEM DROP OFF: February 25th -28th.

RUMMAGE SALE: Friday, March 2nd 8:00 am- 5:00 pm & Saturday, March 3rd 8:00 am-Noon

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Please join us on Sun., Feb. 25th at 6 pm for a Taizé service in the FCC sanctuary. For those unfamiliar with the Taizé experience, it is a quiet and reflective service of prayer, music and meditation.

Taizé is a community in France which was founded by Brother Roger and sheltered WWII refugees. They lived simple and quiet lives in order to not attract attention during this troubled time. They often went into the woods to sing and prayed silently to be respectful of all beliefs.



"Since my youth, I think that I have never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone. Gradually the conviction took shape in me that it was essential to create a community with men determined to give their whole life and who would always try to understand one another and be reconciled, a community where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the centre of everything." Brother Roger: "God is love alone"

Let's all carve some time out of our hectic schedules to worship, commune and recharge before the start of a new week.

The Vine is offering "Monday Hope," support for the healing journey including education, worship and prayer, on Mondays, Feb. 12th – March 26, 12PM to 1PM. Led by The Rev. Dr. Amanda Ragland at First Presbyterian Church, Gideon Blackburn House, 307 Gates Avenue. Free of charge. RSVP to vine-ministry@vinepcc.com or call 256-270-7399. For more information, go to: www.vinepcc.com.