



# The Journey

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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## THE SEASON OF LENT BRINGS HOPE

The season of Lent began on March 6th as Christians throughout the world worshiped together and spread ashes on their heads and hands to confront our mortality and confess our sins before God within the community of faith. This year the Ash Wednesday service seemed to hold special meaning because of the life changing events of the past months. Our country continues to be divided by political party, race, sex, and generational differences. Our state is in mourning over those lost to severe weather and those whose homes or property have been destroyed. There seems to be no end to the darkness that we are facing.

All too often Christians believe that Lent is a time of sadness and despair. We do not like to look within ourselves and recognize our sin, it is far easier to see the shortcomings of others, and we certainly do not want to admit that we separate ourselves from God. Perhaps this is why Lent has been viewed as an unimportant season, secondary to the glory of Easter.

This means that we are forgetting the forgiveness and healing that flow through this time of penitence. The self-reflection of Lent should lead us into the dark places in our lives so we can accept our brokenness and then be transformed through the power of God. It is a reminder that we are not in control that we need the guidance, love, and support of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

The season of Lent can also be seen as a time of sacrifice. Many people choose to give up something for this season such as chocolate, social media, or soda. Others take on activities for Lent electing to be a part of a bible study or read devotionals. Some work in their communities sharing their time and helping others. Whatever the case may be, these sacrifices of time and luxuries are a way for us to attempt to become closer to Jesus as he journeys to the cross.

Lent is also a time of hope. It actually has forty-six days because the six Sundays in Lent are not counted as a part of the forty-day season. During Lent, every Sunday is seen as a little Easter which reminds us that even in a time of penitence and contrition there is still the promise of the resurrection for in the darkness we have seen a great Light, we have experienced the forgiveness and new life that Christ offers, and we have been encouraged by the Holy Spirit. With this in mind, we know that there is still hope for the world and that we can make a difference in the lives of others because we are not working so that our will might be done but for God's will to be done. May the season of Lent bring each of you hope, faith, and new purpose.

Amen.

**THE CHURCH BOARD MEETING** for March was postponed until this Thursday, March 21, at 6:00 pm in Family Services..

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, March 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  
MARCH 24**

**Scripture** Luke 13: 1-9  
**Sermon** "Judgement and Mercy"

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15 Karen Ball & Gayle Herber  
10:30 Dave Crockett & Frank Fitzgerald

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Donna Blair

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15 Donna Blair & Deloris Edgeton  
Carl & Carol Jones  
10:30 Nancy Adams & Marie Bittle  
Ty Davis & Lisa Fitzgerald  
Bev Williamson

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Lynn Abernathy

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is given in memory of Gerald Richey, brother of Petra Sue Richey, by MF4; and in honor of Bob Senn

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*Jesus and Bartimaeus*  
Nancy Woodall, Holly Ahlbin,  
Macey Johnson & Greyson Rogers

**YOUNG DISCIPLES**

*Jesus Calls the Twelve Disciples*  
Pam Clagens  
Ashley Rogers & Troy Davis

**AV SUPPORT TEAM**

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

ATTENDANCE	3/10	3/17
First Service Worship	27	28
Sunday School	29	19
Second Service Worship	73	76
Young Disciples	5	NA
Children's Church	6	4
Total Worship	113	108

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL MARCH 27**

Meal is TBA. Following the meal are small groups including Adulting, Kids'/Youth, and Men's Bible Studies. The Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 pm. **Call in your reservation by Wednesday, March 20, at 256-881-0150.**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE MISSION FAMILY PLAN?**

There will be a Mission Family informational meeting for all First Christian members and visitors who want to know more about the Mission Family plan. What is a Mission Family and how did I get placed in one? What is a leadership team? What is the ministry of the Mission Family?

The meeting is scheduled for April 7 at 2:00 pm in Family Services. So that I can have material for you, please let me know that you plan to attend by March 27. You may email me at [jvhome2@comcast.net](mailto:jvhome2@comcast.net), or call 256-536-7816 if your phone will identify you as the caller. Please leave a message on the machine if we can't answer.

Thanks,  
Jackie Volinski, Mission Family Coordinator

**National Children's Advocacy Center  
Healthy Families Program**

During March, Christian Women's Ministries is sponsoring the collection of items for baby baskets for the National Children's Advocacy Center. Each year, approximately 20 baskets are distributed to the new mothers attending classes for caring for new born children. The baskets provide needed items and a gift of support to these struggling mothers.

The suggested items for collection are: 3 month size sleeping attire, baby wipes, shampoo, pacifiers, bibs, diaper rash cream, socks or booties, and receiving blankets. Monetary offerings are also welcome.



## HABITAT HOME NUMBER 26

First Christian Church has participated in the financing and construction of Habitat homes for many years. In March, Community Outreach is collecting monetary donations for Habitat Home No. 26. You can write your check to FCC with Habitat on the memo line if you would like to contribute. Be on the lookout for more details concerning our new Habitat home.



Thank you, Community Outreach



### COMING SOON!

Watch the *Journey* for volunteer information on FCC Habitat House number 26!



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

## PROPERTY WORK DAY

We will have a Property Workday on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9:00 am. Contact the Church Office at [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or 256-881-0150 to sign up to help. We will be working inside and outside getting ready for Palm Sunday (Easter Eggstravaganza! Community Egg Hunt & Picnic), and Easter Sunday visitors.

### CWM BLESSING BOXES DUE:

Ladies, the money you have collected for the Blessing Box ministry is due in March. This money is used by DOC to help fund small loans for needy women around the world to help them get started in a business to benefit their families. Please make your donation either through your group's treasury or in the church offering noting Blessing Box in the memo line.

Thank you for your generous donation!

### THANK YOU

My family and I appreciated all the kindness expressed to us during my sister's illness and passing. The cards, the phone calls, words of encouragement, and the dedication of the food basket in Susan's memory have meant so much. We owe a huge thank you to the Mission Family 3 Leadership Team of Lynn Abernathy, Ruth Lackey, Mary Ann Anderson, and Gayle Herber for their invaluable help during the "celebration of life" for Susan recently held in our lovely parlor, the perfect setting for such an event.

Thank you all! Ann Thompson