



The Journey

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www.fcc-hsv.org

CARING IN CRISIS

We are living in unprecedented times. As COVID-19, or the Coronavirus, continues to sweep throughout the world we have been asked to make sacrifices, as a nation, so that the spread of the virus will be lessened. The leaders of our denomination, and most mainline denominations, have suggested that churches cease meeting for Sunday services and other events. National leaders have suggested that we stay home as much as possible; keep a six-foot distance when you are around other people, and have asked that groups of more than 10 people should suspend their meetings. I agree with these guidelines, as do our congregational leaders, which is why we have suspended services until April 5. After that time, we will once again check the CDC website, listen to national and local leaders, check with our healthcare providers and made a decision for the weeks ahead that focuses on the health of the members of our congregation.

We may not be meeting on Sundays for worship but this does not mean that our lives of faith should become stagnant. During this time we are called to be leaders in our community, supporting those who have financial or emotional difficulties, caring for the sick, in ways that are safe, praying for those who are suffering and for our leaders to make correct decisions for the good of our nation and the world, and seeking ways to ease the fears of those around us. It is now more important than ever, to live in a Christ-like manner and share the peace and grace of God.

The Churches Uniting in Christ have offered information on the role of Churches and Compassionate Christians in this time of crisis. We should combat fear with knowledge in order to encourage preparedness and decrease stigma, maintain operational continuity and continue worship life, through social media or others resources, in the case of potential quarantine and disruption and show God's compassion and care to those in our communities who are affected.

During disasters and epidemics, remember this acronym: C.I.A.—Community, Information and Agency. As church and community leaders, support your community and maintain connection throughout the event, provide your community with verified information about the health and safety implications of the event and then allow them to decide what is best. Maintain community, whether safely in person or online. Bolster outreach ministries to prepare to help low-income workers, homebound or the homeless. Encourage those who may consider going to work for the sake of income to stay home because assistance can be offered. Many of our churches have or support important feeding programs for people living with homelessness or for other marginalized people. Please do not serve buffet style meals, instead serving individually, protect food from contamination by covering items when not in use, wear gloves while serving, and use paper goods if a dishwasher is not available. In our congregation we are helping those who need assistance with grocery

See *Caring* next page...

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 2**, 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.

...Caring continued shopping or the pickup of prescriptions. If you would like to volunteer, or if you need assistance, please let the office know.

Above all, let us understand that while the world may be changing the spirit of care and compassion found in Christ has not changed. We are called to help each other in this time even if this means staying home so we do not accidentally infect others. Please be safe, care for those around you, pray for strength and guidance, and know that God will see us through any difficulty, Amen.

ABRAHAMIC PRAYERS ACTIVITY

Abrahamic Prayers is a gathering of people from all faith traditions to pray for global peace and healing and to share our beliefs, similarities, and differences. We will meet online via Zoom on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 pm.

The Reverend Paul Allen will lead discussion about how the current pandemic challenges us in living out our faith and how we can share our Creator's love and hope during this time. This discussion will be introduced and followed by a period of sung, spoken, and silent prayer.

Zoom connection info and handouts with read-along text will be provided soon. See the event on the church website, keep an eye out on Facebook, or contact Karen Ball for more details (ballk87@yahoo.com).

CWM MEETINGS CANCELLED

Due to public health concerns, the CWM circles (Elizabeth, Esther, and Phoebe) will not meet in April or May. The program year ends in May and the annual goals can be accomplished without meetings. Please stay in touch with all women of the church so we can continue our fellowship and caring throughout this period.

Stay well!

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Stream it live at: www.twitch.tv/fcchsv

HELP FROM FCC

If you are over 60 and would like to stay home during this virus outbreak you can call the church and ask for help getting groceries and pharmaceutical items brought to your home. We have several volunteers ready to help you so you can stay well. **We are also looking for additional volunteers** to run short errands for groceries or pharmaceuticals for older church members who cannot get out.

Call 256 881-0150 during normal office hours Monday through Friday or call Lynn Abernathy at 256 655-4114 if you need assistance or wish to volunteer.

During this time of social distancing **the church office will maintain normal hours, Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.** However, we will be operating with minimal staff at the office while others are working from their homes. This means that you should call back or leave a message if you call the office and do not get an answer. Someone is there but may not be able to answer the phone at that time.

Also, please remember your tithes and offerings. You may use PayPal (click on the Donate button at the bottom of the linked page <http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/>), drop it off at the church during office hours, or mail to: First Christian Church, 3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802

We will be posting Sunday services on the church Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409/> and to our YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw> and Twitch <https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv> channels.

HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP

CWM hope you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) during April. Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years and has also been devastated by several hurricanes. Life expectancy average is 63 years and adult illiteracy is over 51%. House of Hope is making a difference and so can we through a donation. Checks can be made to FCC with House of Hope in the memo line. Sponsorship is \$360 per year per child; CWM would love to sponsor two children, as we did last year.

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Ann Crockett, mother of Dave Crockett
Delores Edgeton
Charles Gilliland
J. B. Hodge
Linda Hooker
Family of Rev. Dr. John Jackson
Gail Killough
Stephen McCreary
Paul Seward, brother of Jeff Seward
Kay Stegall
Sheryl Stiles

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually listed in the Sunday bulletins. Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update. Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 881-0150. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**



This QR code is linked to the Church's PayPal giving page for your convenience.

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

Bob Anderson, son of Susan Anderson friend of Margaret J. Vann
A.J. Arisco, relative of Pam Clasgens
Thomas Burns, father of Karen Ball
Holly Busby (sister of Dinah Love), John Busby & their daughter Jessica Janssen.
Kevin Cassady, friend of Jackie Sameck
Jill Hall
Lynn Harris, daughter of Bob & Mary Spencer
Linda Johnson, mother of Michelle Givens
Allison Landreth
Carey Link, friend of Margaret Vann
Dr. Kyle Powers, grandson of Alma Kingsbury
Matthew Richardson, friend of Matthew Brown
Betty Rogers
Bob & Mary Spencer
Jo Thomason
Rev. Beth Thomason
Ann Thompson

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

