



The Journey

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THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

It is hard to know where to start when it comes to anything I write at the present moment. So many things have changed rapidly in the space of the last few weeks in the life of our church, the nation and the world that it makes my head spin. We are all still reeling at the reality of our lives right now and there do not seem to be many answers on what to expect in the future. Please take care of yourselves, stay home whenever possible, and let us know if you have any needs. The next few weeks will be a test of the church's resolve to continue in the face of adversity. Do we trust God to see us through any dilemma, or will we fall in fear, mistrust, and anger.

We are still in the midst of the Lenten season, Holy Week is upon us, and I am looking forward to Easter, but there is some heartache as well as we will not be able to have our Easter services in the sanctuary. We have some plans in place for our Easter services, of course will have our streamed service, and maybe another opportunity with more details to come, but it still will not be the same. However, we can celebrate Easter in our homes, with our families and loved ones and I hope you will do so. Remember the first Easter was celebrated in a graveyard, in a garden and in closed room. I can see the parallels.

To let you know what is happening now, the church office is still open. Each of our staff members is taking a day in the office. This means someone is usually present to answer the phone, get the mail and check messages. We are still trying to practice social distancing, so forgive us if we talk to you in the hallway if you come for a visit.

The rest of the staff is working from home on the days they are not in the office. You can see the content we are posting on Twitch, Facebook and YouTube so you know we are still planning worship services. Meetings are still taking place, usually using Zoom, the newsletter is going out, the building still needs to be maintained and we are checking in on our church members and the most vulnerable in our community. As I have told many people, we are still working and we are still busy but it is a different kind of work than what we are used to and it does not always happen in the 9-5 day.

Speaking of services, we stream on Sundays at 8:15 am and 10:30 am on our Twitch account, <https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv/videos>. We also post services on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409>, and our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw>. If you have trouble getting on any of these accounts let us know. The church also has a Zoom account to use for virtual meetings. Contact the office if you would like to schedule a meeting. Rev. Laura and Alyssa have posted Worship and Wonder stories, Young Disciple stories, and Children's moments and our musicians have posted several songs and other opportunities to worship. Keep watching to see what we will come up with next.

See *Church* following page...

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 9**, 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.

...Church continued.

Please keep giving to First Christian and encourage others to do so as well. Yes, we need to keep the lights on and pay our staff. However, we also need to keep funding our mission priorities, especially now when they are desperately needed. If you are able, look for opportunities to give around you. Non-profit organizations need assistance at this time but it could be as simple as checking in on your neighbor to make sure they have food or supplies.

I hope everyone stays safe and well in this time. I pray for you daily, and I pray for our nation and the world as well. I am confident we will overcome these obstacles but I also know our world will be forever changed. I ask for your patience at this time, we are trying hard to meet the needs of a very different reality and sometimes this means things do not work as planned, but we are all trying and we all need mercy and grace. God bless all of you, Amen.

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2 will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my
fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2 (NRSV)

HABITAT HOUSE NEWS FLASH!!!

We are shut down for now with the Governor's new Proclamation issued this afternoon. Watch for an email with future developments.

Thursday was a good day at 201 McDonnell. We repaired the closet wall in the second bedroom, cut the attic stair to the proper length, installed two of the three frame pieces for the overhead garage door (need concrete cut before installing the third piece), and installed the back door of the garage.

Once we get the all clear, we plan to install the insulation, install the remaining closet blocking, and install the last piece of the frame for the garage door.

Bob Senn

EASTER OFFERING

This Easter, we rejoice together as one Church, as the One Body of Christ. We rejoice in all that we accomplish together, and the work God accomplishes through us.

Let us rejoice that the Easter offering, through Disciples Mission Fund, makes ministry possible. Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed and our world is transformed. **Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering?**

This Easter season, let us rejoice in all the ways our wider Church embodies the Spirit of Resurrection, through life-giving ministry.

Please give generously by noting Easter Special Offering on your check made out to Huntsville First Christian Church or mentioning Easter Special Offering on your PayPal donation.

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.

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.

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Ann Crockett, mother of Dave Crockett
Delores Edgeton
Charles Gilliland
J. B. Hodge
Linda Hooker
Gail Killough
Stephen McCreary
Paul Seward, brother of Jeff Seward
Kay Stegall

CONDOLENCES to the family of Sheryl Stiles, who passed on April 4.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Grace Burks, who recently passed.

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**

The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center



We are available for telephone or video conference counseling sessions. Call our office today to schedule your session.

[256-270-7399](tel:256-270-7399)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13



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