



The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 15
April 15, 2019
www.fcc-hsv.org

HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCES

When I was a child I was always excited about Easter because it was one of the few times that I would get candy from my parents. We did not keep sweets in the house on a regular basis and we only had dessert on special occasions, so the occasional bag of candy was very exciting. On Easter, like Halloween, I got a whole basket of candy, not only that but I got to hunt for Easter eggs in the yard and at church. Sometimes my grandparents would put money in the Easter Eggs, a grand surprise.

It was not until I was a little older that I fully understood the importance of Easter. It was a very busy time for my parents, since they were both ministers. I can still remember going to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, waving the palm branches, hearing the stories, extinguishing the candles and experiencing the darkness on Good Friday, and the joy of Easter when the Sanctuary was filled with people, flowers and light once again.

This is an exciting time of the year because when I think of Spring I think of renewal. We are still in the season of Lent, reflecting on our lives and bringing before God our sin and brokenness, but we know that this time of contemplation is leading us to the ideals of transformation and rebirth found in Easter. In our worship services, even though the communion table is draped in black and the cross is hidden, there is still a spirit of joy, because we know that on Easter our time of mourning will be over and our faith will be renewed.

Yet, before our joy can be complete, we must contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross. This is not a comfortable experience; we do not like to talk or think about death. It is challenging to envision what Christ endured for the sake of the world, however it is a part of our story of faith and it is what makes resurrection possible. Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are unique services because they take us to places we usually do not like to go and remind us that God is there providing comfort, hope, and renewal.

These services, and all of our Lenten and Easter activities remind us of the magnitude of the gift of Jesus Christ. Such a gift is not to be taken lightly, but treasured and allowed to nourish our souls so that through our words and our lives others may see the love of God revealed. This year let us experience all of the emotions that Lent and Easter bring and let us know that we do not journey alone. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and we are nurtured in the arms of God. Amen.

Community Holy Week Services

The Southeast Clergy Cluster will again host mid-day Community Holy Week Services. The **April 15 - 18** services will be from Noon to 12:30 followed by a light lunch at **Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Dr. SE**

Monday: *The Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell*, from Faith Presbyterian Church
Tuesday: *The Rev. Christie Ashton*, from Hope Presbyterian Church

Wednesday: *The Rev. Dr. David B. Freeman*, from Weatherly Heights Baptist Church

Thursday: *The Rev. Katherine Harper*, from St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Stations of the Cross

Noon Friday, **April 19**: *Stations of the Cross* on the **Aldridge Creek Greenway** beginning at Mountain Gap Road, just west of Publix.

You are invited! Please join us!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 18**, 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.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Scripture Luke 24: 1-12
Sermon "Believing Idle Tales"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Mark Stiles & Roger Sameck
 10:30 Mike Lash & Dale Thomas

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Gayle Herber

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Linda Hooker & Margaret J. Vann
 Carl & Carol Jones
 10:30 Sabrina & Hayley Beckman.
 Troy Davis, Sr. & Tré Davis
 Marilee Keim

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in memory of my dad, Jimmie Taylor, by Cindy Burger.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Children worship with their families this Sunday.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Meets the second and fourth Sundays

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	4/7	4/14
First Service Worship	39	NR
Sunday School	40	29
Second Service Worship	88	137
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	10	NA
Total Worship	137	137

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The FCC Chancel Choir will present "Hope in the Shadows" (A Contemporary Tenebrae Service) featuring guest musicians next Thursday,



April 18th at 7pm in the FCC sanctuary. The choir members have been working very hard to present this program and would love your support! Join us as we retrace Christ's last days and journey to the cross on Maundy Thursday.

LILIES FOR EASTER

On Easter Sunday, our sanctuary will be adorned with lilies! If you would like to purchase a lily for \$10 in honor or in memory of someone, call the church office providing the donors' name and name of the honoree. Next, drop off a check made out to FCC with 'Easter lily' in the memo line at the church office during the week or the offering bowl on Sunday. A signup sheet is also posted across from McMains Hall.



May 4th is the Belk Charity Sale from 7:00 am - 9:00 pm. Please purchase \$5 tickets and show support for the Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) at this great opportunity for them and bargains for you. Tickets are available at the HAP office (1001 Monroe St, 35801) or at Belk on the day of the sale.



We are *Disciples of Christ*, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.
 21st Century Vision Team

HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP

CWM would like you to 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. Between 2016-2017, almost 200 new children were enrolled in the educational program 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 like to sponsor two children. Please help us achieve this.



HEALS CLINIC HELPING CHILDREN

In April Community Outreach is collecting small toys for the HEALS Clinic. This clinic provides dental care for many school age children and their siblings. The toys are needed to provide encouragement for these children as they undergo dental procedures. A basket will be available in the Commons area for your donations. You can also write a check to FCC with HEALS on the memo line.

As always, thank you for donating,
Community Outreach

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL APRIL 17

Baked lemon chicken, vegetables, salad, dessert and assorted drinks. 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, April 10, at 256-881-0150.**

LENT & EASTER SERVICES



Maundy Thursday Service

Tenebrae Service:
"Hope in the Shadows"
April 18 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 19

SE Huntsville Clergy Association

"Stations of the Cross" Noon at the
Aldridge Creek Greenway entrance Mt. Gap.

Easter Services

April 21

8:15 am Casual

10:30 am Traditional

