



IS IT STILL EASTER?

Happy Easter everyone! “But wait,” you are saying, “Easter was last Sunday, it has already happened.” and you would be correct. However, in the Christian Liturgical Calendar Easter is a season, not a day. In fact, the Easter season runs to the end of May, when we will celebrate Pentecost, so it is still Easter. So does this mean we will have to go out and hide more eggs? Do we need to fill the baskets again? Should we cook a ham or a turkey every day? Of course not, but we can continue to live as Easter people in a world that desperately needs the message of hope Christ brings.

Easter did not seem to bring much good news this year. This the first time in my memory that we could not have Easter services in the sanctuary, we could not journey to visit friends and family and have a meal with them, nor could we have our Easter Community Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. The evening of Easter Sunday we had to weather literal storms that caused flooding around our region, took down many trees, and even spawned a few tornadoes. This will be an Easter to remember, but I have to wonder if the memories will be positive.

However, Easter still came. We were able to worship together online, even though there were problems across the board. Yes, there were delays and skips in our services but this happened to many churches who were live casting their Easter service. Yes, Easter broke the internet. So many people were logging on or sharing content that the servers could not keep up. Can you imagine this happening on a “normal” Easter?

Easter still came. We have had hundreds of views for our service and wonderful comments across the board. It is incredible to think about how many people we reached this year who may not have attended our traditional service. Now multiply that with all the churches who had services online. Frankly, I am shocked and humbled by this response.

Easter still came, and it continues to transform our lives. With this in mind I would like to share part of a poem I found this week written in the style of the great philosopher and writer, Dr. Seuss...

“How the Virus Stole Easter” by Kristi Bothur

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest. The world was focused on masks and on tests.

“Easter can’t happen this year,” it proclaimed. “Online and at home, it just won’t be the same.”

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went. The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed. The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

“Pooh pooh to the saints,” the world was grumbling.

“They’re finding out now that no Easter is coming. They’re just waking up! We know just what they’ll do!”

“Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, and then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.”

“That noise,” said the world, “will be something to hear.” So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

See **Easter** next page...

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 23**, 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** continued from cover.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies. It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed. Why, this sound was triumphant!

It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes. Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small, was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine stood puzzling and puzzling. "Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, it came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before. "Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Because of the April 3 "Shelter in Place" order by Governor Ivey, we are no longer maintaining regular office hours at the church. We are working remotely from home but are going by church to collect mail and perform other tasks that cannot be handled remotely. It may be several days before we get back with you if you call and leave a message at the church. Please call us at home or email us for assistance at paul, laura, alyssa, rick, or matt with @fcc-hsv.org for email.

Thank you for your understanding and please be safe.

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 Lynn Abernathy at 256 655-4114 if you need assistance or wish to volunteer.

HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP

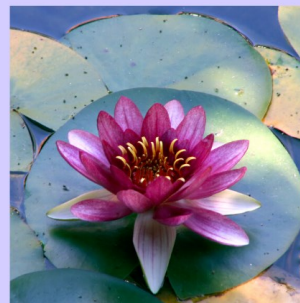
CWM hope you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) during April. Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years 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.

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Karen Ball's birthday by Matt & Stan Ball.

We stream on Sundays at 8:15 am and 10:30 am on our Twitch account, www.twitch.tv/fchsv/videos. We also post services on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409, and our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw.



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

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

WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

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 256-881-0150 and leave a message.

Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted

Debbie Brunhoeber, visitor
Family of Grace Burks
Ann Crockett, mother of Dave Crockett
Delores Edgeton
Charles Gilliland
J. B. Hodge
Gail Killough
Stephen McCreary
Ann McNaron
Bobby Moore
Paul Seward, brother of Jeff Seward
Kay Stegall
Family of Sheryl Stiles

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Grateful Life Church, Huntsville, AL
Harrison Street Christian Church, Greenville, AL

CONDOLENCES to the family of Tommy

Dunham, son of visitor Kitty Durham, who recently passed.



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

