



## *The Journey*

Volume XXVIII No. 18

May 11, 2020

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

### **CHANGES ARE COMING**

Last week my daughter Abby celebrated her seventeenth birthday and I admit that this brought about some rather unique feelings. My daughter and son are growing up and I am growing older. While we are lucky that Abby enjoys spending time with us it is still hard to see her miss so much at the end of Junior year of High School not to mention that soon she will leave for college. I look forward to trips, music recitals, art shows, and teacher meetings; all those times when parents can see the growth of their children, but growth means change, Abby is not the same as she was last year or a few years ago. She is developing into a smart and strong young woman and I am very proud.

Just as people grow and change so do institutions. Churches must constantly develop new ministries, missions, and ways of understanding how God works with us and through us as a community. For some change is a frightening experience. Churches bring comfort through their traditions and practices, and often it is hard to see something you love become different.

The last two months has brought momentous change to the church and to the world. We are all in a situation that we are not used to. We have not been able to hold church services in our building, instead moving to virtual worship. Meetings have moved to Zoom and other platforms and we have relied more on emails, letters, and phone calls instead of personal visits. Now, our state is opening up again, but still we are asked to stay home when we can. When we go out, we should wear a mask and keep within six feet of other people. There are still certain venues that are not allowed to open, Church Camp has been canceled, and we are told that there will be more changes still to come.

At First Christian Church we are trying to be cautious, but still looking forward to the future. We know that when we do meet in person once again there will be differences. The Elders and the Church Board are meeting this week to discuss our reopening plan, and we are listening to advice from the General Church, our Regional Offices, healthcare workers, and state guidelines to make our decisions. Please know that our first thoughts are how we keep our congregants safe, how we protect the community around us, and how we share the care and compassion of God.

So yes, the world is changing, and yes, First Christian Church will change with it. However, God has a purpose for our congregation and we must seek this vision and make it our own to continue to be faithful to our call to ministry. As we grow and develop as a community of faith we will look back to this time as a milestone for our church and for the world, and then look ahead to the next, so we can continue to move forward in faith. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, May 14**, at Noon [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

**Online Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. (Where to stream following page)**

## GRATEFUL LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH SUPPORT

Community Outreach and Christian Women's Ministries are partnering in May to solicit financial support for Grateful Life Community Church, our sister Disciples church in Huntsville whose primary ministry is to the disadvantaged and homeless members of our community. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to FCC with Grateful Life in the memo line and mail it to FCC. Thank you.

## CORONAVIRUS ISOLATION ISSUES

If you or someone in your family are suffering from depression or loneliness during this pandemic please feel free to call Pastor Paul Allen at any time (number in Church Directory). You may want to talk to him about other issues you are experiencing such as abuse or dependence on alcohol or drugs. He may be able to help you, or he may assist you in getting the help you need.

Either way, asking for help is the first step in getting better.

## TEMPORARY OFFICE SCHEDULE

A reminder that we have suspended regular church office hours. 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.

We will announce when regular office hours resume. Thank you for your understanding and please be safe.

**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is in memory of Kenneth Riggs by Bobbye Riggs.



## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

Names are not posted online.

### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

Macedonia Christian Church, Tallassee, AL

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](mailto: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**

### ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Stream live at 10:30 am on Sundays (or watch pervious services anytime) on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw)

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 10:30 am (and see announcements throughout the week) on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409](https://www.facebook.com/First-Christian-Church-DOC-Huntsville-AL-227266764409)

Finally, stream services at 8:15 and 10:30 am on Sunday at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)

**YOU WERE SO GENEROUS!**

**THANK YOU!**

Because of your generosity, FCC will sponsor three children for an entire year at the House of Hope in Haiti. Even in this time of uncertainty, you remembered that we are called to help those in need. We are making a huge difference in the lives of three children who did not stand much of a chance in that desperately poor country. The Christian Women's Ministry thanks you for caring about others.

**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



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



**PARKING LOT PROJECT**

The forms are in place and waiting for concrete. It is kind of a mess, but we are getting there!



New curb cut for handicapped access leading to the Sanctuary.



Parking lot sidewalk removed and forms in place for a parking lot level sidewalk to be poured. There will be two handicapped spaces on either side of the new sidewalk and the visitor spaces relocated on the front row.