The Journey

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 11, 2020

The past three months have been very difficult for the world, our nation, and the church. We have all struggled with how to keep our families and ourselves protected from the COVID-19 virus as well as protecting those who are vulnerable in our community and serving the needs of our church members. It was, and still is a monumental task, and I would like to thank the staff, our worship volunteers, church leadership, and everyone else who helped to move us forward.

On June 12 the Church Board met to discuss reopening the church for worship services and reopening the facility for meetings. While it is clear that there are still concerns about the virus it is also clear that many in the congregation would like options for services. In response to this need, and after discussion with the Worship Committee and the Elders of First Christian Church, we have decided on this plan of action.

On June 21 we will hold a worship service in our parking lot at 8:15 am. Members are invited to come in their vehicles as a family unit, you can stay in your car or you can bring chairs to sit in your parking space. We will be broadcasting the service on an FM transmitter, so you will be able to tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. We will also have a sound system outside as well. We ask that you maintain social distancing and that if you leave your car you will wear a mask. Please bring your own communion elements, they will be blessed and we will partake together. More information on this service will come soon.

That week we will also open the Family Services room for meetings in the church building. Again, we ask that you follow social distancing procedures, that the meeting has less than 10 people, that all participants will wear a mask, and that you clean after the meeting with provided supplies. We can only allow one meeting a day at this time, as we will also have a professional cleaning company sanitize the room daily when a meeting occurs. We will provide each group information on church requirements and the schedule for using the Family Services room will be kept in the office. We will also ask you to use the outside Family Services doors located in the Bell Tower courtyard (westside of the church), to enter the building.

We will continue to have Drive-In style services on Sundays; however, on July 5 we will attempt to have an indoor service in McMains Hall. We will be following State and CDC guidelines to make sure that members are safe. While we want to be hospitable, we will ask church members to let us know if they will be attending this service so we can plan accordingly. If visitors come that day we will have extra space for them but having a number of members who want to attend will help us greatly. Again, we will share more information about the structure of this service later. We will continue to record and share our virtual worship service for those who wish to stay at home.

It is our hope that these options for worship at First Christian Church will meet your spiritual needs and allow us to continue to serve God in our community and world. Thank you for your patience and flexibility *Information* continued next page...

Deadline for the Journey is Thursday, June 18, at Noon. Email to: 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) ... Information continued

during this time, and if you have questions or concerns feel free to contact the church office (staff members are available Monday-Friday) or me personally. I hope that you will stay safe and know that God is with us even in these challenging times.

Rev. Paul Allen

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Community Outreach Committee's project for June is collecting financial donations for the Foster Care Unit of DHR (Department of Human Resources). There are over 400 children in foster care in Madison County and funding is not adequate to cover all their needs. These children are in care through no fault of their own; they have been abused and neglected by those who should have protected them. Community Outreach, with your help, would like to give the Foster Care Unit \$25 Walmart gift cards to have on hand to use throughout the year to help our children who are suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally. A check can be made to FCC with "CO gift cards" in the memo line and mailed to the church. Thank you for caring about the vulnerable children in our community.

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Lori Love by Monty & Dinah Love.

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

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

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

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

List not published online.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST Sellers Memorial Christian Church Hayneville, 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 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



THANKS FROM CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Many thanks to the congregation for its generous support of our 2019-20 service projects, serving Christian Women's Ministries' missions in our home church, community, region, and world.

--\$787 to Hope Place for shelter/services to North AL victims of domestic violence and children --\$627.66 to Neaves Davis Center for Madison Co youth in residence for juvenile detention and probation services

--\$666 to WellHouse for shelter/services to victims of human trafficking in the US

--100 filled stockings to Christmas Charities for children of Madison Co

--\$896 to Church World Service for its global Blankets+ Program

--Valentine greetings to FCC college students, shut -ins, and military members

--\$600 to Community Free Dental Clinic for dental care to Madison Co adults in need*

--\$607.53 in Blessing Box donations to Disciples Home Missions for its home and global missions --\$680 to National Children's Advocacy Center's Healthy Families Program for new mothers --\$1165 to Global Ministries' Child Sponsorship Program for the House of Hope in Haiti --\$1530 to Grateful Life Community Church for its ministry to the local disadvantaged community* --\$350 to Huntsville Assistance Program for assistance and referrals to the needy in Madison Co --\$350 to Food Bank of North Alabama for hunger relief in North AL

* co-sponsored with Community Outreach

CHURCH SCHEDULE UPDATE

Regular office hours, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., have resumed with one staff member in the office each day. The office is closed from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. for lunch. The current staff schedule is Monday - Rick, Tuesday -Alyssa, Wednesday - Matt, Thursday - Pastor Paul, and Friday - Pastor Laura.. The staff will continue to work remotely from home when they are not in the church office.

Temporary Office Entrance. Our Early Childhood Ministry has re-opened and will temporarily be using the north entrance to the church (by the office) exclusively for health safety reasons. You must use the exterior office door, approximately 40 feet to the left of the north entrance as you face the building, for church-related access. There is a doorbell button to press. Church key cards will be temporarily deactivated until regular church activities resume.

The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center



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

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

256-270-7399