



The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 47
November 25, 2019
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IS IT ADVENT ALREADY?

It is the week of Thanksgiving and my wife has only one thing on her mind. Setting up the Christmas decorations. Patti loves Christmas, so much so that she is already listening to the Christmas Carol radio stations in her car. She cannot wait to decorate the house and was disappointed when I told her she could not put up the Christmas decorations after Halloween. (Last year I let her do that but that is another story.) For Patti, Christmas is a time to relive childhood memories and the excitement she felt as the 25th came closer and closer.

I have another view of Christmas. Since both of my parents were ministers, and I am now involved in the ministry, Christmas has always been the busiest time of the year. As a child, I can remember spending long hours at church because both of my parents were involved in meetings or events. Even now, it is hard to find time to enjoy the Advent season, much less Christmas with everything going on. This does not mean that I am a scrooge, I just enjoy Christmas in a different manner. Instead of the lights, noise, and glitter that secular society seems to associate with this season, I prefer the quiet, meditative side of Advent, the preparation of our hearts and souls for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Whether we are ready or not Advent will be here next Sunday and First Christian Church will celebrate it in its own way. **Hanging of the Greens is on December 1 and it is a combined service beginning at 10:00 am.** Once again, our readers will remind us of the meaning of the symbols as the children and youth decorate our sanctuary for the advent season. This is a service that is unique to First Christian Church of Huntsville and I am always grateful for the assistance of the Worship Committee, our music team, Pastor Laura, our parents, youth and children that make the day possible. We hope to see you there.

Of course, there are many other offerings in the season; the **Funky Christmas Fashion Show on December 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm**, the youth will be providing dinner before our fashion extravaganza. Please come and wear your best or worst Christmas attire. Remember this is a fundraiser to help families in need have a wonderful Christmas and we will be voting on our favorite outfit with our donations (similar to how we vote on our favorite chili).

We also will be having a **Christmas Taize service on December 18 at 7:00 pm** for those of you who would like a contemplative opportunity to prepare yourself. I am looking forward to this time of song, prayer, meditation, and worship.

We also have our **Christmas Lessons and Carols service presented by the First Christian Church Choir on December 15.** It is once again a combined service at 10:00 am and it will feature our choir, church musicians, and several guests who will help us worship God with music and joy. Do not forget our **Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 5:00 and 11:00 pm** as we join with friends and family to celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ to us and for us.

Advent continued inside...

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Wednesday, November 27**, 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.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
HANGING OF THE GREENS
COMBINED 10:00 SERVICE**

...Advent continued.

Of course, there are many other opportunities to celebrate: Christmas Fest, Parents Night Out, etc. but I know that Pastor Laura can and will share more information about these events. It is my hope that there is something for everyone this year as we begin Advent and prepare our hearts and our lives for a new life and a new year. May God bless you all in this season, Amen.

SERVING AT THE TABLE

10:00 Margaret J. Vann & Lisa Fitzgerald

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Nancy Waites

SERVING COMMUNION

10:00 Gayle Herber & Ruth Lackey
TBA
Lynn Abernathy

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Diane Douglas

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Cindy Burger's birthday by her family.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

No Worship & Wonder today.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER

TBA

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director - Chuck Herber
Assistant Director - Michael Smith
Sound - Malcolm Landreth

**CONGREGATIONAL
2020 BUDGET MEETING
Sunday, December 8, following Second Service.**

ATTENDANCE	11/17	11/24
First Service Worship	38	42
Sunday School	45	44
Second Service Worship	113	110
Children's Church	5	8
Total Worship	156	160

FUNKY CHRISTMAS FASHION SHOW!
Hello all! Get ready for a brand new fundraiser lead by the youth group! Introducing the **Funky Christmas Fashion Show.**

This fundraiser doubles as a fun event for the entire church. **Following the 5:30 meal on Wednesday, December 4,** join the youth for a night of Christmas cheer and ugly Christmas sweaters to fund Christmas presents for 5 local children. The way the Funky Christmas Fashion show works is that members of the church, children's group, and youth group sign up to dress up in their ugliest, funkiest, most adorable, Christmas outfits and show them off to the congregation in the fashion show of the advent season. The fundraising part of this event happens directly following the runway show when all are invited to vote for their favorite contestant, one dollar is equal to one vote! At the end of this event, we will tally the votes and announce the winner!



Make sure to mark your calendars for **Wednesday, December 4th at 6:00 pm** in McMains! If you are interested in participating in the fashion show or would like to donate towards the meal please contact Alyssa Baldwin at alysa@fcc-hsv.org or sign up on the board located outside of the sanctuary!

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?
Stream it live at:
<https://www.twitch.tv/fchsv>

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

December 1, Hanging of the Greens
9:00 Sunday School/Small Groups
10:00 Combined Service

December 8, Regular Service Times
11:30 Congregational Budget Meeting

December 15, Lessons & Carols
9:00 Sunday School/Small Groups
10:00 Combined Service

December 18, Taize Service 7:00 pm

December 22, Regular Service Times

December 24, Office Closes at 12:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm and 11:00 pm

December 25, Office Closed

December 29, Regular Service Times

December 31, Office Closes at 12:30 pm

CHRISTMAS IS NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN

Community Outreach Committee is asking for members of the congregation to donate \$25 gift cards for low income seniors. These gift cards are for DHRs Adult Services for At-risk People. You can purchase gift cards and put them in the offering plate or in the office.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check to 'FCC' with 'senior gift cards' in the memo line. The committee would like to give the cards to DHR by December 18.

This is a way to remember others as well as children

Thank you, Community Outreach

STOCKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

As of last Sunday, all 100 stockings had been taken and one third of them had already been returned. I hope next Sunday that big box will be filled again! Thank You So Much First Christian Church! What a blessing your gift will be to a sweet child and their parents!

Cindy Burger

LOST - one amber sandwich plate with 3 feet. Last seen at Nancy Stayman's reception. Contact Margaret J. Vann

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS & GROUPS

December 11: Ms. Vivian Pork Loin, Rice and Gravy, Ginger Maple Glazed Carrots, Southern Banana Pudding, Vegetarian item (roasted acorn squash with sea salt and butter).

Please call in your reservation (256-881-0150) by Thursday, December 5, so we will have a headcount for how much food to purchase.

Following the 5:30 meal are small groups including: Young Adults, Kids'/Youth, Men's and Women's Bible Studies. The Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 pm.

ADVENT FLOWERS

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia on this year's sanctuary poinsettia tree in honor in memory of a loved one, please send a donation to the church office or place in the offering plate marked "Poinsettia". There will be a signup sheet in the hallway for you to sign up as donor and identify who you would like to honor.



HABITAT HOUSE NUMBER 26 IS UNDERWAY



Our 26th house got underway with many stops and starts due to weather delays. We changed house leaders and he did not publish a schedule.

When they got started, many other organizations provided volunteers, so we were not needed. I have posted status reports on the bulletin board outside of the Parlor. Check there for the next workday requirements.

A map to the house location is available there. When needed, workdays are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Thanks,

Bob, FCC Habitat Coordinator



Birthdays

December 2019

- 1 Cindy Burger
- 6 Tom Killough
- 8 Jacob Ahlbin
- 10 Lindsey Brenneman
- 12 Stan Ball, Sadie Givens
- 13 Dave Crockett, Alice Hiller, Isobel Hiller, & Bob Senn
- 16 Melanie Brenneman & Barbara Daniel
- 17 Tereca Spain & Anita Wood
- 18 Grace Burks
- 21 Jonathan Ahlbin & Daisy Blackman
- 22 Cameron Douglas, Roger Sameck, & Beverly Williamson
- 23 Pan Gilliland & Patty McMahon
- 27 Meghan Browning & Joyce Neighbors
- 30 Eddie Parks

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hanging of the Greens 3 pm Pickelball	2 10 am Quilters	3 5:30 pm Personnel Committee	4 9 am Emmaus 5:30 pm Meal Funky Christmas Fashion Show	5 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study 6 pm Board Meeting	6 5:30 pm Parent Night Out	7
	8 11:30 am Congregational Budget Meeting 3 pm Pickelball	9 9:30 am Esther Circle 10 am Quilters	10 5:30 pm Elders' Meeting 6 pm ECM Christmas Sing	11 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men's Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study • Men's Bible Study • Women's Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	12 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study 10: am Elizabeth Circle	13	14 11 am Christmas Fest
	15 9 am Community Blood Drive • Sunday School 10 am Lessons & Carols 11 MF4 Leadership Meeting 3 pm Pickelball	16 10 am Quilters	17 6 pm Christian Education Meeting • Safety & Security Meeting	18 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men's Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study • Men's Bible Study • Women's Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	19 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study	20	21
	22 3 pm Pickelball	23 10 am Quilters	24 Christmas Eve 12:30 pm Church Office Closes 5 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed No Wednesday Night Meal	26	27	28
	29 3 pm Pickelball	30 10 am Quilters	31 New Year's Eve 12:30 pm Church Office Closes				