



# The Journey

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

## WHAT IS ADVENT?

Pastor Paul Allen

Advent is the season before Christmas, a time of waiting and anticipation. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. It began as a season to prepare those who would be baptized on Epiphany, but in the 6th century it became associated with Christmas and the coming of Jesus once again. Advent is all about preparation, making the way ready for the coming of Christ once again.

Yet, there is another side to this season. Advent is also a time when we contemplate the continued presence of Christ in our midst and seek to transform ourselves in service to our Creator God who provides the gifts of grace, peace and love. Just as Christmas is a season, not a day, and should be celebrated as such, so too should we continue to anticipate the coming of Christ and work in the world to share our joy with others.

The most important aspect of this season is not the preparation of our homes, the presents we purchase or the parties we attend, but the preparation of our lives for the coming of Jesus. Together we celebrate knowing that God’s promises are secure, that the Emmanuel, the God with us, came to earth to experience humanity, and in doing so provided forgiveness and salvation to us all.

It is my hope that each and every one of you will enjoy the season of Advent, have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May the love of God enfold you, the blessings of Jesus Christ flow down upon you, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit give you strength so that the year ahead will be filled with the wonders of our faith.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

Gayle Herber

As a child, my hope was to have a really good snow fall so we could build snow forts, go sledding on the hilly field behind our house, then in the early evening our entire family taking walks on the snow-covered streets and then hot chocolate after our walk. Now, as I am much older, my hope is to be able to be with my daughter and son-in-law as often as possible, be with friends within and outside of the Church. My hope is that I will be able to live a fairly healthy life for a long time to come.

Prayer: Thank you Lord Father for watching over us, blessing us with the Light of the World this Advent season and beyond. We often lose our way, but you are always there for us. Thank you, dear Lord, for your steady Love and Faith in us. Amen

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 6**, at Noon [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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 9

Sermon Scripture Luke 3: 1-6  
Sermon "When We See Salvation"

### SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Gayle Herber & Dave Crockett  
10:30 Roger Sameck & Jan Mackenzie

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

Delores Edgeton

### SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Jackie Sameck  
Delores Edgeton & Margaret J. Vann  
10:30 Mary Ann Anderson & Marie Bittle  
Beverly Cannon & Glenda Luft  
Nancy Woodall

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Rick & Kay Shrout

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

### CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

*Mary & Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem*  
Pastor Laura, Margaret J. Vann  
Pae Payne & Ty Davis

### YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Dorcus, Follower of Jesus Helps the Poor in Judea.* Pam Clasgens, Shea Brennaman, & Tré Davis.

### AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	11/25	12/2
First Service Worship	47	NA
Sunday School	22	NR
Second Service Worship	87	NA
Hanging of the Greens	NA	143
Young Disciples	NA	NA
Children's Church	NA	NA
Total Worship	134	143

The FCC Chancel Choir invites you to our joyful celebration of Christmas! We will be presenting Joseph M. Martin's "Festival of Carols" Sunday, Dec. 16th at the 10:30 am service. The choir will be singing traditional carol tunes set to new arrangements along with new seasonal music. We hope to inspire and revitalize your spirits during this busy holiday season. See you on the 16th!



### POINSETTIAS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

If you would you like to honor a friend or remember a loved one with a poinsettia for our Advent tree, please make a \$10 donation to cover the cost of a poinsettia and list your donor information on the signup sheet posted on the flower sheet across from McMains Hall. Make your check payable to FCC, write "poinsettia" in the memo line, and drop it in the offering plate or church office. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret J. Vann at phone 256.533.4213 or email: [trilliumjv@att.net](mailto:trilliumjv@att.net).

### CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

It's back. The mail box for our Christmas card drop off is up and running. Remember to look for your cards each Sunday as **we do not mail any that are left after the season is over on January 6th.**

### NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Share an hour or more of your time with our babies or toddlers once a month. Sign up poster is in the Commons for first service, Sunday School, or second service. If you are not on the Safe Church volunteer list, we can easily provide training. Call Pastor Laura, 256-881-0150, if you have any questions.

The Community Outreach ladies were very grateful for John Hall and the youth's help with Sack Sunday. The charities were also very thankful for all the church people's generous donations



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.

Lynda Baig, cousin of Penny Jackman  
Thomas Burns, father of Karen Ball  
Burl Chandler, father of Chris Chandler  
Betty Joe Estes, friend of Donna Blair  
Lynn Harris, daughter of Bob & Mary Spencer  
Phil & Ginny Jackson, brother-in-law & sister of Cathy Rosol.  
Carey Link, friend of Margaret Vann  
Joyce Neighbors  
Betty Rogers  
Jo Thomason  
Lynne Ursery, former member  
Mack Vann

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. Please keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the lists.

### THE COFFEE CREW NEEDS YOU!

Join the coffee crew! We will be starting a new schedule in January. You only have to serve once or twice a quarter. Training is provided and it is pretty simple now that the Parlor kitchen is back on line. Call the office, 256-881-0150, if you are interested.



Please contact Anita Wood, (256) 564-7502 or Prayoftenaw@yahoo.com, if you have a hospital bed she can borrow or buy.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL DECEMBER 12

Burgers, fries, chips, and desserts. Following the meal are small groups including Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Youth/Kids' Bible Study. Chancel Choir is at 7:00 pm. **Call in your reservation by Wednesday, December 5, at 256-881-0150**

### HOMELESS BAGS AND EXCELLENT YOUTH SUPPORT

The cool kitchen area in the church was overflowing with food donations for the homeless bags, thanks to your generous support. Fifty bags were filled and many items left to supplement additional donations to Huntsville Assistance Program and donations to Grateful Life. Thank you for caring and your support for those less fortunate.

The youth assembled after the meal on a Wednesday night to get the bags together and their work was awesome. They worked quickly and stayed on task with some joking and fun too. See some pictures of them on the Community Outreach bulletin board across from McMains Hall. Our church is blessed to have such dedicated future leaders.

### VALHALLA CEMETERY LOTS

First Christian Church owns four cemetery lots in Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, AL 35811). These lots are available at market value, either in pairs or four total. We are offering these to our members and friends before advertising through various outlets. If you would like more information, please contact Lee Boles.

Leeboles@aol.com for the Trustees

Can't Make It To Church? Stream it live at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](http://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)