



The Journey

Early Edition

Volume XXVII No. 51

December 23, 2019

www.fcc-hsv.org

CHRISTMAS FEST THANK YOU'S!

On Saturday, December 14, we had our Christmas Fest event and it was a tremendous success!! Participants started arriving before the event started and kept coming right up until the scheduled end time.

We had around 150-200 children and families come and participate in this year's event! What an incredible blessing from God that we were able to welcome that many people from our community to our church event.

At the event, participants started in Family Services where they received a brochure about our ministries and a flyer inviting them to all of our Advent activities. Thanks to a "Guess How Many Holiday Hershey Kisses" at our entrance table, we received contact information from several of the participants and they will be hearing from us about our future events. The first thing that children did was to decorate gift bags that they could use at each station to carry their crafts.

Children and families then went together to various stations that were set up around the church. Families picked which stations they wanted to visit and how long they wanted to stay at each station. They could choose from 7 craft stations, the Christmas story, visit with Santa, Christmas caroling, and food!

This event would not have been possible without all of the wonderful volunteers who stepped up and gave their time, talents, and treasures to this. A big thank you for those who donated food, decorated the areas, prepared the crafts, helped with the set-up, served the food, helped with clean up, greeted at the welcome table, led the craft stations, played Santa, helped with the Santa station, acted as storyteller for the Christmas story, played and led the Christmas singing, directed people to the stations, advertised the event, promoted the event, shared the event, invited people to the event, came to the event, and prayed for the event!

We have a wonderful church and we serve an awesome God! My hope and prayer is the people who came to this event felt some of that same love and they will be made welcome when they return to see us in the near future.

Thanks be to God! ~Pastor Laura West



CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE CLOSING SOON!

The mail box for our Christmas card drop off is up and running. Remember to look for your cards each Sunday. **We do not mail any that are left after the season is over on January 5th.**

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 26**, 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 29
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Scripture Matthew 2: 13-23
Sermon "There is More to the Beginning"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Gayle Herber & Lisa Fitzgerald
 10:30 Mike Lash & Lee Boles

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Donna Blair

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Patti Allen & Marilee Keim
 Rick & Kay Shrout
 10:30 Troy Davis, Jr. & Roberta Shivers
 Ruth Lackey & Anita Wood
 TBD

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Lynn Abernathy

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Bev
 Williamson

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Christmas - Meeting the Christ Child
 Alyssa Baldwin, Abby Allen & Tatum Payne

NURSERY VOLUNTEER

Michelle Givens & Nancy Woodall

AV SUPPORT TEAM

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

ATTENDANCE	12/15	12/22
First Service Worship	NA	TBA
Sunday School	26	TBA
Second Service Worship	NA	TBA
Lessons & Carols	131	TBA
Children's Church	NA	TBA
Total Worship	131	TBA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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**

January 1, **Office Closed**

LEE BABY SHOWER

Mission Family 4 and the Young Adults are co-hosting an all church baby shower for Nathan and Clara Lee immediately following second service on January 5th, 2020. They are registered on ***babylist*** <https://www.babylist.com/baby-clara-reed-lee> for their big items but welcome the gift of books. There will also be a money tree to add toward those big ticket items.

ADVENT FLOWERS

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia on this year's sanctuary poinsettia tree in honor or memory of a loved one, please send a donation of \$15.00 to the church office or place your check in the offering plate marked "Poinsettia". There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway for you to sign up as donor and identify who you would like to honor.



Food Baskets

The 2020 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is now up and located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion.

Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. Donated funds go to our Community Outreach ministry.



JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT FOR CWM

January has traditionally been blanket month for CWM service activity. Once again, CWM is partnering with Church World Service in their Blankets+ program. We are the "+" in the blanket project. FCC in Huntsville, Alabama, can make a difference all around the world as the need arises. \$10 can provide a warm blanket for anyone left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. Please consider a monetary donation to FCC with CWM "Blankets" in the memo line.



Margaret J. Vann

THANK YOU!

Thanks for all the calls and cards that were sent. I also want to thank Pastor Laura for coming to the hospital before my surgery. I want to thank Pastor Paul for the phone call the next day. Thanks to Ruth Lackey for calling and checking on me. Thanks for the gift card that Mission Family 3 sent. Thanks to Frank Fitzgerald for taking me the doctor the Thursday after my surgery.

Thanks again to the Church family for my concern. Love, Petra Sue Richey

IRS CREDIT FOR 2019 GIVING

Thank you so much for your tithes and offerings; they have a tremendous impact on the missions and ministries of our church. Please remember that contributions toward 2019 giving must be received by the church office **before 12:30 pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019** (that is when the office closes for New Year's Eve). However, mailed contributions designated for 2019 will be credited toward 2019 giving as long as they are **postmarked by December 31, 2019**. (If mailing, make sure to note collection times to ensure the appropriate postmark.)

IRS regulations require that post dated checks received after December 31 (unless received by mail postmarked December 31 or prior) will be credited to your 2020 giving and not 2019.

CHRISTMAS FEST 2019



COURTYARD CAMELLIA IS STARTING TO BLOOM

Over the next few weeks we should have a glorious display of pink blooms from our camellia. Bob Senn, Landscaping.

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2	3	4
5 11:30 am Nathan-Clara Lee Baby Shower/Tea 3 pm Pickleball	6 10 am Quilters	7 5:30 pm Personnel Committee Meeting	8 9 am Emmaus 6 pm Phoebe Circle	9 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study 10 am Elizabeth Circle No Board Meeting	10	11
12 9:30 am Kids & Parent Meeting 11:30 am Youth & Parent Meeting 3 pm Pickleball	13 9:30 am Esther Circle 10 am Quilters 11 am Conveners' Meeting	14 5:30 pm Elders' Meeting	15 9 am Emmaus	16 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study 5:30 pm Annual Planning Event	17	18
19 11:30 am Community Outreach Meeting 3 pm Pickleball	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Office Closed 10 am Quilters	21	22 9 am Emmaus	23 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study	24	25
26 3 pm Pickleball •Redstone Brass	27 10 am Quilters	28	29 9 am Emmaus 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Small Groups •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Men's Bible Study •Women's Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	30 9:30 am DISCIPLES Study	31	