



DON'T GIVE UP, TAKE UP

As I write this article a week has passed since we entered the season of Lent through our celebration of Ash Wednesday. As a community we opened ourselves to God, asked forgiveness for our sins, and then marked ourselves with ashes as an act of contrition. For the next 40 days, not counting Sundays, Christians will be engaged in a time of penitence in which we bring before God the brokenness and evil in our lives and in the world. Lent is also a time of spiritual renewal and preparation in which we focus our faith so we can truly appreciate the Paschal Mystery shown during Holy Week.

During the Lenten Season it has become customary to give something up for these 40 days. To do away with an aspect of our lives that we will miss so we can experience, in a small way, the temptations and testing that Jesus felt not only in the wilderness but also on his final journey to Jerusalem. Unfortunately, when we give up something for Lent it is usually a habit that we should have already gotten rid of in the first place, like drinking soda or eating chocolate, or a practice whose absence will not inhibit our lives, like watching television or keeping up with social media.

That is why I like to suggest that Christians take something up for Lent. This is not a new idea, I will admit, but it is one that makes more sense to me. The practice brings forth the ideals of renewal and transformation that are so crucial to the season. Some options might be; attending one of our Small Groups before or after worship service or on Wednesday nights, resolving to pray twice a day, reading the scriptures or studying the Bible once a day, performing an act of charity, volunteering to help our children or youth programs, joining a church committee, there are many options. These acts encourage the development of a deeper communion with God and with other people.

For the last few weeks the scripture lessons for Sunday have focused on the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the power of his teachings. Common in each of these scripture lessons is the understanding that our faith calls us to action. As we take up our cross and walk with Christ we are called to strengthen our lives of faith, provide justice, proclaim peace, encourage hope, and love one another. It is my hope that Lent can be an opportunity to center our lives on these ideals so we can become closer to God and to each other.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



Get ready to clean out your closet for a great cause. **Rummage sale collection begins following the worship service (and ends at 2 pm) on March 19th. Drop off times during the week are Mon. - Wed. 9 am till Noon, Wed. & Thur. 4 till 7pm, and Fri. 4 till 5 pm.** Bring your gently used items to be sold to support the youth mission trip this summer. No tube TVs or mattresses or box springs please!

We are also looking for volunteers to sort, price, and work the sale! Signup sheets are in the Narthex or email Alyssa@fcc-hsv.org to volunteer. **The rummage sale will take place on Saturday, March 25th from**

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 16.** Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150



The choir has empty seats and is hoping you will consider joining this small but musical group and help fill those seats. All voices welcome!

Rehearsals will resume Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lauren Wilson Carter, Director of Music, at

Reminder : All voices welcome!

Worship Committee



BLESSING BOX reminder: If you have been depositing coins in a blessing box this year as a "thanks giving" offering, please count up your blessings and turn in a check to your circle leader or the church at the end of March or beginning of April. Designate to CWM Blessing Box. Our combined blessing box offerings will be sent to the Disciples Mission Fund.

INTERIM ASSOCIATE MINISTER SEARCH

This position is intended to be filled on an interim basis while a "search and call" process is underway to fill the above permanent position. A job description for the interim position is available in the church office or online at www.indeed.com/cmp/First-Christian-Church-Huntsville,-Al/jobs

ATTENDANCE

February 22: Ash Wednesday Service: 43

February 26: Worship Service: 89

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 24

March 5: Worship Service: 91

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 95

Weekly prayer concerns are published in the Sunday bulletins. Send your requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

HELLO ALL!

The young adults are hosting a baby sprinkle for the upcoming birth of the Love's second baby boy Leo Michael Love. The parents are thankful for any contribution to welcome their sweet bundle of joy but would be especially blessed by diapers and wipes. A light reception and come-and-go sprinkle will be held on March 12th following service in the commons area! We hope to see you there.



With Love, The Young Adults



REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Pacific Islander Agape

Pensacola, FL

Iglesia Cristiana

Oxford, AL

Snow Hill Christian Church

Ft. Deposit, AL



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKETS are given in honor of the birth of Anne Miles Stumb by Miles & Katherine Stumb and in memory of Doris Kennemer by Mission Family 2.



The 2023 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150 to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket through this QR code linked to our website.

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

URGENT PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY



Cereal, Shelf-Stable Milk, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Vienna Sausages, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Dried Rice & Beans (1-lb bags), Chef Boyardee (all kinds), and Toilet Paper. Please place items on the cart in the Narthex.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are currently in the process of forming our new Capital Campaign committee. Once complete, the committee will begin organizing opportunities to meet with groups of church members to share information and receive your input on the focus and goals of our campaign.

Feel free to contact ***** with any questions.

Thank you!

Clara Reed-Lee and Nathan Lee
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

In Huntsville and other communities, feminine hygiene products deserts exist. Girls and sometimes their mothers cannot attend school because the family cannot afford feminine hygiene products, and so the girls stay home from school or their mothers from work. Our emphasis will be on the girls' needs.

Community Outreach (CO) supports three schools with needs for girls without monies to buy these products. The schools are Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School. CO has been informed that school nurses, because of health reasons, prefers that sanitary pads be supplied.

CO has a collection site in the church and delivers the donations to the Health Officer, at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They have distributed the donations as needed at the schools. This past month 14 packages were delivered. Margaret J. Vann

NEW BOOK BOXES

Hope everyone noticed the two book boxes added to the church grounds in the island out front. These are to support our church outreach and evangelism. Please go through your libraries and let's fill them up. The taller one is for adult books. The shorter for children. We will be notifying ECM that they are welcome to use these as well.

Several churches in town do this and it seems to work well. If the need arises these can also be used for cans of soup and bottled water. We will determine along the way the best path but we will start with Christian books. Lets get this out there on our FB page and all venues we announce church efforts/events in. This is just one way we can spread the word of Christ's love. **Please limit your donations to Christian books and Bibles.**

