



# The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 7  
April 3, 2023  
www.fcc-hsv.org

## Easter is Not One Day

Easter is almost here. By the time you receive this newsletter we will be in the midst of Holy Week and if you are like my family you are getting ready for guests, dying eggs, making sure the Easter Baskets are in order, and finalizing plans for the meal. Easter is an important day in the life of the church and in our families, but we should also remember the importance of Holy Week. Palm Sunday is a day of celebration, but it is also a reminder that the cross is on the horizon. As we travel through the week we journey with Jesus to the upper room for an intimate meal, we move to the garden and pray for the cup to be taken, we see Jesus arrested, tried, tortured, and then stumble to the cross on Good Friday. There is pain and sorrow in Holy Week. We have to remember that our reconciliation with God did not come without sacrifice.

The same might be said about the Easter season because the celebration of Easter is more than one day. I always think that after Easter is over my schedule will miraculously clear and I will have more time, but I am always mistaken. For many Holy Week and Easter have become times of stress just like the Advent and Christmas season. We become so wrapped up in details that it is easy to forget what Easter means. We are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also the knowledge that God's covenantal promises are kept, our sins are forgiven, we are renewed and transformed, and can find new life through Christ.

The Easter season, or Eastertide, continues until Pentecost, May 28, our joy is so great that we must continue rejoicing! In reality every Sunday is a mini-Easter, an opportunity to give thanks for the love of God, the presence of Christ, and the support of the Holy Spirit. The celebration of Easter is only the beginning for we are called to live in the image of Christ and work to provide a vision of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Perhaps what we need is a change of focus for Easter. It is not one day of worship and family celebration; Easter is an experience that changes our lives every day. The miracle of Easter reaches out and fills us to overflowing so that we cannot help but spread the good news of Jesus Christ. It is my desire that the message of Easter and the glory of Eastertide will continue to strengthen your faith, encourage your actions, and give you hope for the future. Amen.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**  
**APRIL 6, 7:00 PM**



**Food  
Pantry**

**Are you up to the challenge of starting a new, beneficial habit?** Why not start a new habit this Sunday? Bring one food item for the food pantry cart. Of course, more donations would be better.

As inflation continues to grow, many families are suffering from food shortages. Our food pantry cart is located to the right as you enter the church. Can you help your neighbor?

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.  
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 13**. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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



**LONG TERM  
PRAYER CONCERNS**



**Not Listed Online**

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 list.

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**

**REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

- First Christian Church  
Birmingham, AL
- New Vision Christian Church  
Birmingham, AL
- Grateful Life Christian Church  
Huntsville, AL



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKETS** are given in honor of Matt Ball's birthday by Karen Ball and in memory of Kathryn Shrout by Rick & Kay Shrout.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kyle & Carrie Love, and big brother Amos, on the birth of Leo Michael Love on \*\*\*\*\*.

**DESPERATELY POOR CHILDREN NEED OUR HELP**



Christian Women's Ministries (CWM) hopes you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) and Pringle House of Jamaica during April. Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years and has also been devastated by several hurricanes. Life expectancy average is 63 years and adult illiteracy is over 51%. We will also be donating to the Pringle Home of Jamaica, which provides the same services for the impoverished children there. We can make a difference in the lives of children in two third world countries by donating to support these causes. Checks can be made to FCC with "CWM April project" in the memo line. You may also give through PayPal, designating CWM April project, on our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/) The need is great; please join CWM in changing lives.



**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.

The 2023 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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 our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/)



*We are witnesses of everything He did... God raised Him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.*

*– Acts 10:39-40*

On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news. General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through:

- Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by climate change.
- Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- Mental health resources for pastors and congregations.
- New congregations worshipping in a variety of languages and worship styles.
- Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.
- Stewardship education for congregations to grow in their practice of generosity.
- Opportunities like the General Assembly, where the church can gather for worshipful work.
- Support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world.
- And so much more...

We are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Please give generously on April 9. You can note "Easter Offering" for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Easter Offering on our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/)

Learn more about the Easter Special Offering at [disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter/](http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter/).

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

