



The Journey

Volume XXVIII No. 42
October 19, 2020
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LOOK FORWARD

September and October have become times of evaluation and assessment for First Christian Church. The Board is beginning to discuss what the budget will look like next year, staff evaluations will soon take place, and Committee Chairs are asked to look at their programs and events to see what will continue and what room we have for new ideas.

However, this has been a year like none other before it, and while we can look back on 2020 and see where we succeeded and where we fell short, it is also clear that the new reality we live in has not given us proper time to reflect on the past so we can prepare for the future. Essentially, all churches, and the world, have been living in crisis mode since March. Things have changed so rapidly that information received one week may not be helpful the next week. Add to that the stress in our community and nation of an election year, unrest because of racial and societal tensions, and the fatigue many of us feel from trying to follow COVID-19 procedures, it has been difficult to maintain, much less look forward to a new year.

Even so, this is what we are called to do, and not just for the church but within our own lives as well. Often we do not take the time to look deeply at our lives of faith and see what changes need to take place. Faith should be constantly moving and growing within us. While some things stay the same; our belief in God and in our Lord Jesus Christ, the importance of Scripture in our communal and individual lives, and the need for community to help model the Kingdom of God in the world, our beliefs and values can and should adjust over time as we learn more about ourselves, the world around us and God.

A former Regional Minister, Rev. John Richardson, once said, "Often, what we think we know is more of a hindrance to our learning than what we don't know." We think we know what our place in the church is and we believe that we use all of our gifts to support our congregation, but what we do not realize is that God calls us to new ministries, new ways of sharing our gifts, and sharing the good news with others.

So as we look to the future I invite you to think about the gifts God has given you and how they have enriched your life. Yes, how our congregation functions has been changed by the Coronavirus. However, the church continues to serve others by sharing resources with local non-profit organizations, Week of Compassion, and the Disciples Mission Fund. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to give even more in a time when it is desperately needed. The Church has continued to provide meaningful learning opportunities for youth, children and adults even when we cannot meet in person, and our worship services have been full of God's grace even in a parking lot or online.

With all this in mind, I would also call you to think about how God would want you to share your gifts to support the work of First Christian Church. Open your hearts to God and see where the Spirit leads you. In doing so you will be refreshed, renewed, and ready to continue Christ's mission wherever that may lead. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, October 22**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802 Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

Sanctuary Services Resume November 1st

- Meeting time: 9:30
- No Sunday school classes, nursery, or youth gatherings
- No food/coffee/hospitality services.
- Attendees wear face coverings (you are encouraged to bring your own, but masks are available if you forget to bring one) and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-family members).**
- Greeters (with masks) will provide a squirt of hand sanitizer to all who enter, with masks provided for those who have not brought their own
- Every other pew is roped off for social distancing.
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the FM transmitter (107.9) will continue to be used in the event overflow into the parking lot .
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Bring your own communion elements (we have prepackaged if you forget or do not have).
- High risk members, those over 65, and families with children unable to reliably social distance should remain home for virtual service.
- Virtual services will continue with live streaming and recorded services uploaded to social media platforms.
- Offerings will be collected in person or by mail.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side isles
- Rows leave by side isles, and leave building correspondingly** (East aisle through main doors, West aisle through family services).
- No congregating indoors before or after service - social distancing outdoors.**
- Anyone with any symptoms are to remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUEST

First Christian Church
Florence, AL

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows in the printed version of the *Journey*, the prayer concerns that are usually listed in the Sunday bulletins. Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update. Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150 and leave a message.

Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in memory of Jimmie & Kathrine Taylor, parents of Cindy Burger.



**TRUNK OR TREAT - "DRIVE-THROUGH PARADE",
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 (5-6 PM)**

On Sunday night, October 25, from 5:00-6:00 pm we are having our annual Trunk or Treat. Due to COVID we are making some changes to our format.

This year Trunk or Treat will be a Drive-Through Parade. These plans have been discussed as a Christian Education team and we agreed that we need to limit the number of people who attend. Our advertising this year will be focused on the FCC children & families and our ECM children & families. We will be using the parking lot that we use for the drive-in worship services and would still have 10-12 trunks decorated with church members in costumes. People attending the event would remain in their vehicles and drive through with us standing by our trunks waving. At the end of the parade there would be a couple church volunteers handing out backpacks with candy, snacks, fun activity packs, information about our church, etc. to the children in the vehicles.

We still need people to volunteer to provide their vehicle for a trunk. We also need people to donate bags of candy or monetarily. Please contact Pastor Laura if you would like to volunteer at laura@fcc-hsv.org

~Reverend Laura West

SAVE CHANGE THE DATE

The Interfaith Mission Service virtual awards event scheduled for October 27 has been postponed until November 11. Your donations to the honor conference are always welcome.

Thank you,
Margaret J. Vann

 A logo featuring a blue and white ship sailing on waves under a sun and clouds. Below the ship, the text "FAREWELL & Godspeed" is written in a stylized font.

Mission Family 4 invites all to send the Davis Family (Troy, Ty, Troy Jr., Tré, and Iman) a card shower as they pack up to join Linda in Belgium. Their departure date is November 4th so please get your cards and well wishes out to them as soon as possible.

The Davis Family
7595 Foxfire Dr SE, Huntsville 35802-2771

SUPPORT THE CWM OCTOBER PROJECT

The Christian Women's Ministry's community project for October is support for the Neaves-Davis Center for Children. The Neaves-Davis Center houses juvenile court intake and probation services, detention services, community service programs, and the community placement and supervision program. Additional programs for detained juveniles include food services, medical services, recreational services, and library services. Religious services and activities are also provided, partially funded through community religious groups and civic organizations.

Please join CWM in supporting this worthy service. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting "Neaves-Davis Center" and the amount.

Thank you, Janet Sholes

FCC ONLINE

If you use Facebook, be sure to click Like and Follow (when you click on Follow, select See First) to keep up-to-date with church activities. www.facebook.com/fcchsv/

You may view previous sermons and other church videos on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw (if you have a Youtube account, click on Subscribe and the Bell icon to get notifications when a new video is posted) or on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pg/fcchsv/videos/ (see Facebook Like and Follow directions above.)

INSATIABLE TRUTH by Rev. Phiwa Langeni

Jesus answered, "You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs – and for free." John 6:26 (MSG)

In elementary school, lunchtime was more intricate than just a time for students to eat food. There were so many lunches prepared that never made it into the intended students' bodies as they were traded for desserts, pencils, or even coveted spots in line next to crushes.

Early in the school year, it became clear who would be good for what kinds of trades. Jackie had bologna white bread sandwiches sliced in half on the diagonal with the crusts cut off. AJ had the sweetest grapes and apple slices that never seemed to turn brown before lunchtime. Alicia's juice boxes featured popular cartoons and exotic flavors. My lunches were plain – inexpensive enough to feed my four siblings and me on an immigrant family's budget, so I swiftly learned how to negotiate with non-food desirables.

And then there was Vinny, whose appearance communicated his family was poor, but he'd always have Now and Later candy, which was a hot item! As soon as we could begin trading, we moved quickly to gain the best leverage before crowding Vinny while he still had this coveted item.

Then the bell would ring for recess and we'd scatter to play with our regular groups of friends. Vinny would quietly sit on the bench by himself.

PRAYER - Enable us to seek you not just when you fill us with your goodness, gracious God. Challenge us to witness your actions especially when they don't benefit us. Compel us to be your activity in the world so that others might experience you through us, our words, and every action. Amen.

Thanks to the generosity of our church members, we collected \$737.00 for Hope Place. This will go a long way in helping provide emergency safe shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Thank you FCC for caring for those in need with such generosity. Nancy Woodall

**JOIN US FOR THE 9:00 AM SUNDAY
DRIVE-IN/TAILGATE WORSHIP SERVICE**

You are invited to come in your vehicle as a family unit and you can stay in your car or you can bring chairs to sit in your parking space. **The service is broadcast on FM 107.9** (limited to the parking lot area) so you may tune into the service on the radio in your vehicle. There is also a public address system for those sitting outside their vehicles. We ask that you maintain social distancing and that if you leave your car you will wear a mask. **Please bring your own communion elements.** They will be blessed and we will partake together.

Drive in service attendance:
October 18 - 57

**UPCOMING SCRIPTURES &
SERMON TITLES**

Sunday, October 25

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
Matthew 22: 34-46
Sermon "It's About Love!"

November 1, 2020 All Saints Sunday

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13
Matthew 23: 1-12
Sermon: "A Walking Sermon"

November 8, 2020

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13
Sermon: "Faithfully Waiting"

November 15, 2020

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-19
Sermon: "Use Them or Lose Them"

November 22, 2020

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 15-23
Matthew 25: 31-46
Sermon: "When Did We See You?"