



The Journey

Volume XXVIII No. 51
December 21, 2020
www.fcc-hsv.org

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Pastor Laura

Pastor Paul

Lauren Carter

Chris McDonald

Alyssa Baldwin

The staff of First Christian Church would like to thank you for your generous Christmas gifts this year. We are very grateful to serve a loving and generous congregation that seeks to meet the needs of its employees and members alike. May the peace, hope, joy and love of this Christmas season flow upon you and have a wonderful New Year.

We once again offer a heartfelt thank you and may God bless you.

Matt Ball

Lynn Abernathy

Samantha Richard

Morgan Williams

Rick Shrout

Calendar

December 24, Christmas Eve
Church Office Closes at 12:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. Outdoor (kid friendly) Service
5:00 p.m. Sanctuary (traditional) Service
December 25, Christmas Day
Church Office Closed
December 28, No Journey
December 31, New Year's Eve
Church Office Closes at 12:30 p.m.

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

The 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and the 9:30 a.m. traditional Sunday services stream live on the following online platforms.

Facebook at: www.facebook.com/fchsv/ for services and see announcements throughout the week

Twitch at: www.twitch.tv/fchsv

YouTube at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 30**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

"ZOOM" INTO A BABY SHOWER

Please join us on Zoom as we celebrate with Kyle and Carrie Love on Sunday, January 10, from 2-3 pm. Their baby is due in February!

They are registered at babylist.com. If you prefer to buy locally please have your gift to the church by January 3. You can leave it in the office during the week or in the Narthex on Sunday.

Let's shower Kyle and Carrie with our congratulations upon the arrival of their first child!

Watch the Journey for Zoom information!

FINANCIAL AID FOR THE FORGOTTEN ONES, NEEDY ADULTS

Needy Adults are often a forgotten population but one that is frequently in desperate need, particularly in these difficult times. For several years, Community Outreach has contributed financially during December to the Adult Services Unit of DHR and CASA to be used throughout the year in their work with needy adults.

As you make your Christmas list, please consider a donation to these two agencies. Checks can be made to FCC with *CO December project* in the memo line. The project will go through the end of December. Your support will make a difference to our community's vulnerable adults who are supported by DHR and CASA.

Thank you for caring, Community Outreach

IRS CREDIT FOR 2020 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 all contributions toward 2020 giving must be received by the church office **before 12:30 pm on Thursday, December 31, 2020** (that is when the office closes for New Year's Eve) to be credited toward your 2020 giving. However, mailed contributions will be credited toward 2020 giving as long as they are **postmarked by December 31, 2020** (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 2021 giving and not 2020.



WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS



Amy Craig, daughter of Tom & Annelle Craig
Rebecca Davison, grandmother of Alyssa Burton
Vonda Dihm
Maureen Drost, frequent visitor
Delores Edgeton
Ted Elston
Kevin Frankland, husband of Wendy Keller
Frankland
Joan Goodson
Judith Hodge
Tim Hooker, son of Bud & Linda Hooker
Elsie Keller, sister-in-law of Walt Keller
Kalyn Kilgore, daughter of Rodger & Mona Qualls
Tom & Gail Killough
Family of Harriet Lash, mother of Mike Lash
Family of Bob Marshall, father of Kay Shrout
& Carol Jones
Bob Mead, former member
Doug Miller, brother of Marie Bittle
Danny Moore, brother of Bobby Moore
Family of Janis Moore
Debbie Rhodes, sister of Joan Goodson
Becky Love Roberts, sister of Monty Love

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian Church
Meridian, MS

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**

Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, and youth gatherings are temporarily suspended.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services are also suspended.
- First Christian Church offers virtual services (facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, or First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube.) every Sunday. While FCC and State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level. We ask all members and children to wear masks.
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the service will be broadcast (107.9) to the parking lot in the event of overflow attendance.
- **Attendees will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors. The doors by the church office will be locked.
- Greeters will provide hand sanitizer to all who enter and provide masks for those who have not brought their own.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side aisles
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Following the service, rows will **leave by the side aisles** with the east aisle exiting through Family Services and the west aisle through the Narthex doors. (There will be directional signs.)
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Please, **no congregating indoors** before or after service - social distancing outdoors.
- **Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- **Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of all our volunteers serving the church in official and unofficial positions.

WHEREVER THIS WATER FLOWS

by Kenneth L. Samuel

The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. - Ezekiel 47:8-9 (NLT)

In the Spirit, the prophet Ezekiel was given a tour of the temple in Jerusalem. At every juncture along the tour, Ezekiel noticed rising water levels coming from underneath the temple, at its foundation.

When the tour reached an impasse because the rising water had become too deep to walk through, Spirit revealed that the water was actually a river – a river that flowed from the temple depths into the Dead Sea. (The sea is called “dead” because its high salt content prevents macroscopic aquatic organisms, such as fish and aquatic plants from living in it.)

But when the river waters that flowed from the temple reached the Dead Sea, the sea's salty waters were made pure, and life was generated in the sea of the dead. In fact, Ezekiel saw life in the water and all along the banks of the river wherein the water flowed. Life was generated wherever the waters emanating from the temple flowed.

In this age of post-Christendom, many are questioning the viability of the Church. Changing times always call for changing strategies and structures, but certain things remain consistent. A creation parched by egotism and avarice will always need hydration sources for mental, spiritual, and physical renewal.

Ezekiel's vision doesn't point to the temple's structure but to the ever-flowing value of the temple's spiritual foundation. Structures rise and fall, but the thirst for the Love and Grace that regenerates the soul is immutable.

Prayer. Lord help us to see our viability in the eternal flow of your saving grace. Amen.

THE VINE PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

First Christian Church has supported The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center in Huntsville for many of its 21 years of service. The Vine is a participant in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for 2021, which is open until Jan 15, 2021. If you are a Federal civilian, postal, or military employee, please consider choosing The Vine (CFC #53497) as one of your charitable donations for 2021.

See vine-counseling.com for more information about the Vine. Thank you, Mary Ann Anderson