



The Journey

Volume XXV No. 49
December 4, 2017
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Second Sunday of Advent, December 10 - Peace

by Karen Ball

Peace. A quiet and calm state of mind. Agreement and harmony among people. Freedom from public disturbance or war.

Everyday experiences. Trying to have the perfect holiday. Wanting to do “everything”. Political divisiveness. Putting up perfect decorations. Buying gifts. Giving to people who need nothing. Knowing that many need so much. Closing end-of-year business and work projects. Wanting to send the perfect cards – before January. Nations at war. Making holiday choices, facing criticism from friends and family. Final exams. Juggling custody of children. Social obligations. Church activities. Mass shootings. Finding new traditions when old ones have ended. Feeling lonely.



All these and more can make it hard to know peace, even – especially – during the Christmas season.

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7 NIV. Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi. Before the “And”, starting in verse 4, Paul tells them how they can come to know the peace of God. By rejoicing. By showing gentleness to others. By praying in all situations, thanking God and asking God for help.

Jesus lived and died and lives again to be your Teacher and your Savior. The Spirit resides within you to be your Helper. The Peace of God can be yours, as close as your very breath.

Inhale: *I will rejoice*

Exhale: *My Lord is near*

Inhale: *I will pray*

Exhale: *And know God's peace*

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ, as we live through the beauty and the chaos within our personal experience and in all the world around us, may you have many reasons to be thankful, may you find strength and comfort to face any distress, may you know the peace of God through Christ Jesus. And may God's peace expand by our prayers and actions so that the world may know the love of Jesus Christ through us.

Merry Christmas from the Balls! Matt, Karen, and Stan.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING
Sunday, December 10, 11:30 am

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, November 30**, 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 10

Sermon Scripture Mark 1: 1-8
Sermon "Into the Wilderness"

ADVENT CANDLE

8:15 Andy, Caroline, & Miranda Belle Herron
10:30 Steven, Heather, Emily & Jacob Black

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Justin Givens & Bob Senn
10:30 Andy Herron & Karen Ball

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Lynn Abernathy

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Lisa Fitzgerald & Kathi Luzar
Chuck & Penny Jackman
10:30 Brad & Pam Clasgens
Troy Davis & Abby Allen

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Rick & Kay Shrout

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Stan Ball's birthday by Matt & Karen Ball.

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Mary & Joseph Show the Way
Margaret J. Vann, Chuck Jackman,
Anna Roberts, & Tré Davis

YOUNG DISCIPLES (Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays)

The Parable of the Treasure
Pastor Laura, Pam Clasgens,
Matthew Beutjer, & Ty Davis

ATTENDANCE	11/27	12/3
First Service Worship	38	NA
Sunday School	34	30
Second Service Worship	78	NA
Hanging of the Greens		128
Children's Church	3	NA
Young Disciples	5	NA
Total Worship	124	128

First Sunday of Advent

Hope – December 3

by Matthew Brown

I often fear embracing hope. I have this urge to retain my cynicism instead of accepting the gift of hope. After all, there is something about hope that just seems so false. Why do people choose to focus on the good that might come rather than what actually is? The truth is that hope itself is one of God's greatest gifts. God has blessed all of his children with the ability to experience the best parts of this world without the blinding distraction of despair. Hope allows us to continue pressing on into the future when life seems unbearable. We have no reason to fear hope, because it simply allows us to see God's beauty and sovereignty with clarity.

Prayer

Giver of life, give us patience and hope as we wait for the coming of a Child - the Christ -who has the power to change and renew us continually. Help us to bring this hope to the world, that all will be blessed by faith, hope and love. Amen.

CAN YOU BE A HERO ON DECEMBER 9?

Just go to Shop with a Hero Huntsville online and fill out your contact info at the Be A Hero button. You can choose to go to the Sparkman or Hazel Green Walmart stores. Anyone who wears a uniform in their profession is encouraged to wear it that Saturday, but any profession makes you a hero that day. Sign up soon to be a hero to a child on Dec. 9, 9-noon. Contact Jeff Seward with any questions.



**FCC COMMUNITY
BLOOD DRIVE**
Sunday, December 10
8:30 am ~ 12:30 pm

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

If you would you like to honor a friend or remember a loved one with a poinsettia for our Advent tree, please make a **\$10** donation to cover the cost of a poinsettia and list your donor information on the sign-up sheet posted on the flower sheet across from McMains Hall. Make your check payable to FCC, write "poinsettia" in the memo line, and drop it in the offering plate or church office. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret J. Vann at triliumjv@att.net or phone 256-533-4213.



Support us when you
shop this holiday

Amazon donates when you
shop at smile.amazon.com.

amazonsmile



If you shop at Amazon, why not help the church out at the same time? **First Christian Church-Huntsville** is a listed charitable organization with AmazonSmile and receives 0.5% of the eligible purchases you make on Amazon. To use AmazonSmile, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> (this address is for First Christian Church-Huntsville and will automatically credit your purchases to the FCC account) and sign on your Amazon account as usual. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile program and there is no additional expense to you or deductions from the donation amounts generated from your purchases.

Remember to log on through AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> if you shop at Amazon.

The **SHOP WITH A HERO** collection from CWM and others totals \$2,365. Thanks to all who contributed. That will send 23 children from Huntsville and Madison Co. to shop with a hero at WalMart on Dec. 9 with a \$100 gift card. If you missed the opportunity to contribute, it is not too late. Just mark your check to FCC (Memo: SWAH) and drop it in the offering plate or turn in to the office.

YOU ARE INVITED!

We welcome you to attend *Jesus and Java* to see what our Youth are learning. Your presence allows our Youth to get to know you better, know your name and learn from you. If we reflect on the Bible, the Israelites often would turn to the Elders for advice, wisdom and knowledge. This is a relationship that is very important for This generation of youth to have, so please consider this opportunity. Please contact Pastor Linda Davis at FCCyouthmin1@gmail.com

YOUTHTOPIA

THEME: "Be Salt and Light" (Matthew 5:13-16)

Date: January 26-28th

Location: Camp Chandler

Cost: \$125.00

The deadline for all applications is January 8th . Please submit payment and application to Pastor Linda.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH? Stream it live at:
www.fcchsvtech.weebly.com

MISS A SERMON? See previous sermons at:
www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons/

HOW TO GIVE ON LINE

Miss church but would still like to give your tithe or offering? You may give online through PayPal by going to the church website <http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/> and scrolling down to the donate button. You may designate your tithe or offering for the General Fund or specify a particular church ministry/fund. You may also designate if you would like this to be a recurring or single donation.