



The Journey

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SPRING AND NEW LIFE

It is strange to think that only a few weeks ago we were still wearing our winter coats and the sun was going down before we sat down to supper. Now flowers are blooming, the birds have returned, and the trees are starting to bud. Spring is not around the corner, Spring is already here. In the church when we think of Spring we think of Easter and the renewal that it brings, however we are still in the season of Lent, reflecting on our lives and bringing before God our sin and brokenness. This time of contemplation is leading us to the ideals of transformation and rebirth found in Easter. In our Sunday morning worship services, even though the altar is draped in black, the candles are missing, and the cross is hidden, there is still a joyful spirit because we know that soon our time of mourning will be over and our faith will be renewed.

April 14th is Palm/Passion Sunday, and opportunity to celebrate the crowds cheering for Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, but also a time when we look ahead to his last week on earth and the cross looming in the distance. It is easy to allow the joy of resurrection to overshadow the sacrifice of the cross but you cannot have one without the other, there can be no faith without sacrifice.

Our Lenten services are opportunities to contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and to worship together as a community. They begin with Palm Sunday but do not forget our Maundy Thursday service, on April 18th at 7:00 pm. This year the First Christian Church choir will be presenting a Tenebrae service. The word "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes Jesus' death and our hopelessness in the world without God. We will also hold a communion service, a reminder of Jesus' presence with us even in the midst of pain and loss. The worshipers will then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection.

All of these events either help us to prepare or realize the significance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross and his resurrection for the sake of the world. Such a gift is not to be taken lightly, but treasured and allowed to nourish our souls so that through our words and our lives others may see the love of God revealed. This year let us all experience the joy and renewal that Easter brings. Amen.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA - PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

This year we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for kids (Nursery - 4th Graders), but we will also have a family picnic, lawn games and the Easter Bunny for everyone!!!! The egg hunt will take place after the 10:30 am worship service. Nursery - Toddler age children will hunt eggs in the Garden Courtyard. Preschool - 1st grade children will hunt eggs on the Ark Playground. 2nd - 4th grade children will hunt eggs on Grandma Sue's Playground. The picnic will be held inside in Family Services & McMains and the lawn games will take place on Grandma Sue's playground following the egg hunt.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, April 4**, 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, APRIL 7

**Scripture
Sermon**

John 12: 1-11
"Giving Our Best"

SERVING AT THE TABLE

8:15 Dale Thomas & Justin Givens
10:30 Mike Lash & Andy Herron

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Lynn Abernathy

SERVING COMMUNION

8:15 Donna Blair & Deloris Edgeton
Rick & Kay Shrout
10:30 Abby Allen & Marie Bittle
Ruth Lackey & Roberta Shivers
Bev Williamson

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Gayle Herber

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

CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Jesus the King
Chuck Jackman, Tara Thorne,
Joe Allen & Brianna Jackson

YOUNG DISCIPLES

Meets second and fourth Sundays

AV SUPPORT TEAM

Technical Director -
Assistant Director - Michael Smith
Sound - Michael Smith &
Malcolm Landreth
Stream Operator - Michael Smith

| ATTENDANCE | 3/24 | 3/31 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| First Service Worship | 36 | NA |
| Sunday School | 21 | 17 |
| Second Service Worship | 83 | NA |
| Unified Service | NA | 114 |
| Young Disciples | NA | NA |
| Children's Church | 6 | 17 |
| Total Worship | 125 | 131 |

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL APRIL 10

Smothered pork chops, cauliflower mashed potatoes, steamed vegetables, dessert, and assorted drinks. Following the meal are small groups including Adulting, Kids'/Youth, and Men's Bible Studies. The Chancel Choir meets at 7:00 pm. **Call in your reservation by Wednesday, April 4, at 256-881-0150.**



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Please remember to keep the following individuals in your prayers.
Bob Anderson, son of Susan Anderson friend of Margaret J. Vann
Reggie Anderson
Lynda Baig, cousin of Penny Jackman
Burl Chandler, father of Chris Chandler
Betty Joe Estes, friend of Donna Blair
Lynn Harris, daughter of Bob & Mary Spencer
Phil & Ginny Jackson, brother-in-law & sister of Cathy Rosol.
Carey Link, friend of Margaret Vann
Joyce Neighbors
Betty Rogers
Jo Thomason
Lynne Ursery, former member.

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 lists.

FOOD PANTRY REMINDER
Next Sunday, April 7, is **Fill the Cart for the Food Pantry**. Bring one non-perishable item, or several, for the food cart outside of McMains Hall. Let's help keep the pantry full at the Huntsville Assistance Program. As always your donations of food items are appreciated at any time.
Thank you,
Community Outreach Committee

HEALS CLINIC HELPING CHILDREN

In April Community Outreach is collecting small toys for the HEALS Clinic. This clinic provides dental care for many school age children and their siblings. The toys are needed to provide encouragement for these children as they undergo dental procedures. A basket will be available in the Commons area for your donations. You can also write a check to FCC with HEALS on the memo line.

As always, thank you for donating,
Community Outreach

LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday Services

April 14

Procession of Palms

8:15 am Casual

10:30 am Traditional

11:30 am Egg Hunt and Church Picnic



Maundy Thursday Service

Tenebrae Service:

"Hope in the Shadows"

April 18 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 19

SE Huntsville Clergy Association

"Stations of the Cross" Noon at the
Aldridge Creek Greenway entrance Mt. Gap.

Easter Services

April 21

8:15 am Casual

10:30 am Traditional



TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you for your prayers, cards and other acts of kindness extended on my behalf during my recent hospitalization. Roger and I are humbled and grateful for your outpouring of love. What a blessing to be part of the FCC family.

Jackie Sameck

HOUSE OF HOPE NEEDS OUR HELP

CWM would like you to join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) 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. Between 2016-2017, almost 200 new children were enrolled in the educational program 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%. House of Hope is making a difference and so can we through a donation. Checks can be made to FCC with House of Hope in the memo line. Sponsorship is \$360 per year per child; CWM would like to sponsor two children. Please help us achieve this.

PROPERTY WORK DAY

We will have a Property Workday on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9:00 am. Contact the Church Office at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150 to sign up to help. We will be working inside and outside getting ready for Palm Sunday (Easter Eggstravaganza! Community Egg Hunt & Picnic), and Easter Sunday visitors.

