



# The Journey

Volume XXVI No. 45  
November 12, 2018  
[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## “WHAT HOLIDAY ARE WE CELEBRATING?”

I may have made a mistake a few weeks ago when as a family we sat down to make plans for the coming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. In order to understand my mistake you have to know that it is a tradition in my family that on Thanksgiving we go to visit my Uncle Ross and Aunt Sandy who live in Muskegon, Michigan. This means that we do not get to spend time with Patti’s family on Thanksgiving which means Patti gets to make our plans for Christmas.

My wife loves Christmas. I believe that her excitement for Christmas was only rivaled by my father’s. When I was growing up we had a Christmas tree in every room of the house, including the bathroom but Patti has taken this to new levels. There are trees in our rooms and stockings hung by the chimney with care. There is greenery everywhere, candles in the windows, nutcrackers, holly, and ornaments abound. However, usually Patti has to wait until Thanksgiving is over to decorate. This year, after being reminded that Patti did not get to decorate or celebrate Christmas as she would have liked since we were moving to our new home, I relented and told her that she could decorate after Halloween.

This means that last weekend Patti decorated our mantle, threaded greenery in the banister of the stairs, and put up our Christmas tree. The wreaths made, ready to be put on our doors and sticks with berries, evidently the newest thing in Christmas decorations, everywhere I look. Of course, under my breath, I grumble that we have gotten our holidays out of order. Thanksgiving is important. In a culture that often concentrates on bright lights and tinsel many times we do not reflect on what we have received in the last year. We are called to offer thanks to God for our blessings and remind ourselves that we must share these gifts, especially with those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Still, I wonder if I am looking at Patti’s rush to decorate and celebrate Christmas in the wrong light. After all, on Christmas we recall the greatest gift ever given to humanity. Perhaps, I need to look beyond the glitter and the tinsel and understand why she wants to celebrate this season so fervently. For many people Christmas is a reminder of a simpler time, a time of joy and peace in the midst of chaotic lives. It is a time for family, of giving, and a time to celebrate the presence of God in our midst. In essence, it sounds a lot like Thanksgiving, but with less turkey and football.

So rather than saying, “Bah Humbug!” I say, “Welcome Christmas!” We can celebrate Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas together as we anticipate and are thankful for the coming of Christ in our lives. May you find joy and health in this holiday season and may God bless you as we celebrate together. Amen.

*Pastor Paul*

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, November 15**, at Noon [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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, NOVEMBER 4**

Sermon Scripture                                Isaiah 65: 17-25  
Sermon    “Can Christians Change the World?”

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15     Frank Fitzgerald & Gayle Herber  
10:30    Dave Crockett & Karen Ball

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Gayle Herber

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15     Donna Blair & Linda Hooker  
           Marilee Keim & Nancy Waites  
10:30    Nancy Adams & Bev Williamson  
           Glenda Luft & Nancy Woodall  
           Allison Landreth

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Lynn Abernathy

**SUNDAY’S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Patrick     Love’s  
birthday by Monty & Dinah Love.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*The Ark and a Tent for God*  
Pastor Laura, Penny Jackman  
Troy Davis, Jr., Tatum Payne

**YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Meets second & fourth Sundays

**AV SUPPORT TEAM**

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

| ATTENDANCE             | 11/5 | 11/11 |
|------------------------|------|-------|
| First Service Worship  | 43   | 34    |
| Sunday School          | 28   | 30    |
| Second Service Worship | 99   | 85    |
| Young Disciples        | NA   | 4     |
| Children’s Church      | 5    | 3     |
| Total Worship          | 147  | 126   |

**NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL  
NOVEMBER 21**

The Bake Sale is coming! Please start planning your cakes, bread, cookies and any item that will compliment a Thanksgiving Feast! Cake domes will be in the office if needed. Set up is Friday, November 16 from 4:00 to 7:00. The Bake Sale will be Saturday, November 17 from 9:00-12:00. Start sharing the word via Facebook and email.



**SACK SUNDAY-NOVEMBER 18TH**

Please remember to bring your sacks this and next Sunday and place them on the tables in the hall outside of the Parlor! Community Outreach will be distributing your donations to Hope Place, HAP, CASA, St. Paul, and Grateful Life. Monetary donations will also be accepted and used to purchase specific items needed. Just write Sack Sunday in the memo portion of your check.



Thank-you, Community Outreach

**STOCKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The time has come to fill stockings for Christmas Charities! The stockings will be available every Sunday in November and need to be returned to church by Sunday, November 25. Every year First Christian fills 100 stockings that Christmas Charities then gives to needy children in the Huntsville and Madison County area. There will be a wide range of ages of children to assist, so pick up a stocking and have fun shopping to make a child's Christmas merry and bright.



### THANKSGIVING OFFERING

This special offering, **collected last Sunday and November 18**, helps to support the work of our institutions of higher learning in many ways: financially supporting Disciples-related schools, providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education. Currently over 50,000 students attend our 14 Disciples-related colleges, universities or one of our 7 seminaries and divinity houses.

### NURSERY HELP NEEDED

Share an hour or more of your time with our babies or toddlers once a month. Sign up poster is in the Commons for first service, Sunday School, or second service. If you are not on the Safe Church volunteer list, we can easily provide training. Call Pastor Laura, 256-881-0150, if you have any questions.

### Thank You

First Christian Church has once again proven how generous you are.

We will be sending Grateful Life Church an extra \$575 this month due to your gifts to them in October. Thank you so much for contributing.

Community Outreach

Can't Make It To Church? Stream it live at:

[www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](http://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)

Miss A Sermon? See previous sermons at:

[www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons](http://www.fcc-hsv.org/sermons)

### CWM NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

In November, CWM highlights our regional service project--the plight of women who have escaped the bondage of human trafficking and are seeking a new life with the help of The WellHouse, a non-profit agency near Birmingham. The WellHouse offers spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical support services to all women who have been sexually exploited by addressing individual needs and sharing the Gospel, empowering women to make a positive, life-affirming choice. The 800 phone line for The WellHouse is answered 24/7 by a trained and caring rescue coordinator. All donations are tax deductible. Make your donation to FCC with a note in the memo line--CWM WellHouse--for a record of your giving. See the display in the Commons area for more information.



Sue Seward

### VALHALLA CEMETERY LOTS

First Christian Church owns four cemetery lots in Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Rd NE, Huntsville, AL 35811). These lots are available at market value, either in pairs or four total. We are offering these to our members and friends before advertising through various outlets. If you would like more information, please contact Lee Boles.

[Leeboles@aol.com](mailto:Leeboles@aol.com) for the Trustees

