



# The Journey

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

## KEEPING CHRISTMAS

Our celebrations at the end of this year have been rather strange. I do not know about you but the transition between my family's celebration of Thanksgiving and the Advent season was incredibly quick. So quick, that while Patti has the Christmas trees up in our home, there are no decorations on them. We have to wait until the weekend to decorate and get our home ready for our celebration.

However, we are in the season of Christmas. The wreaths and the ornaments are showing up in their places, the presents are beginning to be wrapped, and the decorations are coming out of the garage and the storage areas, and the weather has changed as well. In the morning, when I wake up it feels like winter, a sure sign that Christmas is coming. The birth of Jesus so long ago should be celebrated, but we must also remember his presence with us now. When this season is over we cannot pack up our faith and put it away like so much tinsel and ribbon, instead our faith should be vibrant and alive all year long.

One of my favorite Christmas stories is "A Christmas Carol", a novella by Charles Dickens. I am sure you have all read, heard, or seen this story in one way or another. It tells the story of a bitter old miser named Ebenezer Scrooge and his transformation into a gentler, kindlier man after he is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Yet to Come. However, in the midst of the drama of his transformation at Christmas, I think we miss the long term changes he makes.

The final narration states, "Many laughed to see this alteration in him, but he let them laugh and little heeded them, for he knew that no good thing in this world ever happened, at which some did not have their fill of laughter. His own heart laughed and that was quite enough for him. And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well if any man alive possessed the knowledge." The story closes with the narrator repeating Tiny Tim's famous words: "God bless us, everyone!"

The true transformation was that Scrooge knew how to keep Christmas, in his heart, in his actions, and in his life. So let us keep a little Christmas, now and throughout the coming year. Let us share good tidings and share our resources with those in need. Let us keep the magic and mystery of this season alive and well. Let's keep the peace, hope, love, and joy as we continue to make rough places smooth and crooked places straight. Because God has already blessed us and now we are called to be the blessing. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

It's back! The mail box for our Christmas card drop off is up and running. Remember to look for your cards each Sunday. **We do not mail any that are left after the season is over on January 5th.**



Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, December 12**, 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, DECEMBER 15**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**9:00 AM** Sunday School/Small Groups  
**10:00 AM** Special Combined Service  
*Lessons and Carols*

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

10:00 Sabrina Beckman & Justin Givens

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Gayle Herber

**SERVING COMMUNION**

10:00 Donna Blair & Linda Hooker  
 Gayle Herber & Tré Davis  
 Marilee Keim

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Dinah Love

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Colleen Cannon Jenkens' birthday by Beverly & James Cannon.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*The Shepherds the Way to Bethlehem*  
 Chuck Jackman, Lee Boles, & Greyson Rogers.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEER**

Nancy Waites & Anita Wood

**AV SUPPORT TEAM**

Technical Director - Chuck Herber  
 Assistant Director - Michael Smith  
 Sound - Malcolm Landreth

ATTENDANCE	12/1	12/8
First Service Worship	NA	33
Sunday School	23	40
Second Service Worship	NA	89
Children's Church	NA	NR
Total Worship	137	122

**MUSIC NEWS!**



The FCC Chancel Choir invites you to join us for a service of **Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15th**, at the 10:00 am combined service. The choir will be singing traditional carol tunes along with new seasonal music. We hope to inspire you and revitalize your spirits during the busy holiday season. See you on the 15th!

Also join us for a Taizé Service at 7:00 pm on **Wednesday, December 18**, following the Wednesday night meal and small groups!

**"CHRISTMAS FEST" SATURDAY,  
 DECEMBER 14 (11:00 AM-1:00 PM)**

On Saturday, December 14, from 11:00 am-1:00 pm we are opening our church to the families in our church, our ECM, and our community for a fun filled morning of "Christmas Fest!"

We will have families enter through Family Services where they will be greeted and given information about the day and our church ministries. Then they will go as a family to various stations that will be set up around the church. Families will pick which stations they want to visit and how long they want to stay at each station.

We will have stations that children and families can go to which includes crafts, Christmas story, visit with Santa, Christmas caroling and food! We need everyone's help to make this a fun and successful event!

You can still sign up to help with this event at church on the sign-up sheets located outside the sanctuary or by going to Sign Up Genius and signing up online. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084eaba72ea0fb6-christmas2>

Looking forward to a wonderful Christmas together as a church! ~Pastor Laura

**FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM  
 THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

If you use tablecloths for an event, please make arrangements to have them laundered. Do not leave them in the bin with the towels in the kitchen. Thanks so much!

## CHRISTMAS IS NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN

Community Outreach Committee is asking for members of the congregation to donate \$25 gift cards for low income seniors. These gift cards are for CASA (Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound) and DHRs (Alabama Department of Human Resources) Adult Services for At Risk People. You can purchase gift cards and put them in the offering plate or in the office.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check to FCC with "CASA or Senior Gift Cards" in the memo line. The committee would like to give the cards to DHR & CASA by **December 18th**.

This is a way to remember others as well as children. Thank you, Community Outreach

## SHOP ON AMAZON?

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 <http://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.

So far, this year, we have received \$274.89 through AmazonSmile purchases that has been deposited in our General Fund.



## ADVENT FLOWERS

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia on this year's sanctuary poinsettia tree in honor or memory of a loved one, please send a donation to the church office or place in the offering plate marked "Poinsettia". There will be a signup sheet in the hallway for you to sign up as donor and identify who you would like to honor.



## DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

**December 14**, Christmas Fest 11:00 am

**December 15**, Lessons & Carols

9:00 Sunday School/Small Groups

10:00 Combined Service

**December 18**, Taize Service - Cancelled

**December 22**, Regular Service Times

**December 24**, Office Closes at 12:30 pm

### Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm and 11:00 pm

**December 25**, Office Closed

**December 29**, Regular Service Times

**December 31**, Office Closes at 12:30 pm

## IRS CREDIT FOR 2019 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 2019 giving must be received by the church office **before 12:30 pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019** (that is when the office closes for New Year's Eve) to be credited toward your 2019 giving. However, mailed contributions will be credited toward 2019 giving as long as they are **postmarked by December 31, 2019**. (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 2020 giving and not 2019.*