



# The Journey

Volume XXVII No. 50  
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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE ALABAMA-NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION

In addition to its more than 3,200 congregations and its General Ministries, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) expresses itself in 31 geographic areas called Regions. The Regions cover every part of the United States and Canada. The primary nature of Regional Ministries is to look after the congregations in their regions. Regions have two main purposes: nurture and mission. They are called to fulfill the mission of the Church by taking the lead in developing new forms of ministry in mission, witness, and service. Regions also are nurturing agents that provide support, guidance and pastoral care to ministers and congregations.

Additionally, Regions play the role of counselor and advisor in matters such as the standing and credentialing of ministers, relocation of pastors, and filling vacant ministerial positions, among other responsibilities. Regions help find interim ministers for churches that are without full-time pastors.

Regional ministers often serve as mentors to congregational pastors. They offer training to clergy and laity and assistance in cases of difficulties between ministers and congregations. Regions call their staffs, own and manage their own property, determine their budgets and administer regional finances within their available resources. They hold regional assemblies and develop procedures for seeking counsel from the Office of General Minister and President. Regions may vary in size and shape. They share equal standing with general and congregational ministries.

Regional ministry includes connecting people who help connect other people to Jesus. Through this connection with our region our congregation, together with other congregations in our Region, organize summer church camps, call and equip pastors and other church leaders, and share stories of what God is doing within and beyond our walls. Our support makes this work possible.

Imagine how many people have come to faith and will come to faith in Jesus because so many Disciples in our Region, and throughout the world, are continually working together developing new ways to invite new generations to meet Jesus and help them to grow in their faith! Next week we bring an extra gift in honor of those who first told us about the newborn King. As we do this, we help our Region continue connecting and supporting those who will share that Good News with children, youth and adults in the coming year. I hope you will support the work of the Alabama-Northwest Florida region as it builds the family of God. Amen.

### 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 19**, 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 22**

**Scripture** Matthew 1: 18-25  
**Sermon** "They Shall Call Him Emmanuel"

**SERVING AT THE TABLE**

8:15 Kerry Williams & Gayle Herber  
 10:30 Lee Boles & Frank Fitzgerald

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Nancy Woodall

**SERVING COMMUNION**

8:15 Kathi Luzar & Nancy Waites  
 Nancy Woodall & TBA  
 10:00 Abby Allen & Frank Fitzgerald  
 Marilee Keim & Roberta Shivers  
 Lynn Abernathy

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Rick & Kay Shrout

**SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET** is in honor of Colleen Cannon Jenkens' birthday by Beverly & James Cannon; and in memory of Gina Anderson & Reggie Anderson by Mary Anderson.

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

*The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem*  
 Pastor Laura, Penny Jackman & Brianna Jackson

**NURSERY VOLUNTEER**

Beverly Cannon & Karen Ball

**AV SUPPORT TEAM**

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

ATTENDANCE	12/8	12/15
First Service Worship	33	NA
Sunday School	40	26
Second Service Worship	89	NA
Lessons & Carols		131
Children's Church	NR	NA
Total Worship	122	131

**DECEMBER AT A GLANCE**

**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

**LEE BABY SHOWER**

Mission Family 4 and the Young Adults are co-hosting an all church baby shower for Nathan and Clara Lee immediately following second service on January 5th, 2020. They are registered on ***babylist*** <https://www.babylist.com/baby-clara-reed-lee> for their big items but welcome the gift of books. There will also be a money tree to add toward those big ticket items.

**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.



**Food Baskets**

The 2020 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is now up and located across the hall from McMains Hall. Remember a friend, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00 with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. Donated funds go to our Community Outreach ministry.



## 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?

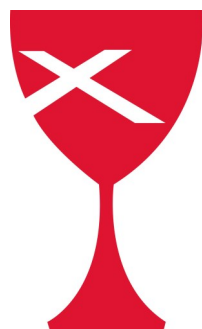
If you shop at Amazon, why not help the church out at the same time? **First Christian Church-Huntsville** is a listed charitable organization with AmazonSmile and receives 0.5% of the eligible purchases you make on Amazon. To use AmazonSmile, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6017148> (this address 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.

## CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH?

Stream it live at:

<https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv>



## COME, THEY TOLD ME -

### 2019 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Our finest gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other.
- Foster faith development.
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies.
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors.
- Assist churches in calling new ministers.
- Interpret the global mission of the Church.
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings.
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit.
- Lead the Church to address racism.
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create.
- Witness to the power of God to make things new.

The Christmas Special Offering supports all of these and many other ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida region and is received through December 22. Please give generously.

## 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 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). However, mailed contributions designated for 2019 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.*