



# The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 2  
January 16, 2023  
[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM REV. TERRI HORD OWENS

Merry Christmas, Disciples. This is your General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens here to wish you a blessed Christmas holiday as we celebrate the birth of Jesus the one whom we confess as the Son of God, Lord and Savior of the world I pray that your day is filled with all the joy that God gives us through Jesus.

The world must be different for those of us who follow Jesus. So, how will your life be different? How will you be different because of Christ? The one who was broken through to be a part of humanity, to be with us, to love us, to set an example for us because of this Holy One, we must be new creatures. There are no limits to God's love, and we rejoice in the new covenant that we have with God we have between God and God's creation. That is revealed through Jesus. The new covenant that Jesus establishes that the table of the Lord, because of Christ we are new and the world will indeed be new if we fully live into our own discipleship. If we can't imagine, just as God's love is limitless, if we could get inside God's imagination and see the world, the way Jesus saw the world, to love the way Jesus loved. What a gift Jesus is and what a gift each of you are and can be to the world.

So may the fullness of all that God has given you be manifest today and in the New Year in all that you do Merry Christmas and may your New Year be filled with God's limitless, love and joy unspeakable. Remember, God loves you and so do I.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 - JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2023

Louisville, Kentucky

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is excited to announce the 2023 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-August 1! It will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered. Save the date to join Disciples across the church as we gather in person and digitally.

The theme for the 2023 General Assembly is "Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us." The theme is based on three scriptures: Luke 17:20-21, Genesis 11:1-9, and 2 Peter 1:3. Registration: <https://web.cvent.com/event/b8cdd40a-6cd8-48aa-a28c-22148adf819f/websitePage:752fd232-2407-4730-8113-2def5dcd53e6>

### JOURNEY DEADLINE CHANGE

The deadline for submission of articles for the Journey is 9:00 a.m. on Thursday. Previously the deadline was noon on Thursday. Also remember that the Journey is published on the first and third Monday of each Month.

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of the month.

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 2**. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802  
Telephone: 256-881-0150

## CWM BLANKET MONTH 2023



CWM's January service is supporting Church World Service that will send blankets to people in need all round the world. Ukraine has a special need this year. What do you do if you are cold? At home you reach for a blanket or turn up the heat.

What if you didn't have an extra blanket or no blanket at all? What if you didn't have a home because of conflict, a natural disaster, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, or flood?

Church World Service provides blankets to those without blankets all over the world. CWM invites FCC to join us in giving blankets during the month of January. The cost of a blanket is \$10. Make your check out to FCC and mark for blankets. As one person put it, "it's about loving our neighbors on this small, interconnected planet, just as Jesus commanded".

Only \$10 per blanket warms someone, furnishes a carry-all, as well as offers protection and shelter. For more information [churchworldservice.org](https://churchworldservice.org).

Margaret J. Vann, CWM Blanket Chair

## 2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

Your 2022 Giving Statements are available in the Church Office during the week and on Sundays in the Narthex **through January 22nd**. (This saves on postage.)

Please contact the church office, 256-881-0150 or [office@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:office@fcc-hsv.org), if you cannot make it to church to pick up your statement. **We will send your statement by email or postal mail depending on your preference.**

Thank you for your generosity,  
FCC Office

## ATTENDANCE

**January 8:** Worship Service: 85  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 46  
**January 15:** Worship Service: 85  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 33

## ABIGAIL CIRCLE

The first Abigail Circle meeting of the new year is Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 9:00 am. We will be meeting at L'Etoile Patisserie (1214 Meridian Street, Huntsville, AL 35801). Our study for the year will come from *Find Rest* by Shaunti Feldhahn. We look forward to seeing any interested young adult women!

Sharifa Love-Rutledge

## THANK YOU FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Christmas Season is passed. I want to thank ALL who made the Christmas season worship so special..

The Season began with the Hanging of the Greens: thank you to those who decorated the sanctuary and those who lit and unlit the candles in the sanctuary and thank you to the participants in the services. Thank you to those who helped with the children for the services, the families of candle lighters who added so much to the service by explaining the significance of each candle; thank you to our fine music team and guests who added to the services; and a thank you to the video and sound crew who enabled the online and live congregation to hear and see the service. And a thank you to our new communion preparers and servers. It was a good way to resume communion to what it was before the pandemic.

And for those who put up the decorations, thank you.

Thank you!

Margaret J. Vann, Worship Chair



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is given in memory of Henry Waites by his family.

## REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian Church, Dothan, AL  
Primera Iglesias, Helena, AL  
Edwards Point, Century, FL



The choir has empty seats and is hoping you will consider joining this small but musical group and help fill those seats. All voices welcome!

Rehearsals will resume Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lauren Wilson Carter, Director of Music, at  
Reminder : All voices welcome!

Worship Committee

We are truly blessed through your acts of love and support for our family during the death of our Chet.

Thank you so much, Louise May

#### OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Due to staffing changes in the Church Office, volunteers are needed **particularly on Fridays**. Volunteers will receive training for answering the telephone and operating the secure door to let church members in the building. Scheduling is flexible and hours may be altered to fit your schedule. If you cannot commit to volunteering on a regular day and time, we also need substitute volunteers who can fill in from time to time. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve. Please email [office@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:office@fcc-hsv.org) or call 256-881-0150 if you are interested in serving.



Proverbs 16:3- "Ask the Lord to bless your plans, and you will be successful in carrying them out."

#### 2023 -A YEAR FOR CHANGE

For the first time in ten years, FCC is looking for a new Children's and Families Minister. As your search committee is formed and we begin our process, we need YOU! Specifically, we need your prayers. The office is setting up a prayer email list specifically related to our church life and minister search. **If you would like to be a prayer warrior for First Christian, please let the office know at [office@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:office@fcc-hsv.org).** Once our prayer list is set up, you can expect weekly emails asking for prayers relating to a specific part of our search and our church activities.

Any questions? Please email or call me at \*\*\*\*\* I am excited to be your search committee chair and look forward to celebrating God's Presence here at First Christian.

Lee Boles



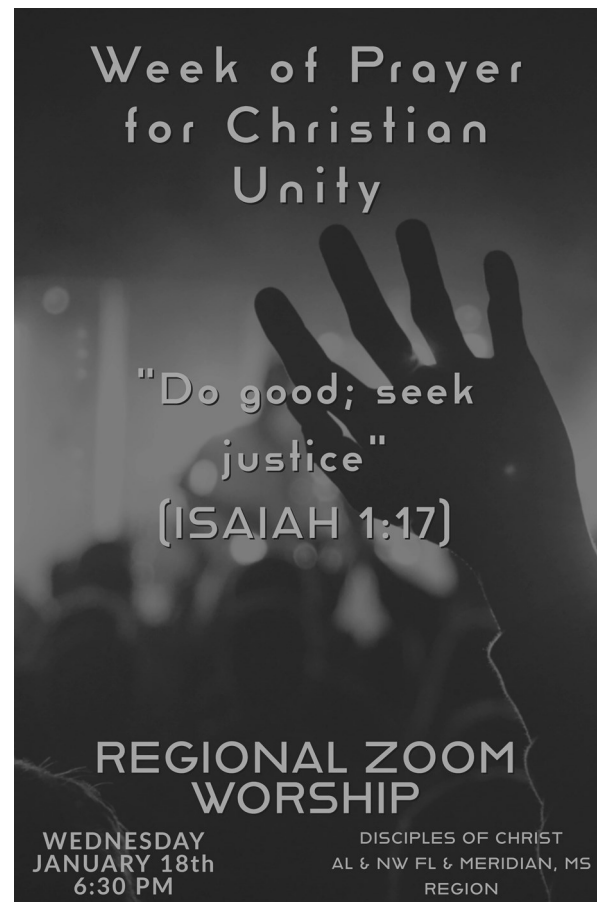
The 2023 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion.** Donations are \$25.00 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket through this QR code linked to our website.



Here is the zoom link to participate in the Week of Prayer online.

Meeting ID: 371 135 2978 Passcode: 008025

We will also be gathering in Family Services at 6:30 for those who do not have internet access or wish to gather for this event.



## Listening Sessions

for the Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida  
join us as we cast a vision for our future



### District Listening Sessions:

District 1	January 22 at 2:00 pm	First Christian Church, Athens
District 2	January 29 at 2:00 pm	First Christian Church, Tuscaloosa
District 3	January 22 at 2:00 pm	Union Christian Church, Tuskegee
District 4	January 29 at 2:00 pm	Little Union Christian Church, Hayneville
District 5	February 5 at 2:00 pm	Fairhope Christian Church, Fairhope

### Transformation Event Listening Session:

Saturday, February 11	First Christian Church, Birmingham
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### Youth/Young Adult Listening Sessions:

Saturday, January 21	Youthtopia & Young Adult Retreat
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We encourage you to join us in person for one of our listening sessions as the Executive Search Committee begins the work of creating a Regional Profile for circulation. Our hope is to gather feedback from throughout the Region to inform our work. You are welcome to come to any session that fits in your schedule. We are excited to hear from you as we look ahead to a bright future for the Christian Church in Alabama-Northwest Florida.

If you have questions you can contact [Rev. Robin Blakemore](#) (Moderator) or [Clarissa Harms](#) (Executive Search Committee Chair)

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 pm Meals resume 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Phoebe Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	2 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship Committee 2 pm Pickelball	6 10:30 am Quilters	7 10 am Fleming Farm Circle	8 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	9 6 pm Board Meeting	10 Regional Transformation Retreat	11 Regional Transformation Retreat
12 Regional Transformation Retreat 10:30 am Community Outreach 2 pm Pickelball	13 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters 5 pm Conveners’ Mtg	14 6 pm Elders’ Meeting	15 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	16	17	18
19 Week of Compassion Offering 2 pm Pickelball	20 Presidents Day Church Office Closed 10:30 am Quilters	21	22 No meal or groups. 6 pm Ash Wednesday Service	23	24	25 3 pm Rolf Goebel Organ Recital
26 Week of Compassion Offering 2 pm Pickelball	27 10:30 am Quilters	28				