



PRAYER REQUEST

The search committee met on Thursday, January 19, and began the process of our search for a new Children's and Family Minister. The Search Committee, consisting of David Uptagrafft, Frank Fitzgerald, Kerry Williams and Lee Boles (Andy Herron was not able to attend) met with Pam Clasgens, Pastor Paul and Dr. Dale Braxton. Dale led our meeting and began with a workbook and timeline of the Search and Call process.

Our first order of business as a committee is to complete the congregational profile. This profile tells not only the demographics of our congregation and our history but also gives a prospective minister a glimpse into what we see as our future. This profile will ensure that we match with the best possible fit for our children and families. You will have several opportunities in the next few weeks to join in discussions about this future, but first I would like for you to prayerfully consider several items:

- What has God called us to be as a congregation?
- How is this congregation relevant to the needs of each other and the local community?
- How does this congregation bear witness in tangible ways to God's healing, welcoming and reconciling presence?

As you pray over these questions, I ask you to envision how our new minister can enable First Christian to answer God's Call in Huntsville, in Alabama, and in our world.

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

Thank you for being a praying church.

Lee Boles, Search Committee Chair

Evangelism is living out Jesus' Great Commission of Matthew 28:19 to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...." Every single person has God-given gifts and abilities that can be used to share the message of Christ with your community. The Evangelism committee is seeking out members.

- Do you love -hosting and planning social gatherings? -organizing church wide events? If so, we have the perfect role for you! The Evangelism committee is seeking a Hospitality Subcommittee Chair.
- Do you have an eye for photography? Are you active in church events? Do you have talent in graphic design, advertising, or electronic communication? If so, the evangelism committee is actively seeking members of our Photography and Advertising Subcommittee.
- If you enjoy greeting and welcoming visitors as they enter the church our committee has a place for you!

If you are interested in the work of this committee please contact Sharifa Love-Rutledge at ***** or learn more by attending **our next meeting February 19, 2023 (3rd Sunday) at 11:00 am in the Parlor.**

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 16.** Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

COMMUNITY FREE DENTAL CLINIC

The February local outreach focus for First Christian Church is raising funds for the Community Free Dental Clinic located on Whitesburg Drive. This clinic is a 501(c)(3) non profit with the mission to provide free quality dental care and education to low income, uninsured residents of Madison County. The work is done by appointment only, with extractions and a limited number of cleanings and fillings being the focus.

The poverty level in Madison county is 13.6%. Many of these are elderly on fixed incomes with broken, painful teeth. If left untreated, infected gums or abscesses often result which can be life threatening. Since the clinic opened in 2013, over 8,600 people have been treated including many veterans. Most recently, senior UAB dental students travel to Huntsville three times a year to work in the clinic in supervised settings much as they do at the UAB Dental School in Birmingham. This addition of professional help has greatly expanded the ability of the clinic to fill appointments for those in need.

Please consider the Community Free Dental Clinic as yet another worthy cause to support here in Madison County. Even though the professional services offered are done by volunteers, there is significant overhead necessary with such items as operating cost for the clinic, Personal Protective Equipment for the staff and numbing agents for the comfort of the patient. Thank you in advance for considering this worthy cause. To contribute, make checks payable to First Christian Church with Dental Clinic on the notation line. Nancy Waites

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 25 - 26, 2023
Regional Transformation Event

ATTENDANCE
January 22: Worship Service: 69
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 39
January 29: Worship Service: 79
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 51
February 5: Worship Service: 75
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 55



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



- A.J. Arisco, relative of Pam Clasgens
- Ken Brown
- Rebecca Davison, grandmother of Alyssa Burton
- Lynn Harris, daughter of Mary Spencer
- Kalyn Kilgore, daughter of Rodger & Mona Qualls
- Tom & Gail Killough
- Stephen McCreary
- Nita Raessler, sister-in-law of Walt Keller
- Matthew Richardson, friend of Matthew Brown
- Mary Spencer
- Rev. Bob Stegall
- Jay & Cynthia Wright


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 list.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Doris Kennemer, who passed on Sunday, January 22.

Abigail Circle will be meeting February 18th at Canadian Bakin (501A Church St.) at 9am. We hope you will join us for coffee and fellowship. Please RSVP so that we can save you a seat! Contact Sharifa Love-Rutledge at:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS
The 5:30 Wednesday night meals resumed. Remember to contact the church and RSVP if you will be attending. February 8 Super Bowl Party - Nachos, Rice, Refried Beans, Toppings, & Dessert

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
South Baldwin, Foley, AL
Fairhope Christian Church, Fairhope, AL

 **THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of Jordan Green, son-in-law of Rick & Kay ShROUT and in memory of Tom Woodall by Nancy Woodall.



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 Re- minder : All voices welcome!

Worship Committee

THANK YOU FOR CARING!

Because of your generosity, \$1,990 was divid- ed between Adult Services of DHR and Enable of Madison County (formerly CASA)! Both agencies serve the elderly with limited resources within our community, a population often overlooked. The organizations are very grateful for our sup- port of their work. Thank you for caring about those in need in Madison County.

You are making a difference!

SOUP AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Join the youth for the annual soup and chili cook-off February 19th, 2023 in McMains Hall directly following service. Sign up to bring a soup or bring your appetite and vote for your favorite dish. One dollar equals one vote. Winner takes the all the bragging rights for 2023!

Community Outreach (CO) is asking for regu- lar donations of hygiene products such as: sanitary pads, tampons, and/or period underwear (period-proof underwear is a relatively new peri- od product that looks and feels like regular underwear.). The donations will support girls at three schools - Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School– who do not have funds to purchase these products. A donation site is located in the church Narthex. Please consider helping with this needed project.

Margaret J. Vann



Yet it is because I remember all this that I have hope. YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness.
~ Lamentations 3:12-23, (The Inclusive Bible)

As the relief, refugee, and development mis- sion fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), *Week of Compassion* works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

For example, in July 2022, eight months after deadly tore across eight states tornadoes in De- cember 2021, two Disciples churches and several community organizations made sure that dozens of children impacted by those storms in western Kentucky spent time outside with friends and care- givers at Sunny Day Camp. Alongside typical day camp activities, trained professionals provided age- appropriate opportunities for processing grief and trauma. These churches put Week of Compassion gifts to work so that churches, communities, and children can **rise up anew**, together.

On February 19 and 26, we join Disciples churches across the US and Canada to collect a special offering for *Week of Compassion*, sup- porting the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. You can note "Week of Compassion" for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church.

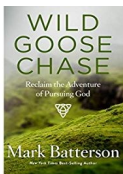
Please give generously.

I wish to thank my church family, especially those from MF3 for all the prayers and cards sent to me during my recovery! They cheered me and helped so very much. I also thank the prayer shawl team for my lovely prayer wrap. I love it!

Thanks again, Elaine French

NEW LENT STUDY

Announcing a new book study beginning February 23, 2023. As we begin the season of Lent, I ask you to please join me in studying and discussing Mark Batterson's book - *Wild Goose Chase*.



In this study, we will take an 8 week look at how we can boldly pursue God and His Holy Spirit (referred to by Celtic Christians as the Wild Goose) in a way that is life transforming. We will meet weekly in the church parlor, Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to discuss each chapter. If you are interested, please call/text me at ***** or contact me at ***** You can find the book (paper back version) on Amazon.com for \$13.49.

Lisa Fitzgerald

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are currently in the process of forming our new Capital Campaign committee. Once complete, the committee will begin organizing opportunities to meet with groups of church members to share information and receive your input on the focus and goals of our campaign.

Feel free to contact Clara-Reed***** or Nathan***** with any questions.

Thank you!

Clara Reed-Lee & Nathan Lee
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

RUMMAGE SALE

Get ready to clean out your closet for a great cause. **Rummage sale collection begins on March 19th!** Bring your gently used items to be sold to support the youth mission trip this summer.

No tube TVs or mattresses or box springs please! We are also looking for volunteers to sort, price, and work the sale! See Alyssa to volunteer. **The rummage sale will take place on March 25th from 6am-12pm in Family Services and McMains.**



On Saturday, February 25, at 3:30pm, Dr. Rolf J. Goebel will play a recital for the season of Lent on our wonderful Allen organ at First Christian Church. The program includes music of a reflective but uplifting character by J. S. Bach and others. The event is free and open to the public. **Bring a friend and we hope to see you there**

Information: *****.

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

URGENT PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY



Cereal, Shelf-Stable Milk, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Vienna Sausages, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Dried Rice & Beans (1-lb bags), Chef Boyardee (all kinds), and Toilet Paper. Please place items on the cart in the Narthex.

NEW BOOK BOXES

Hope everyone noticed the two book boxes added to the church grounds in the island out front. These are to support our church outreach and evangelism. Please go through your libraries and let's fill them up. The taller one is for adult books. The shorter for children. We will be notifying ECM that they are welcome to use these as well.

Several churches in town do this and it seems to work well. If the need arises these can also be used for cans of soup and bottled water. We will determine along the way the best path but we will start with Christian books. Lets get this out there on our FB page and all venues we announce church efforts/events in. This is just one way we can spread the word of Christ's love. **Please limit your donations to Christian books and Bibles.**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22 at 6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 3RD

ECM Registration for FCC Members