



# The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 7  
April 3, 2023  
www.fcc-hsv.org

## THE LEAP OF FAITH

I remember a time when I was a child when I was learning how to dive. I would go to the edge of the pool, put my arms over my head, bend my knees and lean forward hoping that I would glide into the water head first. Inevitably, I would get scared, jerk my head up, and fall into the water in an ungraceful crouch. I did this over and over again, failing each time, until one day I let go of my fear and I jumped in head first. Since that day I have always been able to dive, it may not be perfect, but I have never been afraid to jump in head first.

We do not live in a perfect world. There will always be things that make us scratch our heads and wonder what people are thinking. Sometimes the simplest tasks take forever because of a lack of planning or design. Or perhaps it is the mistakes of the people around us that cause us to become frustrated and impatient. As a people of faith we know that we are imperfect, sinful and broken, but still God calls us, Christ provides us new life and the Holy Spirit continues to empower us. The work that we do and the interactions we have with others may be far from perfect and yet they are still the work of God. Our Creator works through us to make a difference in the lives of others and in the world. We are called to be a part of the great creative plan that started at the beginning of time and continues to this day. We are a part of the story of faith not because we are perfect, but because we try.

We all need to rely on God, open our hearts, and jump into service. There are plenty of opportunities to reach out to others, to participate in worship, to work in the community, and to share our faith. What it truly takes is trust, trust that God will empower you, that you can make a difference, and that through the love of Christ our broken lives are mended and made holy.

Let us take the leap together, thanks be to God, Amen.



B I N G O				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

**4/30 at 4:30**  
**ALL-CHURCH BINGO NIGHT**  
Sunday, April 30 - 4:30-6:30pm  
Family Services Area &  
McMains Hall

Please bring individually-packaged snacks to share - Drinks will be provided. All ages are invited and nursery care will be available.

Small items for the prize table are welcome.

B I N G O				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 27**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

**THANK YOU** to all who made the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday so meaningful.

Pastor Paul for the moving Ash Wednesday service that began the season. Watching the young people wave their palms on Palm Sunday, offered children a chance to participate in worship. Thank you for the helpers that made Palm Sunday special. Thank you to Lauren Carter for all her planning and execution of the Tenebrae service and our moving Easter Sunday worship. Thank you to Brad Clasgens and crew for smooth services. Thank you to all who participated in the activities: the musicians, the choir, AV crew, office staff, and worship committee members. Thank you to the Beutjers for the meaningful Children Moments. Again: Thank you all for your contributions to make this Lenten Season so meaningful.

Margaret J. Vann, Worship Chair

#### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Harrison Street Christian Church  
Greenville, AL  
Macedonia Christian Church  
Birmingham, AL  
Cedar Plains Christian Church  
Falkville, AL  
Macedonia Christian Church  
Talladega, AL



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKETS** are given in honor of Rev. Laura West by Tom & Annette Craig and in honor of Karen Ball's birthday by Matt Ball.

Weekly prayer concerns are published in the Sunday bulletins. Send your requests to [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or call the church office at 256-881-0150. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

#### DESPERATELY POOR CHILDREN NEED OUR HELP



House of Hope Haiti

Christian Women's Ministries (CWM) hopes you will join us as we financially support House of Hope (Haiti) and Pringle House of Jamaica during April. Through Global Ministries, House of Hope provides a safe place and educational programs for at-risk children in the Port-au-Prince area with a completion rate of 95%. Haiti has been in political turmoil for years and has also been devastated by several hurricanes. Life expectancy average is 63 years and adult illiteracy is over 51%. We will also be donating to the Pringle Home of Jamaica, which provides the same services for the impoverished children there. We can make a difference in the lives of children in two third world countries by donating to support these causes. Checks can be made to FCC with "CWM April project" in the memo line. You may also give through PayPal, designating CWM April project, on our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/). The need is great; please join CWM in changing lives.

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Brandon & Sharifa Love Rutledge  
119 Venson Blvd.  
Madison, AL 35758



**CONDOLENCES** to the family of Rev. Dr. Bob Stegall, former interim minister, who passed on April 13; and to the family of Pat Crouse who passed on April 14.

The 2023 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org) or 256-881-0150 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 our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/)



**ABIGAIL CIRCLE**, a circle for young adult women, will meet April 29, 2023 at 9am. The location for this month's meeting is The Moon Bakeshop.  
201 Jefferson St N Suite B  
Huntsville, AL 35801

#### **ATTENDANCE**

**April 6:** Maundy Thursday Service: 70

**April 9:** Worship Service: 141

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 99

**April 16:** Worship Service: 81

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 22

#### **CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER**

##### **AMAZON WISH LIST**

A Wish List for books and supplies has been set up on Amazon for our Children Worship & Wonder ministry. Click on the following link to see the list. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KBCLO3SSA68?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KBCLO3SSA68?ref_=wl_share)



May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:30 am Quilters	<b>2</b> 10 am Fleming Farm Circle	<b>3</b> 11:30 am Phoebe Circle 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:30 am Baptism Class 2 pm Pickelball	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters	<b>9</b> 6 pm Elders’ Meeting	<b>10</b> 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 6 pm Board Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Mother’s Day 2 pm Pickelball	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Quilters	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Pentecost Offering Baptisms 10:30 am Evangelism Mtg 2 pm Pickelball	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Quilters	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6 pm Men’s Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Pentecost</b> Pentecost Offering 2 pm Pickelball	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed 10:30 am Quilters	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6 pm Men’s Bible Study			