



The Journey

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SUMMER FUN

I always believe that things will slow down in the church after Easter and every year I am surprised when this is not the case. I long for the days of Summer I had as a child when we had time to rest, reflect and have a little fun. However, the events we have planned in the next few weeks remind us that our church is growing in faith and in spirit. The joy of baptisms, graduation, the celebration of the women in the church who help to nurture us let us know that our congregation is alive, and we are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

The next few months will also be a time for new opportunities for worship and service in our church. Mother's Day is May 14th, we are looking forward to Pentecost on May 28th, please wear red that day. We will also celebrate Graduation Sunday that day with two of our seniors. On May 21 we will celebrate the baptism of five young men as they begin their journey of faith and join the fellowship of this congregation. I hope this will be a time when we think of our own baptisms and reaffirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ.

Camping season will soon begin. Most of you know I have been to Church Camp, in one role or another, since I was born, and camping remains an important part of my life. Did you know that according to a recent survey Two-thirds of all ministers hear their initial call to ministry while attending camp. Seventy percent of all teens who attend church decide to follow Christ while at camp and eighty percent of all people who become Christians, in our culture, do so by the age of eighteen. This shows the importance of our camping ministries and I hope many of you will attend, volunteer to counsel, or send a child to camp.

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and I hope that many of our young people will participate in this event. This year it will be held on July 17th through the 21st and I know volunteers are welcome. Please contact Alyssa if you are interested.

I hope that we can all find some summer fun this year, but more importantly I hope that our lives will remain full of wonder, we will continue our journey of faith, and experience the family of God that loves each other and works so well together here at First Christian Church. May the grace, the love, and the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you now and forevermore.

Amen.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

SAVE THE DATE

There will be a Congregational Meeting following Worship Service on Sunday, June 4, for nominations and election of the 2023-2025 Church Officers.

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 1**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

2023 PENTECOST OFFERING

In the beginning, every church was new.

Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

In the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to “plant” churches, but to proclaim good news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around.

Disciples of Christ New Church Ministry believes God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new... back to becoming who we are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering, received on Sundays, May 21 and 28, help ensure the movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Half of your gift supports new church development within the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders.

You can note “Pentecost Offering” for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church. Please give generously. To give electronically, go to our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/ and scroll down to the donate button.

THANK YOU FOR CARING!

Because of your generosity, enough monetary donations (\$1,230) were collected to sponsor two children for the year at Pringle House in Jamaica and two at House of Hope in Haiti! CWM appreciates your support of both these institutions serving such a vulnerable population in unstable countries. You are making a tremendous difference in four children’s lives. Bless you for that!

FOOD BASKETS are given in memory of Bob Abernathy by Lynn Abernathy; in memory of Bess Smith by her family; and in honor of Matt & Karen Ball’s anniversary.

PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Thus says the Lord, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

-Isaiah 43:16,19 NRSV

Faithful God,

We know that you are working in our midst. As we seek new leadership, help us to discern your will for this congregation. We give thanks for each member of the search committee. May we and they have a steadfast focus on sharing your love in service to others, following the example of your son, our Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Chris & Rhianna Clark
, AL 35773

First Christian Family,

TEN years of being the director of ECM has been some of the best years of my life, and my career as an educator! I truly feel like I have one of the best jobs in the world! God has allowed me to be a part of hundreds of young families’ lives, and I feel so blessed! I could not do my job without the support of my fantastic ECM staff, a wonderful ECM Board, and the support of this sweet, loving, supportive and amazing First Christian family!

Thank you to those who came by on my 10th anniversary with your kind words, to wish me well!

God willing, my job here has just begun!
Love in Christ, Susan Cooley

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Macedonia Christian Church, Tallassee, AL
Mt. Zion Christian Church, Hayneville, AL
First Christian Church, Ft. Walton Beach, FL

ATTENDANCE

May 7: Worship Service: 89
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 79
May 14: Worship Service: 95
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 77

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	2	3
4 Congregational Meeting 2 pm Pickleball	5 10:30 am Quilters	6 6 pm Elders' Meeting	7 6 pm Men's Bible Study	8 6 pm Board Meeting	9	10
11 2 pm Pickleball	12 Junior & Chi Rho Camps CYF Conference 10:30 am Quilters	13 Junior & Chi Rho Camps CYF Conference	14 Junior & Chi Rho Camps CYF Conference 6 pm Men's Bible Study	15 Junior & Chi Rho Camps CYF Conference	16 Junior & Chi Rho Camps CYF Conference Genesis & Discovery Camps	17 Genesis & Discovery Camps
18 Father's Day Genesis & Discovery Camps 10:30 am Evangelism Mtg 2 pm Pickleball	19 10:30 am Quilters	20	21 6 pm Men's Bible Study	22	23	24
25 2 pm Pickleball	26 10:30 am Quilters	27	28 6 pm Men's Bible Study	29	30	