



THE JOURNEY

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July 1, 2024
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WHAT DO WE DELIGHT IN?

God looked over everything that God had made; it was so good, so very good! (Genesis 1:31 MSG)

Earlier this year I took a class titled, Stewardship as Vision and Practice. One of the assignments was to read a daily devotional that centered around stewardship and prayer. The book assigned titled, “Community of Prayer” by Bruce Barkhauer began with a section that connected the creation of the World by God to our stewardship as a church. The devotion titled, Delight Leads to Care caught my attention. He begins the devotional by talking about the joys and struggles of sorting and deciding what of our earthly treasures to hold on to as we traverse through life. A list of decision-making questions is cited ending with “Does it bring you joy?”. When we love something, it brings us joy, but it also becomes a priority for us to care for. We love our children, so we take them to the doctor when they are sick or provide a warm hug of comfort when they are sad. We love our cars, so we take them to the car wash or to get their oil changed. God created us and loves us so God cares for us by providing the things we need to thrive. Now, I would go out on a limb and suppose you would say in conversation that you love your church. But how are we showing care? Some people spend their time weeding the flower beds as an act of care. Some fold our newsletter to be mailed to our members rendered unable to receive digital copies. We have members who volunteer to work events, serve communion, and so many other tasks that make our church run smoothly. When we delight in our church, we want to see it prosper. The verse and concepts above are the theme we will keep in mind as we begin our capital campaign in August. Our building is aging and the need for upgrades is becoming increasingly noticeable. The Capital Campaign committee asks that you begin to pray about ways you can contribute to the longevity of our ministry through care of our worship and community spaces. If you have questions about ways to contribute, please contact Rev. Alyssa or Nate and Clara Lee.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE AND PRAYER CHAIN

Our surveys are in but our work is not done!

As our committee begins the important task of assimilating the information and preparing our congregational profile, your input is needed more than ever.

Please pray daily for the committee’s work as they focus on the needs of our congregation and city, focusing on God’s vision for this church. First Christian Church in Huntsville, Alabama has a unique mission. Pray that we will find the leader who will lead us to fulfill that mission.

Join us in our focused prayer chain for the Search Committee. Email me to be a part.

Thank you,
Lee

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 11**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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**Long Term
Prayer Concerns**



Not Listed Online


The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

SAVE THE DATE
July 14 - Congregational Meeting following Worship Service. Search & Call Committee Report and Open Leadership Elections.

DIALOGUE LAMENTATIONS 3.22-24
*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
bombs and rockets fall around us
bringing ruin, ravaging earth,
wondering where are you, LORD
His mercies never come to an end;
apartment/home destroyed
we are safe
the children still sing/play
amid the broken playground
They are new every morning
life within put there by violence
promises a new beginning
the baby kicks
hope for a future
Great is your faithfulness
we are still alive, still free
help comes from distant friends,
with prayers and shelter
boards and nails--gifts to rebuild
"The Lord is my portion,"
in God the bulbs bloom
the trees leaf out
says my soul,
we will be free in our faith
bomb-plowed fields are green in the season
the trees leaf out no matter
"Therefore I will hope in him"
the baby kicks
a new life amid destruction,
hope for a future rebuilding
I love this child this gift of new life
It is the *steadfast love* I call on
with hope of another spring
although the shells fall
without ceasing
I will hope in him Margaret J. Vann May 2024*

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.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
New Bethel, Greenville AL
Valley, Birmingham, AL

 **THE FOOD BASKETS** are given in memory of Petra Sue Richey by Margaret J. Vann, and in honor of Jordan & Kelsi Green's anniversary by Rick & Kay Shrout.

ATTENDANCE
June 23: Worship Service: 80
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 22
June 30: Worship Service: 91
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 41



**PLEASE HELP THOSE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES
IN HUNTSVILLE**

The Community Outreach Committee is asking for financial donations for The Arc, an organization that provides multiple services to those with intellectual disabilities. Services are available to many age ranges and include vocational services, early intervention, autism clinic (for young children), and residential services. The residential services provide a comfortable and safe environment for adults with intellectual disabilities in five group homes in Huntsville. The Community Experience program provides educational, vocational, and adaptive skills training for adults. There is a great need for these services and Community Outreach hopes you will help by donating financially during July. Checks can be made to FCC with The Arc in the memo line. Thank you for caring about our intellectually challenged neighbors.

**JULY PANTRY NEEDS
HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



Jelly, Cereal, Crackers, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti Sauce, and Shelf Stable Milk.



The 2024 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may email the office at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call 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 on our website at www.fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/