



The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 13
July 3, 2023
www.fcc-hsv.org

GROWTH AND LIFE

We are in the midst of summer, temperatures are rising, greenery is exploding all around us, and life seems to be bursting in every corner. Often in the church summer can be a time of rest, but here at First Christian Church we are still very busy getting ready for Vacation Bible School, or Ice Cream Social, and the leadership change that is coming next week. As a congregation we continue to enjoy the gifts of the Spirit, the joy new ideas can bring, and the hope we have for our future. Yet, it is important to note that with growth comes change. We are creating new missions for First Christian Church, ones that could lead us away from comfortable surroundings and into challenging arenas of faith. Yet, without change we will wither into nothingness and die. Change is not to be feared, but accepted and welcomed as a gift from God.

In Kansas, where wheat is life, I was told a story about two grains of wheat. They were very similar and were planted in a field close to each other. However, the first wheat kernel was not happy, it wanted something more, so it took in moisture and nutrients from the soil and it began to grow.

The second grain saw what the first kernel was doing and could not believe it. Why would a grain of wheat want to change, wasn't it happy? Then the first wheat kernel began to grow and split its shell. Roots developed at the base and a slender stalk appeared. The grain of wheat was in pain, but it kept growing.

The second kernel of wheat was now sure that growing was not worth it. Why go through the pain? It would be better to stay put. Soon the second kernel of wheat died. The first grain of wheat, now a long stalk and a head with many grains of wheat, sadly looked down at the second grain. It had withered away into nothingness, but the first grain of wheat continued to grow and prosper, and soon the field was full of long stalks of wheat.

It is my hope the First Christian Church will continue to grow and prosper as we accept the cost of discipleship and carry on the work of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



The Evangelism Committee is hosting an **Ice Cream Social & Trivia Night** on **Wednesday, July 12, 2023 from 6-8:00 PM** in McMains Hall and Family Services.

The event will feature homemade ice creams made by church members. You may bring dollar bills or change to vote for your favorite flavor. All proceeds will benefit the Salvation Army Mobile Kitchen. Childcare and entertainment will be provided.

Sign up sheets for helping with the event or entering your ice cream flavor are located in the church lobby.

Please invite your friends and family, we can't wait to see you there!

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

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



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

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 Christian Church, Greenville, AL
Valley Christian Church, Birmingham, AL



FOOD BASKETS are given in memory of Gina Anderson by her family and in honor of Jordan & Kelsi Green's anniversary by Rick & Kay Shrout.

GIVING STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Second Quarter Giving Statements will be available beginning the week of July 3. If you would like a copy, call or email the office (256-881-0150 or office@fcc-hsv.org) and we will mail or email you a copy of your statement. Questions? Call 256-881-0150.

ATTENDANCE

June 25: In-Person Worship Service: 94
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 58
July 2: In-Person Worship Service: 70
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 16

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT FOR JUNE: WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Community Outreach Committee's project for June is collecting financial donations for the Foster Care Unit of DHR (Department of Human Resources) to purchase gift cards to Walmart and other places as requested by DHR. **There are over 430 children in foster care in Madison County** and funding is not adequate to cover all their needs. These children are in care through no fault of their own; they have been abused and neglected by those who should have protected them.

Community Outreach, with your help, would like to ensure that the Foster Care Unit has funds on hand to use throughout the year to help our children who are suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally. A check can be made to FCC with "CO/DHR" in the memo line or through our PayPal account (go to fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/ scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Donate button). Thank you for caring about the vulnerable children in our community.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Nancy Adams -
th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98178

WE ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO A

baby sprinkle

HONORING

BABY LEE-REED

SUNDAY JULY FOLLOWING
9th 2023 SERVICE

JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO WELCOME BABY LEE-REED IN THE COMMONS AREA.
IN LIEU OF GIFTS THE FAMILY HAS REQUESTED THAT ATTENDEES DONATE SIZE 4, 5, AND 6 DIAPERS TO BE DONATED TO A LOCAL CHARITY