



The Journey

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FACING FEARS

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over. It seems like just a few weeks ago the kids were getting out of school, and we were planning summer vacation. Now the kids are back in school, and vacation is over. Where does the time go? Time is a precious commodity in our household. There is always something going on, a meeting to attend, yardwork to be done, homework to finish, laundry to sort, etc. Like most families we try to prioritize the things that are important to us, which means that sometimes we have to say no, or at least not right now, to activities in which we want to participate. We also find ourselves engaging in activities that we never expected to do.

Zip-lining is one such activity. I remember this excursion very well because it happened at a General Assembly. We let the kids choose one thing that they wanted to do, within reason. Joe decided he wanted to go to an amusement park, so we went to Six Flags. Abby told us she wanted to go Zip-lining. If you have never heard of this, you climb a tower, are strapped to a steel cable by a pulley, and then sent hurtling out into space, sliding down the cable until you reach the end. One of the rides we went on was over one hundred feet in the air, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long, and the guide said I was going well over forty miles an hour when he hit the brake.

I loved it, Abby had a blast, Joe even enjoyed it, after a little convincing, but Patti was terrified. She had to psyche herself up every time she climbed a tower. When I asked her why she was doing this she said, "It is for the kids!" and in many ways that was true. But I also believe that Patti went zip-lining to overcome her fear of heights and falling. She had to trust her guide to prepare her pulley, rope her in, use the brake to slow her down, and keep her safe. I know how terrified she was, but she went down every zip-line. She was amazing.

There are a great deal of things in life that terrify us. Some things we should be scared of, but other fears are only in our minds. Often, we become so obsessed with what might happen that we convince ourselves to never to take a risk, to stay with what is comfortable or safe, and let the world pass us by. If we never try to confront our fears, or look beyond them, we limit ourselves and let our fear control us. Patti loved the first zip-lining experience so much that we went again, and she was able to enjoy herself. She did not look terrified, she looked exhilarated.

First Christian Church will be undergoing a great deal of change in the next few years. We are looking at major changes for our staff, the ministries that we participate in, and the programs we support. For many this can be terrifying. We are moving into the unknown and that always causes fear. Yet, the church has always continued in the face of difficulty and change because we worked together and sought God's will for our congregation, not our own. We have already made several courageous decisions. I am amazed and humbled by the faith of this church. Together we will walk out into the unknown, let our great Guide buckle us in, and then wait for the ride. I guarantee you; it will be worth it. Thanks be to God, Amen.

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 31**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

**IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
UP-TO-DATE?**

We will be producing an updated Church Directory in September with names, addresses, phone numbers, and family email addresses. We can list up to two phone/cell phone numbers (if you are providing two numbers, please attach a name to each number) and one email address per family. **If we do not hear from you by Friday, September 15**, we will publish the information you provided in the February 2023 Directory. To update your information, please call 256-881-0150 or email office@fcc-hsv.org **You do not need to contact the Church Office if there are no changes.**

**WOULD YOU LIKE A
NAMETAG?**

Some people have expressed an interest in having nametags at church. Please contact the Church Office, office@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150, if you would like a clip-on nametag.

**Your
Name**



**First
Christian
Church**

Huntsville, Alabama

Tags are 1 3/4" x 2 1/2"

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Union Christian Church, Tuskegee, AL
Mt. Moriah, Leothatchee, AL

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Rick & Kay's 45th Anniversary and Kay Shrout's birthday.

SAVE THE DATE!

September 24th will be Love Thy Neighbor Sunday. The Evangelism committee hopes that you will invite your neighbors (friends, family, and community) to worship with us. More information to follow.

ATTENDANCE

Aug. 13: In-Person Worship Service: 114
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 124
Aug. 20: In-Person Worship Service: 95
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 35

WONDER-FULL WORLD!

2023 Disciples Women Fall Retreat
4-H Center, Columbiana, AL

Register online at alnwfdisciples.org/womens-retreat-registration or with forms available in the Commons Area. Contact Mary Ann Anderson for more information.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

2023-24 Program Kickoff
Sunday, August 27, 2023

1030 am following Worship service
FCC Commons Area

All women of the church are invited for fellowship and to explore our opportunities for study and service.

The Men's Bible Study class will restart this September 6th from 6 - 7 PM in the Parlor at First Christian Church. We will be watching and discussing the third season of *The Chosen*. We watch an episode together one week and then discuss the next week. We would love to have you come and join our group discussion.

I would like to thank my church family for all of your cards, prayers, phone calls, & gift cards.
Marie Bittle

Our next home will be scheduled in the Fall and should be in the new Habitat Village on Meridian. If you want to participate, you will need to attend a zoom or in-house safety program. Please contact me so I can schedule you for a future program.

Thank you, Bob Senn
Your FCC Habitat Representative

Are you up to the challenge of starting a new, beneficial habit? Why not start a new habit this Sunday? Bring one food item for the food pantry cart located in the Narthex. Of course, more donations would be better.

As inflation continues to grow, many families are suffering from food shortages. Our food pantry cart is located to the right as you enter the church. Can you help your neighbor?