



A TIME OF REST

We have just celebrated Labor Day weekend. Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. It is a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. For many, it is the last weekend of the summer, and offers one more three-day weekend before the push of school, fall, and a long stretch of routine and rush. Many folks make this a picnic weekend, a last trip for camping, going to the beach, or seeing Grandparents. However, we should also take this as a time for giving thanks, remembering, and sharing together what we have accomplished in the last few months, and looking to what the future holds.

I hope that you had time to take a break during this holiday weekend, and to focus on your own spiritual renewal. I feel close to God in church and when I am around other people, but I learn more about my relationship with God when I am alone, when I have time to pray, when my mind can wander, and when I can hear the voice of God in nature or in the stillness.

We all need time to reflect and rest, in the scriptures it was mandated and called the Sabbath. The Sabbath was more than the day you went to the temple, it was an opportunity to devote an entire twenty-four hour cycle to God. During that time the Jewish people were called to pray, worship, study, share, take time with family and yes, rest, just as God did on the seventh day.

I wonder if we have lost this sense of Sabbath in our world. Even when we are not at work we are still working, answering email, texts, and phone calls, or completing projects we did not have time for in the office. Or we find work at home, mowing the lawn and trimming the bushes, fixing the gutters, or completing the list we started a few weeks ago. When do we find time to rest and to open ourselves to God?

I hope in the weeks ahead you will find time for Sabbath rest, a time to renew your faith and listen for God's voice. It may be in nature, or in your home, it could even be in church, but wherever you choose, allow the Spirit of God fill you, so that you will be refreshed, and then let God's call guide you so that you can spread the good news of Christ in all that you do. I hope you will share your Sabbath experiences with your church family and with me in the days ahead. Thanks be to God, Amen.

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 email office@fcc-hsv.org or call 256-881-0150. **You do not need to contact the Church Office if there are no changes.**

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month. The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, September 14**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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Telephone: 256-881-0150



**LONG TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Not Published Online

Christian Women’s Ministries service project for September is Hope Place. Hope Place is an agency of Crisis Services of North Alabama that provides emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, etc. for victims of domestic violence and their children. Please join our Circle members in supporting this worthy cause during September. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting “Hope Place” and the amount.
Thank you, Nancy Woodall

Save the Date! Property Work Day.
Saturday, September 23, 9:00 am.
Fall cleaning and landscaping work.

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 lists.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
New Hope Christian Church, Leothatchee, AL
Azalea Hills Christian Church, Mobile, AL

SUNDAY’S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of the FCC Quilters for their outreach program and in honor of all FCC volunteers.

Community Outreach supports Title 1 schools with needs for girls without monies to buy feminine hygiene products. The schools include Morris School.
CO would like to have regular donations of hygiene products such as:
• Sanitary pads. Sanitary pads are great for younger girls.
• Period underwear. Period-proof underwear is a relatively new period product. It looks and feels like regular underwear.
CO has a collection site in the church and will deliver the donations to the Health Officer, Jana Mason or Elizabeth Fleming at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They would distribute the donations as needed at the schools.
This past summer, 22 items were delivered to the central office. Let’s keep the box full.
Margaret J. Vann

**FINANCIAL AID FOR NEEDY ADULTS,
THE FORGOTTEN ONES**

For our September project, Community Outreach is requesting donations for the Adult Services Unit of DHR and Enable (formerly CASA) to be used throughout the year in their work with needy adults, most with mental or physical limitations. Many are at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. This is often a forgotten population but one that is often in desperate need, particularly in these difficult times. Checks can be made to FCC with “CO September Project” in the memo line. The project will go through the end of the month. Your support will make a difference as these organizations help our community’s vulnerable adults.

Thank you for caring.

The Men's Bible Study Change. Class will re-start this September 13th 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.

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"

Abigail Circle

This circle for young women meets on Saturday mornings at a local coffee shop for devotional time and fellowship.

Naomi Circle

"A circle/safe space to support bereaved women." This group meets Second Wednesdays at 6 pm at First Christian Church.


Phoebe Circle

This circle was started for women who needed or preferred to meet in the evening. It meets on 1st Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. at First Christian Church.



Esther Circle

This is a daytime circle for women of all ages. It meets the second Monday morning of each month at 9:30 AM at First Christian Church.



Christian Women's Ministries

SMALL GROUPS

The goal is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education, and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Quilter & Crafters

"Peace by Piece" is our quilting group that meets at First Christian Church every Monday at 10 AM.

Prayer Shawl

This Ministry presents hand-made shawls to those in the congregation facing serious health problems or life-altering situations.



Lois and Eunice Circle

A new circle for intergenerational mothering.

Fleming Farms Circle

This is an opportunity for the residents of Fleming Farms and the ladies of FCC to share their faith, blessings, concerns, and prayers.