



## REST AND REFLECTION

Whenever I saw someone last week the first question out of their mouths was, “How was your sabbatical?” and my answer was, “It was good.” Of course, after that exchange, I would share a few details about what happened. Some wanted a full list but most asked if I was rested and ready to return to work. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to take a sabbatical and I want to share some of my experiences with you however, I also want to hear about your experiences. A time of sabbatical is not just for a pastor it is also for the congregation. As the suggested guidelines for “Sabbatical / Renewal Leave for Pastors in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)” suggests, “the congregation will benefit from the opportunity to reflect on its mission and ministry, experience different gifts of leadership and perhaps discover their own unique areas of ministry.” I hope that you were able to spend time reflecting on your ministries and how we can work together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and build the Kingdom of God together.

During my time away, I wanted to read, rest, study, and reflect. The good news is the pile of books in my office, which was transported to my home, is smaller and I was able to find time to pray and engage in the spiritual disciplines of meditation and Prayer of Exam. I searched for new ways to deepen my relationship with God and in doing so discovered that this must become a priority in my life. As a pastor it is often very easy to take on too much and to move from meeting to meeting and event to event, with very little time to reflect on your own spiritual journey. If I am to minister successfully to our church and community I need to be spiritually fed as well and this means taking time to pray, study, and open myself to the voice of God.

I have been back at work for over a week now, and I still feel renewed. I will be making some changes in my life, spending more time with my family, giving myself time to explore new and old hobbies, continuing to rest and relax, reading more, and opening myself to new experiences through the lens of Christ. What truly struck me about this sabbatical is the joy I found in my life, the fact that I am not alone in my faith, and my readiness to come back with fresh ideas and new energy. I hope you found the same, Amen.

### **CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH and Our Journey to the Future!**

On Saturday, October 8, at 3:00 pm, Dr. Rolf Goebel will have an organ recital on our wonderful Allen organ in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, October 9, our Interim Regional Minister Rev. Dr. Dale Braxton will be our main speaker. We will have a reception at 11:00 am following our 9:30 am worship service with special music.

Please join us in celebrating our church and history!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 15**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sept. 7 5:30 pm Wednesday night supper  
6 pm Kids, Chi Rho, CYF  
Men's Group  
Phoebe Circle  
7 pm Choir
- Sept. 8 10 am *Women of the Bible Speak*  
6pm Board Meeting
- Sept. 9 5:30 pm Parent's Night Out
- Sept. 11 10:30 am CWM Naomi Circle  
11:45 am Community Outreach  
3 pm Pickleball
- Sept. 12 9:30 am Esther Circle  
10:30 am Quilters  
5 pm Conveners' Meeting



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



## Not Published Online

### AL/NWFL DISCIPLES WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

September 23-25, 2022, at Rolling Hills  
Conference Center, Calera, AL  
Theme: "Wonder-Full World"

Resource Leader: Rev Ayanna Garrett,  
Associate Dean of Student Life, Christian  
Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN  
Register/pay at [www.alnwfldisciples.org/  
womens.retreat.registration](http://www.alnwfldisciples.org/womens.retreat.registration) .

FCC Hsv POC: Mary Ann Anderson at  
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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.

Weekly prayer concerns are published in the Sunday bulletins. Send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150 to leave a message.

**Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

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

### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Mt. Moriah, Letohatchee, AL  
New Hope, Letohatchee, AL

### ATTENDANCE

**August 21** Worship Service: 55  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 18  
**August 28** Worship Service: 66  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 18  
**September 4** Worship Service: 64  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 15



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of Brad & Pam Clasgens

## SAVE THE DATE

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 14TH 5 TO 7PM

All Church & ECM Families Dinner- serving Fried Chicken & Tater Tots. Asking Church families to share a salad. Desert by ECM families. Please help us welcome these families to our church.

Thanks, John Hall

### COMMUNION SERVERS WANTED!

I'm working on organizing our return to the table, and I would be grateful to hear from anyone who is willing to serve in this way. I'll start pulling together a schedule that we can plan to, and we'll also organize some orientations to go through what needs doing and when. It's worth noting that everyone's schedules are busy, and often fluid, so we'll update that schedule as folks might need to switch out weeks for trips and illness.

Thanks in advance, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Andy Herron

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### HABITAT HOUSE NO 28 UPDATE

The walls were painted twice on August 27. (primer and final coat). We had 10 Boeing employees who helped on that day. The floor was scraped clean and the garage door installed on Tuesday, August 30. Next up is floor tile installation.

Thanks for your support with this mission of our church.

Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC

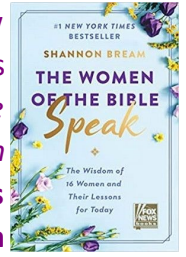
### HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEEDS

Pancake mix (just add water) & syrup, One pound bags of dried beans & rice, Shelf-stable mix in cartons, Spaghetti sauce & noodles, Peanut butter & jelly, Canned foods ( NO green beans & corn at this time), Instant Potato flakes (just add water kind), Canned fruit (NO pumpkin or cranberry), Oatmeal (individual packets), Paper towels, Toilet paper, Baby diapers in sizes 5,6, &7, Pull-ups for toddlers sizes 4T & 5T, and New cloth bags with handles.

Please place items on the Food Cart in the Sanctuary Narthex/Lobby. Thank You!

## NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASS FORMING

Announcing the start of a new Bible Study in September, using as our text: *The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today*. This seven week study will meet on **Thursdays at 10 am in the Family Services Room beginning September 8th**. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Fitzgerald at 256-\*\*\*\*\* or \*\*\*\*\*



### YOUNG ADULTS

Join us **September 18th** for an interactive Sunday School and brunch. There will be a children's table with Pastor Laura teaching about blessings. The Young Adult table will talk about future activities and studies. Looking forward to seeing you all on September 18th at 10:30.

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:00 pm. They will be studying and watching "The Chosen" videos and using the accompanying study guide.

Dental appointments are normally not a fun visit for most children. HEALS Clinics have tried to change this expectation by providing a reward to every child after a dental procedure.

The Community Outreach project for the dental clinic reward box was able to provide 153 toys and \$147.00 for later rewards. Your donations made an awesome way to start the year.

Thank you for your generous support.



This QR code is linked to the Church's PayPal giving page for your convenience.