



The Journey

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OUR JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

As you can see by the calendar and the articles within the newsletter the next few months are going to be a busy time for First Christian Church. It seems as if the season of fall is always labor intensive not only in the church but in our community as well. The air gets cooler and projects that were put off during the heat of summer are now taken up again. Harvest time is approaching, school is in full swing, and businesses look ahead to the rush of the holiday season.

For some, fall brings a sense of renewal. This may seem strange because fall is the time when most plants become dormant and leaves fall from the trees which is in direct contrast to the explosion of new growth that we find in spring, but the busyness of the season also signals hope for the future like the seeds that are prepared for the coming cycle of growth

At First Christian Church we are looking ahead to the future by remembering the lessons of the past and relishing the joys of the present. We know that there is information to be gained from both, but also that we must continue to develop our mission and our spiritual relationship with God. Our 75th Anniversary celebration is important not just because it will focus on the last 75 years, but also on the expectation that there will be 75 more. In the next years and decades, what will we celebrate as a congregation? Where is the Spirit of God leading us and how can we better serve our community?

Therefore we invite all to worship and rejoice with us on October 8th and 9th as we celebrate the history and the mission of First Christian Church. On Saturday there will be an organ recital featuring Dr. Rolf Goebel and then Sunday join us for a special worship service with Rev. Dale Braxton, our Interim Regional Minister, preaching. Afterward, there will be a reception and opportunities to view pictures, read the stories of members and reminisce. Come and experience our delight and become a part of our mission as we continue to follow in the footsteps of God.

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 a special 10:00 am worship service.

Please join us in celebrating our church and history!

On Saturday, October 8, at 3:00 pm, Rolf Goebel will perform an organ recital at First Christian Church. The concert is part of the Church's 75th anniversary celebrations. On the program will be music by Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Renaissance composers, and an improvisation. The event is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, September 29**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

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. We will also have the 25th Anniversary/Rededication of the playground Ark.

Thanks, John Hall

October Birthdays

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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



**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 .

FCC Hsv POC: Mary Ann Anderson at

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Azalea Hills, Mobile, AL
First Christian, Pensacola, FL

Community Outreach (CO) is supporting three schools with needs for girls without funds to buy these products. The schools are Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School

CO is asking for regular donations of hygiene products such as: sanitary pads, tampons, and/or period underwear (period-proof underwear is a relatively new period product that looks and feels like regular underwear.).

CO will have a collection site in the church and deliver the donations to the Health Officer, Jana Mason or Elizabeth Fleming, at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They will distribute the donations as needed to the schools.

Community Outreach will have its first collection on Sunday, September 25. Please consider helping with this needed project.

Margaret J. Vann

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

2022 Special Offering for a Vision of Wholeness

The annual Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received on September 25th and October 2nd.

Reconciliation Ministry is the church wide mission fund which supports programs and program partners that enable full human flourishing for everyone in every community. Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthen our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season.

Paul reminds us in Romans that the breadth of God's coming glory surpasses any present injustice and suffering and that we are God's children, beloved and entrusted with the sacred responsibility to co-create with God. The scripture in Romans 8:19 reads, "The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters" (CEB). We are the beloved God is waiting for. We have a role in revealing God's glory in the here and now. It is our call as the community of faith, the body of believers, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your giving promotes our capacity to respond and to reveal God's love and justice in such a time as this!

You can note "Reconciliation Offering" for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church. Half of your gifts to this special offering stay within the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region.

Please give generously.

Why not start a new habit this Sunday?

Bring one food item for the food pantry cart. Of course, more donations would be better. If each of us could get into the habit of donating each Sunday, the cost would not seem very much in dollars or labor. Are you up to the challenge of starting a new, beneficial habit?

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?

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN OCTOBER

Our sister Disciples of Christ church in Huntsville, Grateful Life Community Church, provides ministry, food, clothing, tent housing, blankets, reading glasses, bikes, over-the-counter medicines, and toiletries to those within our community who have little in the way of material goods. Also, at this time, Grateful Life is searching for a place to worship together. In October, please give generously to this local need. Make your check to FCC with 'Grateful Life' in the memo line.

Thank you,

Lynn Abernathy and Community Outreach

Christian Women's Ministries ladies: Are you blessed? Do you have a Blessing Box handy to make your thankfulness tangible? The beginning of a new Christian Women's Fellowship year is a great time to start or reinvigorate dropping a coin into your blessing box each time you are thankful for something. Blessing Boxes are available on the desk in the Narthex. Blessing boxes will be collected in the spring. Circles may also pass the blessing box during Circle meetings. There are many ways to participate.

Sue Seward, BB coordinator

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

ATTENDANCE

September 11 Worship Service: 83
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 74
September 18 Worship Service: 77
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 80

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| October | | | | | | |
| 2 Youth Mission Clean Camp Chandler World Communion Sunday Reconciliation Offering 3 pm Pickleball | 3 Youth Mission Clean Camp Chandler School Fall Break 10:30 am Quilters | 4 School Fall Break | 5 School Fall Break No Wednesday night meals or groups. 7 pm Chancel Choir | 6 School Fall Break 10 am <i>Women of the Bible Speak</i> Study | 7 School Fall Break | 8 3 pm Dr. Rolf Goebel organ recital |
| 9 10 am Worship 11 am 75th Anniversary Reception | 10 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters 5 pm Conveners' Meeting | 11 6 pm Elders' Meeting | 12 10:15 am ECM Worship 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men's Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study • Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir | 13 10 am <i>Women of the Bible Speak</i> Study 6 pm Board Meeting | 14 5 pm ECM & FCC Picnic and 25th Anniversary/ Rededication of the Ark | 15 10:15 am Non-Church Group |
| 16 10:30 am Community Outreach • Interactive Worship • Pumpkin Patch Outing 3 pm Pickleball | 17 10:30 am Quilters | 18 6 pm Abigail Circle | 19 10:15 am ECM Worship 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men's Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir | 20 10 am <i>Women of the Bible Speak</i> Study | 21 | 22 |
| 23 3 pm Pickleball | 24 10:30 am Quilters | 25 | 26 10:15 am ECM Worship 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men's Bible Study • Kids & Youth Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir | 27 10 am <i>Women of the Bible Speak</i> Study | 28 | 29 |
| 30 3 pm Pickleball 5 - 7 pm Trunk or Treat | 31 10:30 am Quilters | | | | | |