



The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 20
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“YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL, MY CUP BRIMS OVER.” Psalm 23:5



FCC’s stewardship campaign begins October 22 and ends November 12, 2023. The overflowing cup will be a visual symbol of the overflowing of God’s blessings in our lives. Each of the next four Sundays, members of the congregation will share how God has poured out blessings in their lives. You will receive a letter with an estimate of giving card (so vital in planning the work of the church), read Journey articles, hear inspiring sermons and music in worship, and hopefully will take time to reflect on your response to God’s outpouring of love.

So how has God poured your cup to the brim and how do God’s blessings overflow in your life? Sometimes it is very difficult to see that overflowing when so much looks bleak around us or when we feel unworthy of God’s blessings. We turned again this year for inspiration to Joyce Rupp’s book, *The Cup of Our Life*:

“I am ever amazed how God keeps on extending care and kindness to me no matter how I feel or think, no matter what mood I am in, no matter how loving or nasty I am. God keeps offering welcoming love and abiding peace to me. God is quite astounding... always filling my life with grace and goodness, always enriching my life with all that I need for my spiritual path. In a way, God’s love is like having a ‘bottomless cup.’ I can drink and drink from the abundance of God and there is still more love to be poured into my heart.”

Luke 6:38 tells us how our response is measured in turn: “For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

We invite you in the coming weeks to reflect each time you pour into a cup, a bowl, or a glass, to remember how generous God is in filling your life with blessings. When you watch the Elder at the communion table each week pour the fruit of the vine into the chalice, remember the sacrifice God made of His son Jesus for us. Watch as we pour water into the cup to overflowing to signify God’s generosity. And reflect on these blessings as you consider your gifts back to your church for the coming year.

Join us in praying this prayer from Joyce Rupp: “Extravagant God, Generosity beyond comprehension, Bestower of all that I need, Thank you for the immensity of your kindness. Praise to you for the endless outpouring of your love. My being proclaims your goodness.”

Blessings to you all,
Sue and Jeff Seward,
2024 Stewardship Campaign Co-chairs

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 2**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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Humanitarian crisis from war in Israel and Palestine, earthquakes in Afghanistan and Morocco, flooding in Libya, storms across the United States, Hurricane Idalia in the southeastern US, fires in Hawaii, refugee population increasing around the world. The needs are many. And we can help.

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), *Week of Compassion* works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

Each February, Disciples of Christ collect a special offering for *Week of Compassion*. This year, our congregation is collecting again throughout October to ensure that funds are available whenever needs arise.

You can note "Week of Compassion" for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church.

Please give generously.

Karen Ball, Outreach Co-Chair

SUPPORT THE CWM OCTOBER PROJECT

The Christian Women's Ministry's community project for October is support for the Neaves-Davis Center for Children. The Neaves-Davis Center houses juvenile court intake and probation services, detention services, community service programs, and the community placement and supervision program. Additional programs for detained juveniles include food services, medical services, recreational services, and library services. Religious services and activities are also provided, partially funded through community religious groups and civic organizations.

Please join CWM in supporting this worthy service. You may include your donation with your church offering by noting "Neaves-Davis Center" and the amount.

Thank you,
Janet Sholes

HELLO CHURCH FAMILY!

Trunk-or-Treat is quickly approaching! We will be hosting this annual event on **October 29th from 5-7pm.**

I need your help to make this event a success. We will need bags of candy, Halloween themed snack cakes (Little Debbie's), bagged chips, small bottled water, and people to volunteer. Our goal this year is to have 15 trunks decorated and 5 or more games. We also need volunteers to hand out snacks on Grandma Sue's playground and to direct/greet people.

If you want to help or to donate supplies, please reach out to me!

Alyssa Burton, Interim Director of
Children, Youth, Families



Please give a warm FCC welcome to our new members, Emma Coulson & Andrew Ray, by transfer from First Christian Church in Montgomery, AL.

FUN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR ADULTS!

The Senior Adult Retreat will take place Thursday, November 2 and Friday, November 3 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana AL. The rooms are motel-style rooms with a bathroom. Anyone who has attended these retreats will tell you it's lots of fun, you'll meet new people and maybe see someone you haven't seen in a long time. There is a display in the Narthex. If you're interested, please take a flyer from the display. **The room cost is less if you register by October 13.** Please let me know if you decide to attend so we can carpool.

Roberta P. Shivers

Want to start a new spiritual discipline or continue a tradition? Why not keep a "blessing box" handy? You can celebrate blessings large or small on a regular basis by dropping a coin or more in as an intentional, "Thank You, God." You can use your own container or pick up a CWM blessing box (created in 1953) from your circle or from the narrow table in the Commons hallway. Contents will be collected in late March or April to support the Disciples Mission Fund.

SUNDAY'S FOOD BASKETS are given in honor of Clara Green's 2nd birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout, in honor of Stan & Audrey Ball's anniversary by Matt & Karen Ball, and in honor of Kelsi Shrout Green's birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian Church, Montgomery, AL
First Christian Church, Florence, AL
First Christian Church, Tuscaloosa, AL

ATTENDANCE

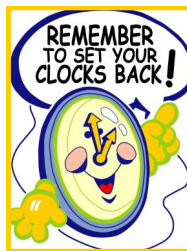
Oct. 8: In-Person Worship Service: 82
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 34
Oct 15: In-Person Worship Service: 95
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 109

Community Outreach supports Title 1 schools with needs for girls without monies to buy feminine hygiene products. 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TO FALL BACK IN NOVEMBER!

Remember to "fall back" by setting your clocks back one hour before going to bed on **Saturday, November 4.**

Birthdays	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group • Men's Bible Study • Phoebe Circle	2 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	3	4
	5 2 am Daylight Saving Time Ends - Fall Back One Hour 9:30 am All Saints Sunday 12:30 pm Youth Group 2 pm Pickleball	6 10:30 am Quilters	7	8 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group • Men's Bible Study • Naomi Circle	9 6 pm Board Meeting	10 Church Office Closed Veterans Day Observed	11 Veterans Day 
	12 Thanksgiving Special Offering 12:30 pm Youth Group 2 pm Pickleball	13 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters	14 4:30 pm Elders' Meeting	15 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group • Lois & Eunice Circle • Men's Bible Study	16	17	18
	19 Thanksgiving Special Offering 10:30 am Evangelism Mtg • Intergenerational small Group 12:30 pm Youth Group 2 pm Pickleball 6 pm Community Thanksgiving Service at Temple B'nai Sholom	20 10:30 am Quilters	21	22 No Wednesday Night Activities	23 Church Office Closed 	24 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	25
	26 12:30 pm Youth Group 2 pm Pickleball	27 10:30 am Quilters	28	29 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group • Men's Bible Study	30		