



The Journey

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LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

In our community, the month of November gives us time to reflect on the many blessings we have received. October was filled with special events in the life of the church, meetings, and other community events, so with November's arrival it is sometimes hard to begin to prepare ourselves for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and the start of a New Year.

It is strange to think that in a few weeks it will be Advent, but before we begin this season of preparation we need to look back at the past year, remember what we have learned, and where we experienced God. This year we have seen growth in participation, commitment, and our understanding of stewardship. On Sunday, November 20th we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday with a wonderful celebration. Over the next few Sundays, you will hear personal testimonies of how First Christian Church has changed the lives of our members and why they have chosen to give back in different ways. We hope that this will help you reflect as you discover how God has blessed you this year and what God is calling you to give in return.

Throughout this year, we have grieved the loss of friends and celebrated the birth of new family members. We have endured COVID-19, repaired the church roof, and renovated our playgrounds and the church building. We have made hard decisions about our budget but have remained committed to our church's mission. We are saying goodbye to our Associate Pastor Laura West, but are looking ahead to new ways to minister to our community just as she is looking forward to new challenges. We have celebrated our 75th Anniversary while envisioning the future and remembering the lessons learned in the past. Through it all, we have remained faithful, loving, and open to new ideas and new understandings of how God works in our lives. We are gaining a vision of the church's direction and how we will accomplish the goals God has put in place for us.

Overall, we have had a year filled with momentous change but also filled with a new sense of hope. Our community is stronger because we have weathered the storm and emerged filled with the knowledge that united by God we can do marvelous things because we are a family of faith, the body of Christ. May God bless you and keep you throughout this holiday season, and let us give thanks to God for all we have received this year, because it has made us who we are here and now, a community of faith who trusts in God, seeks to continue the mission of Christ, and is strengthened by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped with the Ark Celebration on Friday the 14th. We had a great mix of families from church and daycare. A special thanks to Don & Karen Colburn, Matt Ball, Bob Senn & Duffy Boles for helping me complete the Ark Playground. The children love it.

John Hall



Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, November 17**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org
The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of the month.

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THANKSGIVING OFFERING

November and Thanksgiving time each year gives us pause to think about our connection to church-related colleges, universities, seminaries, and graduate schools of theological education. We are committed as a church to excellence in education and nurturing Christian leaders that transform church, society, and world.

In recent weeks Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) has awarded over 57 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate and PhD programs throughout the United States and Canada.

On November 13 & 14, HELM invites you to give generously to the Thanksgiving Offering this year. Each dollar you give will be directed to strengthen the relationship between church and academy and to the formation of leaders that will transform the world for the better. Note Thanksgiving Offering on the memo/note line or your check made out to FCC and place it in the collection plate on Sunday or mail it to the Church Office. You may also designate Thanksgiving Offering if you contribute through PayPal. (fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/).

Thank you for your support.

We send love and congratulations to Melissa McMahon and Solomon Ortega, who were married on October 31, 2022, and wish them a long and happy life together! Melissa is the daughter of Dave & Patty McMahon.

ATTENDANCE

October 23: Worship Service: 50
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 52
October 29: Worship Service: 77
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 43
November 6: Worship Service: 88
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 59

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian, Valhermoso Springs, AL
First Christian, Jasper, AL

This Sunday, November 13, is Children's Sabbath and Young Adult Brunch. **All Young Adults and children** are invited to join us in the Family Services Area after church for brunch. We look forward to a wonderful worship and time together.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

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.



Community Outreach 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.). The donations will support girls at three schools - Huntsville Junior High School, McNair School, Morris School— who do not have funds to purchase these products. A donation site is located in the church Narthex. Please consider helping with this needed project.

Margaret J. Vann



Harris Home
for Children

HARRIS HOME FOR CHILDREN is a non-profit agency in Huntsville that has provided foster care and emergency crisis care for neglected and dependent children in our community since 1954. Harris Home provides full-time foster care, therapeutic care, and educational services to help these children reach their full potential. Currently, all residents are males aged 12-20.

In November, Community Outreach will collect monetary donations as well as cleaning supplies, paper products, laundry supplies, personal hygiene products, first aid supplies, bath towels and washcloths, and sheets, blankets and pillows, etc. to support Harris Home's mission. For a more specific list, see the display in the narthex. Please leave donated items in the basket at the display, or send a check to FCC with "Harris Home" in the memo line or leave it in the offering bowl on Sunday.

For more information about Harris Home's history and mission, please go to harrishomeforchildren.org.

Thank you! Mary Ann Anderson

WELLHOUSE

CWM/AL/NWFL Regional Project for
November



This worthwhile center provides residential and therapeutic programs to female victims of human trafficking. This service was actually started by a survivor of human trafficking who saw the need for such a refuge. It is the largest single-site residential provider for victims in the US. 2020 data from a national hot line showed it to be pandemic-proof. They reported a 22% increase in online recruitment. 42% of victims were brought into human trafficking by a member of their family. In 2021 Wellhouse was able to finance and open a separate house on their campus just for children and teens.

Please take a few minutes to check out their website: www.the-wellhouse.org. While you are there click on "Shop" and see the various items made by trained survivors that are for sale.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this organization.

