



# The Journey

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[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

**Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,  
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind,  
For the Compassionate One guides them,  
takes them to the best springs.**  
~ Isaiah 49:10 (The Message)



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.

For example, through sustainable development projects, partners help provide life-giving water and other critical resources that help communities reinvent and reimagine what is possible. When water comes to a village, people are safer, healthier, and freer to pursue learning and growth opportunities. **Let love flow**, and share more than just water.

**On February 21 and 28, we join Disciples churches across the US and Canada to collect a special offering for *Week of Compassion***, supporting the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. You can note "Week of Compassion" for any amount, whatever your preferred method of donating to Huntsville First Christian Church.

Please give generously.



We have resumed our **9:30 a.m. Sunday in Sanctuary worship service**. The service will be broadcast live to the church parking lot and streamed on line (see next page for streaming information).

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, February 18**, at Noon. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802  
Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

## Sanctuary Service Protocols

- In person worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday school classes, the nursery, children/youth gatherings, coffee, and other hospitality services are currently suspended.
- While FCC and the State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level. Virtual services are offered ([facebook.com/fcchsv](https://facebook.com/fcchsv), [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://twitch.tv/fcchsv), or First Christian Church Huntsville on Youtube) every Sunday.
- **Attendees, including children, will wear face coverings/masks inside the church and practice social distancing (6 feet apart for non-household members) for everyone's safety.**
- Attendance is limited (approximately 75) to the ability to social distance and the service will be broadcast (107.9) to the parking lot in the event of overflow attendance.
- Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors. The doors by the church office will be locked.
- Greeters will provide hand sanitizer to all who enter and provide masks for those who have not brought their own.
- Ushers will seat people down the center/side aisles
- No choir/congregational singing.
- Following the service, rows will **leave by the side aisles** with the east aisle exiting through Family Services and the west aisle through the Narthex doors. (There will be directional signs.)
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Please, **no congregating indoors** before or after service - social distancing outdoors.
- **Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.**
- **Notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.**

## REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

South Baldwin Christian Church  
Foley, AL

## WEEKLY PRAYER CONCERNS

### Not Published On-Line



We are temporarily publishing, as space allows, the prayer concerns that are normally listed in the Sunday bulletins. **Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update.** Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto: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**

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We have resumed in-person worship service but you may still stream live at 9:30 am on Sundays (or watch previous services anytime) on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhuqUnUhCKw)

You may also stream services live on Sundays at 9:30 am, watch previous services, videos for children, and special activities on our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv/videos)

Finally, stream services at 9:30 am on Sunday at: [www.twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv)

## FEBRUARY YOUTH CAN DRIVE

This month the youth's mini-mission is a can drive benefiting the North Alabama Food Bank! The youth have set a goal of collecting 100 non-perishable food items **by the end of February!** Donations can be dropped off at Sunday service or during the church's office hours, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.



We are also working on developing an FCC-HSV Soup and Chili recipe guide in place of the soup and chili cook-off this year! Recipe submissions will be collected until February 21st! You may drop off or mail your submission to the church office or submit your recipe online at <https://forms.gle/UpQYWdy63iarJzG99>



### IN-PERSON SERVICE FEBRUARY 17 AT 6:00 P.M.

Also, streamed live on [facebook.com/fcchsv/](https://www.facebook.com/fcchsv/) videos, [twitch.tv/fcchsv](https://www.twitch.tv/fcchsv) or search on *First Christian Church Huntsville Alabama* on YouTube.



During this time of social distancing, please remember your tithes and offerings. You may use PayPal (click on the Donate button at the bottom of the linked page [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give](https://www.fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give)), drop it off at the church office 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday – Friday (please call first, the person on duty may be in another part of the church or at lunch), or mail to:

First Christian Church  
3209 Whitesburg Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35802

## CWM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY

#### COMMUNITY FREE DENTAL CLINIC

Have you ever experienced a broken or abscessed tooth? If so, you may be fortunate enough to have a dentist you called for help with this health crisis or you may have sort help in an emergency room. If the later is the case, the emergency room is not equipped to help with dental extractions. There are local dentists who try to help with such need based emergencies in their offices when possible, but today's COVID safety concerns make that situation even more problematic.



Madison County, Alabama, is very fortunate to have a not for profit Community Free Dental Clinic available to serve the qualifying adult community. Those residents, 19 and older with incomes equal to or less than 150% of the poverty level, may make appointments for extractions and education leading to improved oral health. The general good health of any adult is so dependent upon the health of the mouth. Please consider financial support of this outreach during the month of February. As we "count our blessings and name them one by one", remember the good oral health blessing.

CWM and Community Outreach thank you in advance for your support of this worthy effort. Donations may be made to First Christian Church by your usually method of giving with Free Dental Clinic noted as the recipient

The 2021 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email [publicist@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publicist@fcc-hsv.org) to select a Sunday to remember or honor a friend, loved one, anniversary, birthday, or other special occasion. Donations are \$25.00, with checks made out to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line, and go to Community Outreach.



## **GOD IS IN THE WATERS**

by Kaji Douša

*“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” - Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)*

I was talking to someone the other day who expressed their discomfort with immersion baptism. “Why does it look like they’re drowning?” she asked. I explained that it’s ... because they are. There’s an ending symbolized in the ritual.

But the gift of baptism and of the resurrection it promises is this: There will always be a new beginning. There is no such thing as an end. Death does not win. The grave has no victory.

And God is in the waters, cooling things down. Bringing the matter from flame-hot to cool-enough to hold tenderly. God is in the cooling, the cleansing, the moment that we arise from holding our breath.

God is in the first step we take when we can safely leave the house unmasked.

God is in the first embrace when we can safely give our at-risk elders who have missed us so much.

God is in the waters, and God is in all these moments of healing. Because that’s what baptism is all about.

My child schooled me about this recently, by the way. She is eager for her own baptism. And my husband asked her, “Well, what does baptism mean to you?” She answered, “It’s like you get to take a shower all day long, forever.” (As you can imagine, she loves showers.)

God is in the shower.

God is in the waters.

God is in the cleansing.

God is in the fresh start.

God is.

And while that incendiary blaze of evil tries to set you off your course and burn the wrong things down, just remember:

God is in the water saying, “Chill. Be calm.”

### **Prayer**

We are yours, God. Amen.