

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It takes its name from the ceremonial imposition of ashes on the foreheads or hands of worshippers as a sign of human sin and mortality.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on **March 5th at 5:30 pm** in the church sanctuary. We will sing, pray, place ashes on our foreheads or hands, and take the communion meal together as we begin our preparation for the coming of Easter.

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

The deadline for the next *Journey* is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 27**, publisher@fcc-hsv.org



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
3209 Whitesburg Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802



The Journey

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“MAN, I HATE THAT THINGS ARE SO BAD THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE A COMMERCIAL ABOUT IT.”

So ended one of the more interesting Super Bowl commercials, with Snoop Dogg and Tom Brady bringing the ugliness of hatred to the public arena. It caught my attention simply because it targeted the increasing level of uninhibited hatred we are seeing and hearing these days. What bothers me about this increasing vitriol, is that much of it seems to come from those of us who otherwise profess to follow the Way of Christ. If this is indeed the case, we have a problem. While it may be human to instinctively feel such deep and intense emotions, we must remember that Jesus calls us to overcome such instincts. You know how it goes in the teachings of Jesus: if someone hits you, don't hit back, but give them the other cheek to hit; if someone takes your coat, give them your cloak, too; if you are conscripted to walk one mile by a Roman, do them one better by going a second mile.

These are all expressions of overcoming instinctive emotions that lead us to our knee-jerk reactions instead of well-reasoned and loving responses.

We follow the One who said,

- “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...”
- When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.”

It doesn't seem that there is much room for hatred when one lives the Way of Christ... there's simply too much love in us, and it is up to those of us who are Christians to speak this love, when hatred is shouted, to live love when hatred is acted, and to embody love when darkness raises its head among us. I invite you to join me in being and living love in such a time as this, that we may draw closer to the present kingdom of God.

Brad

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

Online and In-Person Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Rummage Sale is quickly approaching! We are excited to announce that the Rummage sale will be Saturday, March 1st from 6:00 am-Noon.

Drop off times are:

Sunday, February 23rd: 1:30 am - 3:30 pm
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 10 am-12 pm & 2 pm - 4 pm
 Wednesday: 10 am-12 pm, 2 pm - 4 pm & 5:30 pm- 7 pm.
 Friday, February 28th : 10 am-12 pm & 6 pm-8 pm

No tube TVs/Monitors, mattresses, or box springs.

We will need help organizing and pricing items and would appreciate donations of snacks for our volunteers. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex or email Alyssa@fcc-hsv.org.

SOUP/CHILI COOKOFF RESULTS



Henry's Chili won the very successful Annual Soup/Chili Cookoff. A total of \$984.50 was raised for our Youth Programs.



THE FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Scarlett Green's birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout.

ATTENDANCE

Feb. 9: Worship Service: 91
 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 133
Feb. 16: Worship Service: 90
 Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 53



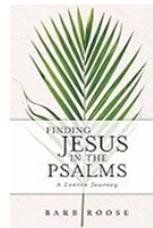
Dear Brad,

First, congratulations on the commencement of your ministry at First Christian in Huntsville. You are clearly joining a congregation of generosity, depth, and commitment to Christ's mission in this world! In 2024 alone, your people increased their giving to Week of Compassion by 50% and joined the other 99 congregations in our top 100 all across the Disciples footprint. As you prepare for the Week of Compassion special offering, I hope you will express our deepest thanks for the ministry we share in bringing hope and help to a hurting world.

In Christ,
 Rebecca Smith,
 Week of Compassion Board Member

LENTEN STUDY

Anyone interested in participating in a Women's Bible study beginning on Thursday, March 6th, please contact Lisa Fitzgerald at 256-bbb-bbbb or lisafitzgerald@999-999-9999 **no later than Thursday, February 20th.** In this Lenten study we will be using as our guide *Finding Jesus in the Psalms – A Lenten Journey*, by Barb Roose. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. -11:30 in the Church Parlor each Thursday for this 6 week study.



REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Pleasant View Christian Church
 Camp Hill, AL
 Pacific Islander Agape Church, Pensacola, FL

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN FEBRUARY

Our Community Outreach project in February is WellStone's Nova Center for Youth and Family, with a focus on its programs for adolescents. WellStone is a non-profit community organization that is North Alabama's largest and most comprehensive behavioral healthcare provider.

The Nova Center for Youth and Families helps teens overcome the psychological, behavioral, and emotional challenges that come with growing up in order to build strong, healthy relationships with themselves, their families, and their community. Nova collaborates with clients, parents, school personnel, and caretakers to develop a treatment plan and provides outpatient counseling to individuals, family therapy, group sessions, school-based services, juvenile court services, and related medical/nursing services.

Go to Services at www.wellstone.com for more information, and please give generously via check or PayPal (fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give), with a note in the memo line for CO WellStone Nova.

Thank you,
 Community Outreach



Eagles 20
Chiefs 33

Pepsi 2
Coke 10

Canned-Food Drive



HEARD AND SEEN

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you
 ~ Philippians 4:9 (NRSV)

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

In Eastern Europe, Week of Compassion continues to engage with individuals and families affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, helping displaced refugee communities experience hope as they resettle in Hungary and other countries. Here in the United States, Week of Compassion takes action immediately and long term following hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters.

Week of Compassion makes an impact around the world, ensuring that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are **Heard and Seen** – and that we respond.

On February 16 and 23, 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. Please give generously with a note in the memo line for "Week of Compassion" on your check or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give.

Thank you!

March 2025

Birthdays

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----|--|---|--|--|---|----------------------------|--|
| 2 | | | | | | | 1 6 am - Noon  |
| 3 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups 12:30 Youth Group 2 pm Pickelball | ECM Open Registration 10:30 am Quilters | Journey Published | 10:30 am ECM Worship No Meal or Groups 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service  | 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Staff Meeting | Young Adult's Mission Trip | Young Adult's Mission Trip Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed! |
| 11 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | Daylight Saving Time Begins Young Adult's Mission Trip 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups 2 pm Pickelball | City Schools Spring Break Young Adult's Mission Ends 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters | City Schools Spring Break 4:30 pm Elders' Meeting | City Schools Spring Break No Meal 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Rehearsal | City Schools Spring Break 9 am Deadline for March 18 Journey 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Board Meeting | City Schools Spring Break | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 27 | 9:30 am Worship & Brad Henderson Installation 10:30 am Small Groups 12:30 Youth Group 2 pm Pickelball | 10:30 am Quilters | Journey Published | 10:30 am ECM Worship 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group •Lois & Eunice Circle •Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Rehearsal | 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Staff Meeting | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | |
| | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | 9:30 am Children's Sabbath 10:30 am Small Groups 12:30 Youth Group 2 pm Pickelball 3:30 pm Organ & Piano Recital | 10:30 am Quilters | | 10:30 am ECM Worship 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Children's Group •Men's Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir | 9 am Deadline for April 1 Journey 10 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Staff Meeting | | |
| | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| | 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Small Groups 12:30 Youth Group 2 pm Pickelball | 10:30 am Quilters | | | | | |