



FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE

I thought I would have more time to draft this article. After all, I have known about the move for weeks. We have been planning this for quite some time and in these last months we have celebrated Advent and Christmas, fun events, countless receptions, dinners, and lunches. Everywhere I go someone wants to say goodbye in their own special way, and it has been meaningful to know how my family and I have touched people's lives. But I still thought I had more time, because it is hard to put into words how I feel about this change.

I should start by saying thank you. Thank you for welcoming my family and me into the church, your families, and your lives. Thank you for easing me in, realizing that I needed to make mistakes, and celebrating the successes. Thank you for treating my family as your family by helping us through some difficult times and caring for my children. Most of all, thank you for sharing your gifts and letting Christ work through you. We have come through a lot together, but the church is stronger and ready for the future.

Sometimes the future can be a scary thing. I have to admit that I am nervous about starting a Regional Minister position in an area I have never lived in before. I know that there will be a learning curve, but I can only hope that the Northern Lights Region will be as supportive as you have been. I also know that First Christian Church in Huntsville can look forward to exciting opportunities. You have a great Interim Pastor and a strong search committee. Rev. Alyssa will guide the children, youth, families and will help with this transition. You also have a vision for what you want to do and who you want to be in the coming years and one thing I know about this church is that when you set your minds to something it happens.

God has blessed us in the past seven years, and you will always have a special place in my heart. Which is why this is not truly a goodbye but a farewell. I look forward to coming back to visit, hearing about the wonderful things you are doing, and seeing where God is leading you. I thought I had more time and in reality, I do, because through the love of God, the presence of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit we will always be united, and you will always be a part of my family of faith.

Thank you and may God continue to bless and keep you,
Amen.



The Rummage Sale is quickly approaching! We are excited to announce that the **Rummage sale will be March 2nd from 6am-12pm**. Drop off times during the week are: **Sunday:** 11:30am - 3:30pm **Monday-Thursday:** 10:00am-12:00pm & 2:00pm - 4:00pm **Friday:** 10:00am-12:00pm & 2:00pm-4:00pm & 5:00pm-7:00pm

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 for this will be located in the Narthex or email alyssa@fcc-hsv.org.

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Monday of the month.
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 29**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org


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Community Free
Dental Clinic
Serving Madison County Adults In Need

Community Outreach and Christian Women's Ministries are seeking

donations, during the month of February, for the Community Free Dental Clinic. Their funding comes from individuals, local businesses, grants and churches. The mission is accomplished with the help of licensed volunteer dentists and fourth year dental students from UAB. The typical patient has broken, painful teeth. Life threatening infections possibly happen without much needed extractions. Emergency dental care is not available in local Emergency Rooms. Please consider supporting this clinic which exists to serve those most vulnerable in our community.



THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is given in honor of granddaughter Scarlett Green's fourth birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
Pleasant View, Camp Hill, AL
Pacific Islander Agape, Pensacola, FL

ALLEN FAMILY SEND OFF CELEBRATION

Help FCC Celebrate the Allen Family with a Send Off Luncheon, February 25th after church service. There are multiple slots available if you would like to bring food or help with set up/clean up for the luncheon. Please sign up at signupgenius.com/go/4090D4FA4AE2AA20-47611337-allen#, or call the Church Office (256-881-0150), or email Stephanie Beutjer at sbeutjer@icloud.com. Please bring food to the Family Services area beginning at 8:30am.

ATTENDANCE
Feb. 11: Worship Service: 100
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 73
Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday Service: 45
Feb. 18: Worship Service: 83
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 18



GIFTS TO LIVE ON

*Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their **gifts** into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.*

*He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had **to live on.**"*

~ Luke 21:1-4, (NRSV)

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.

As one example, after "America's deadliest wildfire in more than a century" rushed along the mountains of Maui, Week of Compassion was there to help. Partnering with Children's Disaster Services, a team of volunteers offered a compassionate response and care focused on children as parents navigated the first days of reaction and recovery. The impacts on communities will be significant and ongoing. Disciples' Week of Compassion continues to engage a network of ecumenical partners and local organizations to make the greatest impact with human and financial resources, in ways that best serve the needs of the affected communities.

In the gifts we bring, others find what they need. In the act of giving, the impact carries beyond the giver. Blessed by God's mercy and multiplied by God's grace, these are truly **GIFTS TO LIVE ON.**

On February 5, 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.

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
 FEBRUARY 2024

Canned:
Fruits (Dollar Tree - \$1.25)
Veggies (no corn or green beans please)
Soups (all kinds)
Chicken
Crackers (saltines appreciated)
Rice and Beans (1-lb bags)

Peanut Butter & Jelly
Toilet Paper
Bar Soap
Cereal

FEBRUARY PANTRY NEEDS

HABITAT NEWS



Next volunteer orientation safety class will be on Saturday, February 24, at 1030 a.m. Contact Bob Senn for the online email address for attendance.

The wall studs were covered with many great notes. I will put them back on display once I have a start date for our home #29.

Bob Senn, Mr. Habitat for FCC



NEW BIBLE STUDY

A women's Bible Study will start on February 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. This six week study will be from the Book of James and is entitled: **Thrive - Living Faithfully in Difficult Times**, by Jennifer Cowart. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Fitzgerald at for more information and to place a book order.



The 2024 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may call the office at 256-881-0150 or email publisher@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 and go to Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give and click on the Donate button.