



# The Journey

Volume XXXI No. 4  
February 20, 2023  
[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## REMEMBERING BAPTISM

It is still winter but spring is beginning to make its presence known. Flowers have begun to bloom in our yard and the deer who roam our backyard have returned, much to our pleasure. Of course when I look at the forecast for the next few weeks I know there is still cold weather on the horizon. Winter has not let go of its grip, yet these past few days are a reminder that spring, and new life, is on its way and it has filled us with hope.

With that in mind we also look at the church calendar. Palm Sunday will be here soon, on February 22, and this means that Easter is right around the corner. For church life this means we get ready for Lenten services, Easter Egg hunts, picnics, and baptisms. Lent began as an opportunity for new Christians to ready themselves for Baptism. They took the 40 days before Easter to study, reflect, pray, fast, and open themselves to a new way of life and a new understanding of faith. In our congregation we also ask young people, who would like to begin their journey of faith, to attend baptism classes and prepare for this celebration. If you have not been baptized, but would like to be, we invite you to join our class or talk to me about individual mentoring.

Every time I am involved in a baptism ceremony I remember my own baptism. I still remember how cold the water was, the look on my father's face, so serious but also filled with joy, how it seemed to take no time at all and then I was walking up the stairs, wet and filled with new hope. I can still remember the baptisms of my children, the looks on their faces, and the joy that I felt as their parent.

This year, I would like for you to reflect on your own experience of baptism or confirmation. What do you remember? What made that day special? How did it change your faith and your connection with God? If you feel led, please share these stories. I am sure there are many who will want to hear about your experience because when they are baptized their lives will become a part of the great story of God's redeeming love, one that we are called to share and one that never ends. Thanks be to God for the gift of baptism, Amen.



Get ready to clean out your closet for a great cause. **Rummage sale collection begins on March 19th! Check the March 6 Journey for more information and drop off times.** Bring your gently used items to be sold to support the youth mission trip this summer. No tube TVs or mattresses or box springs please!

We are also looking for volunteers to sort, price, and work the sale! Contact Alyssa Burton to volunteer (256-881-0150 or [Alyssa@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:Alyssa@fcc-hsv.org)). The rummage sale will take place on March 25th from 6am-12pm in Family Services and McMains.

**SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 3RD**  
ECM Registration for FCC Members

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 16**. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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

### COMMUNITY FREE DENTAL CLINIC

The February local outreach focus for First Christian Church is raising funds for the Community Free Dental Clinic located on Whitesburg Drive. This clinic is a 501(c)(3) non profit with the mission to provide free quality dental care and education to low income, uninsured residents of Madison County. The work is done by appointment only, with extractions and a limited number of cleanings and fillings being the focus.

The poverty level in Madison county is 13.6%. Many of these are elderly on fixed incomes with broken, painful teeth. If left untreated, infected gums or abscesses often result which can be life threatening. Since the clinic opened in 2013, over 8,600 people have been treated including many veterans. Most recently, senior UAB dental students travel to Huntsville three times a year to work in the clinic in supervised settings much as they do at the UAB Dental School in Birmingham. This addition of professional help has greatly expanded the ability of the clinic to fill appointments for those in need.

Please consider the Community Free Dental Clinic as yet another worthy cause to support here in Madison County. Even though the professional services offered are done by volunteers, there is significant overhead necessary with such items as operating cost for the clinic, Personal Protective Equipment for the staff and numbing agents for the comfort of the patient. Thank you in advance for considering this worthy cause. To contribute, make checks payable to First Christian Church with Dental Clinic on the notation line. Nancy Waites

#### ATTENDANCE

**February 12:** Worship Service: 81

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 57

**February 19:** Worship Service: 95

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 74

**SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 25 - 26, 2023**  
Regional Transformation Event

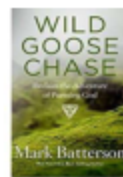


On Saturday, February 25, at 3:30pm, Dr. Rolf J. Goebel will play a recital for the season of Lent on our wonderful Allen organ at First Christian Church. The program includes music of a reflective but uplifting character by J. S. Bach and others. The event is free and open to the public. **Bring a friend and we hope to see you there**

Information: \*\*\*.



#### NEW LENT STUDY



Announcing a new book study beginning February 23, 2023. As we begin the season of Lent, I ask you to please join me in studying and discussing Mark Batterson's book - *Wild Goose Chase*.

In this study, we will take an 8 week look at how we can boldly pursue God and His Holy Spirit (referred to by Celtic Christians as the Wild Goose) in a way that is life transforming. We will meet weekly in the church parlor, Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to discuss each chapter. If you are interested, please call/text me at \*\*\*\*\* or contact me at \*\*. You can find the book (paper back version) on Amazon.com for \$13.49.

Lisa Fitzgerald

#### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Pleasant View Christian Church  
Camp Hill, AL



**THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKETS** are given in honor of Scarlett Green's third birthday and in honor of Jonathan Shrout's birthday by Rick & Kay Shrout



The choir has empty seats and is hoping you will consider joining this small but musical group and help fill those seats. All voices welcome!

Rehearsals will resume Wednesday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Lauren Wilson Carter, Director of Music, at \*\*\*\*\*

Reminder : All voices welcome!  
Worship Committee

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

We are finishing our congregational profile. Your last two opportunities to have input will be Wednesday, February 22 at 5:30 (before the Ash Wednesday Service) or Sunday, February 26 after 10:30 worship. You may also reach out to anyone on our committee if these times aren't convenient. Please continue to pray for our Church as we search for the best fit for our congregation.

Lee Boles- Search Committee Chair

**INTERIM ASSOCIATE MINISTER SEARCH**

This position is intended to be filled on an interim basis while a "search and call" process is underway to fill the above permanent position. A job description for the interim position is available in the church office or online at [www.indeed.com/cmp/First-Christian-Church-Huntsville,-Al/jobs](http://www.indeed.com/cmp/First-Christian-Church-Huntsville,-Al/jobs)

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

We are currently in the process of forming our new Capital Campaign committee. Once complete, the committee will begin organizing opportunities to meet with groups of church members to share information and receive your input on the focus and goals of our campaign.

Thank you!

Clara Reed-Lee and Nathan Lee  
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



*Yet it is because I remember all this that I have hope. YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness.*

~ Lamentations 3:12-23, (The Inclusive Bible)

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, in July 2022, eight months after deadly tore across eight states tornadoes in December 2021, two Disciples churches and several community organizations made sure that dozens of children impacted by those storms in western Kentucky spent time outside with friends and caregivers at Sunny Day Camp. Alongside typical day camp activities, trained professionals provided age-appropriate opportunities for processing grief and trauma. These churches put Week of Compassion gifts to work so that churches, communities, and children can rise up anew, together.

On February 19 and 26, 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.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS**

The 5:30 Wednesday night meals have resumed. Remember to contact the church and RSVP if you will be attending by calling 256-881-0150 or email [office@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:office@fcc-hsv.org).

However, there will not be a Wednesday night meal on February 22 due to the 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday service.



## HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### URGENT PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY



Cereal, Shelf-Stable Milk, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Vienna Sausages, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Dried Rice & Beans (1-lb bags), Chef Boyardee (all kinds), and Toilet Paper. Please place items on the cart in the Narthex.

Community Outreach (CO) 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

## NEW BOOK BOXES

Hope everyone noticed the two book boxes added to the church grounds in the island out front. These are to support our church outreach and evangelism. Please go through your libraries and let's fill them up. The taller one is for adult books. The shorter for children. We will be notifying ECM that they are welcome to use these as well.

Several churches in town do this and it seems to work well. If the need arises these can also be used for cans of soup and bottled water. We will determine along the way the best path but we will start with Christian books. Lets get this out there on our FB page and all venues we announce church efforts/events in. This is just one way we can spread the word of Christ's love. **Please limit your donations to Christian books and Bibles.**



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**The March calendar is on the following page.**

MARCH 2023

Birthdays	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Phoebe Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	2 4:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg	3 ECM registration for FCC members	4
	5 10:30 am Worship Committee •Lent Children’s Worship 2 pm Pickelball	6 10:30 am Quilters 5:30 pm ECM Board Mtg.	7 10 am Fleming Farm Circle	8 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study •Kids & Youth Bible Study •Naomi Circle 7 pm Chancel Choir	9 6 pm Board Meeting	10	11
	12 2 am Leap forward! Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:30 am Community Outreach 2 pm Pickelball	13 9:30 am Esther Circle 10:30 am Quilters 5 pm Conveners’ Mtg	14 6 pm Elders’ Meeting	15 No Meal 6 pm Men’s Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	16	17	18
	19 10:30 am - Noon Rummage Sale Drop-Off 10:30 am Evangelism Meeting	20 Rummage Sale Drop-Off*	21 Rummage Sale Drop-Off*	22 Rummage Sale Drop-Off* 5:30 pm Pizza Meal Rummage Sale work 6 pm Men’s Bible Study 7 pm Chancel Choir	23 Rummage Sale Drop-Off*	24 Rummage Sale Drop-Off*	25 6 am - Noon Rummage Sale
	26 2 pm Pickelball	27 10:30 am Quilters	28	29 5:30 pm Meal 6 pm Taizé Service 7 pm Chancel Choir		*Drop off times to be announced in the March 6 Journey	