



# The Journey

Volume XXXIII No. 5  
March 4, 2025  
[www.fcc-hsv.org](http://www.fcc-hsv.org)

## LOOK UP!

*There, peeping among the cloud-wrack above a dark tor high up in the mountains, Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him. For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach. (J.R.R. Tolkien, The Return of the King)*

You know that I am a fan of Tolkien's writings, and this quote is one reason why. In my well-worn and time-honored copies of Tolkien's Trilogy (which will soon be passed on to my oldest daughter), I have underlined the sentences that strike me in the same way this one star struck the heart of Samwise Gamgee. You can well guess that there is a distinct line of graphite under this passage.

*The beauty of it smote his heart.*

Could something as simple as starlight ever smite those of us who find ourselves living in a realm of shadows? Could beauty move us from pits of despair to a refuge of hope? I believe so. But there's a catch: we must be paying attention. Remember that Sam looked up out of the darkness of the land into which he was journeying, a land that was void of hope and ripe with despair. And yet, though the land was forsaken, Sam looked up and was able to see that tiny point of light which reached all the way onto his darkened path.

Look up.

What do you see?

Is there light in the darkness? Beauty in the messiness of life? Reason to hold on another day and, with hope in our hearts, take yet another step forward?

We, too, believe in the beauty of light, the Light that was formed at the Beginning, Light that is also Love and Life, Light that finds its greatest expression in this Jesus of Nazareth whom we follow. The Light of the World who shines in the darkness and hopelessness. May the beauty of it smite you today.

*Brad*

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Tuesday of the month.  
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 13**. Email to: [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org)

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



## LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



**Not Published Online**



## HUNTSVILLE LEARNING CENTER FUNDRAISER

The Outreach Committee asks you to support the Huntsville Learning Center this month. It is a faith-based organization that serves students Kindergarten through 9th grade in underserved communities. The program focuses on academic support, personal growth, and character development. Students are bussed from their schools to the center to receive a snack, enrichment activities, and help with their homework from 3-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday. They also have a summer camp for students which keeps them engaged and inspired during the summer break as well.

Rev. Alyssa and I recently visited the center before the students arrived. We were able to see each classroom and visit with the teachers. We met with the leadership and heard them speak to their hopes and goals for the center. We came away most impressed with this organization. You can learn more at [www.hsvlc.org](http://www.hsvlc.org)

Please give generously to this worthy by noting HSVLC in the memo line of your check or through PayPal on our website at [fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give](http://fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give).

Thank you in advance for your donation.

### REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Snow Hill Christian Church, Ft. Deposit, AL  
Nisha Warbington, Regional Youth Ministries



**THE FOOD BASKET** is given in honor of Jonathan Shroust's birthday by Rick & Kay Shroust.

### ATTENDANCE

**Feb. 23:** Worship Service: 94  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 32  
**Mar. 2:** Worship Service: 93  
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 57

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. Call the church office at 256-881-0150 or send requests to [publisher@fcc-hsv.org](mailto:publisher@fcc-hsv.org). **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the list.

### 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 worshipers as a sign of human sin and mortality. This ancient tradition, going back at least to the tenth century, communicates the human condition before God by solemn word and sign.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on **March 5th at 5:30 pm** in the 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.

## THANK FOR CARING!

Through your generous support of the Community Outreach project for January (donations for the needs of children in foster care), \$800 was collected. Of that, \$600 in Walmart gift cards was given to the Department of Human Resources Foster Care Unit to help with uncovered expenses and \$200 was donated to the Foster Care Alliance, which also helps with children in care. You are making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in our community!

Thank you!



**March Pantry Needs**

- Cereal** (*Critically Low*)
- Shelf Stable Milk** (*Dollar Tree \$1.25*)
- Spaghetti Sauce** (*canned or plastic please*)
- Mixed Veggies** (*canned*)
- Rice** (1-lb bags)
- Ramen Noodles**
- Toilet Paper**
- Saltines**
- Tuna**

**HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
MATTHEW 25:35

