



The Journey

Volume XXXIII No. 7

April 1, 2025

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THE ART OF REST

*But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God;
I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. - Psalm 52:8*

As I sat in the chair during my first worship service at Lexington Theological Seminary during my in-person classes in 2024, I tried to quiet the chatter in my mind - the endless thoughts about the 400 pages of reading that would soon be covered in class. They wanted us to focus on the worship service, but I found it hard to tune everything else out.

We sang our hymns, and then it was time for the scripture and sermon. The speaker, a professor at the seminary, opened her Bible to Psalm 52 and read the passage. She then delved into a topic we all needed to hear: the importance of rest in the success of our lives and ministries.

At first glance, you might struggle to find the connection between this psalm and the concept of rest. However, the context she provided changed my perspective entirely. She spoke about olive trees and their seasons of growth, focusing specifically on their period of dormancy. From December to February, olive trees rest - a necessary pause that ensures full fruit production in the following season. Without this period of dormancy, fruit production can be drastically affected. In other words, the olive tree needs rest to flourish.

In Psalm 52, the writer compares themselves to a flourishing olive tree, signifying that God has nurtured them, allowed them to rest, and, as a result, brought forth an abundant harvest from their efforts.

Rest is hard. But just as Lent prepares us for the resurrection of Jesus, it also offers us a chance to embrace rest as part of our spiritual preparation. Like the olive tree, may we allow ourselves the rest we need to flourish.

Alyssa



The annual Easter Egg Hunt activities will be on **Palm Sunday, April 13**, following worship service. We will be serving a light brunch for children and families followed by the Easter Egg Hunt.

Property Work Day

Saturday, April 5, 8:00 am - Noon

Volunteers are needed to help "spruce up" the church inside and out prior to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. **Please** contact the office, 256-881-0150 or office@fcc-hsv.org, to sign up.

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 10**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday Service

April 13

Procession of Palms

9:30 am Service

10:30 am Light Brunch
and Egg Hunt



Maundy Thursday Service

Communion and

Tenebrae Service

April 17 at 7:00 pm

Easter Service

April 20

9:30 am Service



HABITAT HOME #30 IS ON THE HORIZON

It is time to start getting ready for our 30th home build. It should start around May 1. Habitat requires all volunteers to attend an orientation/safety program every two years. These are given on the internet by a zoom program in the convenience of your home. Here is the schedule for the next programs:

- #1 Thursday, March 27, at 4:30 PM.
- #2 Saturday, April 5, at 10:30 AM
- #3 Saturday, April 12, at 10:30 AM.

There is a printed schedule handout with the details on how to sign up on the Habitat Bulletin Board in the hallway outside the Parlor.

Contact me if you do not have a computer and I will arrange for you to see the program at church or at the Habitat Office. Let me know if you have a problem with this program and I will help you.



THE FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Matt Ball's birthday by Karen Ball



Celebrate Easter by dedicating a beautiful lily in honor or memory of a loved one. Each dedication is \$20.00, and the lilies will be displayed as part of our Easter worship service at First Christian Church.

To sign up, please fill out the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/ECiKE6pk> or call the church office (256-881-0150).

Dedications must be submitted by Monday, April 14th. Checks can be made to FCC with Easter Lily in the memo line or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give

Please Help those with Learning Disabilities in Huntsville



The Outreach Committee is asking for financial donations for The Arc, an organization that provides multiple services to those with intellectual disabilities. Services are available to many age ranges and include vocational services, early intervention, autism clinic (for young children), and residential services. The residential services provide a comfortable and safe environment for adults with intellectual disabilities in five group homes in Huntsville. The Community Experience program provides educational, vocational, and adaptive skills training for adults. There is a great need for these services and Community Outreach hopes you will help by donating financially during April. Checks can be made to FCC with The Arc in the memo line or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give. Thank you for caring about our intellectually challenged neighbors.



ATTENDANCE

Mar. 23: Worship Service: 94

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 87

Mar. 30 Worship Service: 95

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 91



At the break of dawn, the women came to the tomb, expecting to find the body of Jesus. Instead, they were met with an empty grave and messengers who proclaimed, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"

(Luke 24:5-6).

Inside the tomb, the story changes. Inside the sacred witness of the community gathered to prepare the body of Christ, disciples are moved to wonder. The resurrection fills us with the same wonder that gripped the first witnesses of the empty tomb. It is the wonder of love stronger than death, of hope that defies despair, of a risen Christ whose presence transforms the world.

On Easter, we gather as one body, across many places, cultures, and languages, to celebrate and live inside this wonder together. Through the Easter Special Offering, we respond to the miracle of resurrection by sharing Christ's boundless love in tangible ways. Your gifts support ministries that proclaim that Jesus is alive and active, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth:

- Global mission partners
- Health and social service ministries
- Stewardship education
- The formation of new congregations
- Leadership development programs
- Mental health resources
- Chaplains in hospitals and the military
- Gatherings like the General Assembly
- And so much more...

Please give generously on April 13 and 20.

You can note "Easter Offering" for any amount, by check or our PayPal account by clicking on the Donate button on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give/ Learn more at disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter/.

The **Long Term Prayer Concerns** will be published in the April 15 Journey.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Ministers Under Care
Alabama-Northwest Florida Region



The 2025 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 the Outreach Committee. 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 through this QR code linked to our website.



We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

- 21st Century Vision Team

