



The Journey

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BUDS AND BLOOMS OF LIFE

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." - Ezekiel 37

This is the season when what-shouldn't-happen actually happens. Fields that have rested empty and fallow all winter begin to bring forth crops that will, in time, be laden with fruit for the harvest. Trees and shrubs whose branches have been bare through the cold now begin to bud and bloom. Life has returned where only death seemed to dwell.

As surprised as we often are with the coming of every Spring, we probably shouldn't be. If you think about it, God is continually bringing life out of death. It's what God does. Time and again in the Scripture, barrenness, loss, absence, and death are all turned to life once again. And on no greater occasion do we experience this than on Easter. At Easter, everything is different, and even dry bones can once again be clad with the flesh of new life. (Read the rest of Ezekiel 37 and you'll see)

So, watch out: whatever is "dead" in your life might surprise you with the buds and blooms of life, and where once were only dry bones or even fallow soil, you will see green shoots of renewal. Wherever you are experiencing barrenness, loss, absence, or death, you just might find new life once again. This is the hope and promise of Easter, and it's waiting for you.

Brad



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.



The *Journey* is published on the first and third Tuesday of the month.
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 1**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

LENT & EASTER SERVICES



Maundy Thursday Service

Tenebrae Service
April 17 at 7:00 pm

Easter Service

April 20
9:30 am Service



HABITAT HOME #30 IS ON THE HORIZON

Get ready to learn how to repair your home from the ground up by building one from scratch. You will need to first attend an Orientation Program by zoom meeting. The next programs are scheduled as follows:

1. Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 am
2. Saturday, May 10, at 10:30 am
3. Thursday, May 22, at 4:30 pm

To attend a class, you need to contact Tracy Draper at Habitat to get scheduled. She is at



Once we start on our home, we work on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 8 to noon. You come when you can during those hours.

This information is posted on the Habitat bulletin board outside of the Parlor.

See you soon,

Bob Senn, Mr Habitat for FCC



APRIL PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal, Shelf Stable Milk, Spaghetti Sauce, Rice, Jelly, Toilet Paper, Saltine Crackers, Ramen Noodles, and Dried Beans.



THE FOOD BASKETS are given in memory of Kathryn Shrout and in honor of Karen Ball's birthday by Matt Ball.



EASTER LILIES ARE GIVEN BY:

- Sue & Jeff Seward in Memory of Cheryl Stephens.
- Susan Sulkowski in Memory of Johnie & Bess Smith
- Max & Susan Sulkowski in Memory of Milton & Mary Jane Sulkowski
- Greg & Brenda Perkins in Memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs T.A. McAnally & E. S. Perkins
- Robert Mead in Memory of Margo Mead
- Robert Mead in Memory of Mary Ann Mead
- The Beutjer Family in Memory of Bill & Irene Beutjer
- The Beutjer Family in Memory of Jessie Bell, Martha & Neual Braly
- The Beutjer Family in Honor of Margie Braly

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

Apr. 6: Worship Service: 79
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 62
Apr. 13 Worship Service: 131
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 165



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 pro-

claimed, "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/.



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Listed Online

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

