



The Journey

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LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF

Matthew 7:12 reminds us of what many call the Golden Rule: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets." Jesus could not have been clearer about how we are called to treat those around us - with the same dignity and care we would hope to receive ourselves.

Over the past two weekends, FCC has been living out this teaching in powerful ways. On September 7, forty-six people came together to pack hygiene bags for our neighbors in need. These were gratefully received by Shower-Up, a ministry working with Manna House to provide safe and clean mobile showering facilities for those experiencing homelessness. Then, this past Saturday, a group from FCC traveled to Manna House to serve a hot meal, organize a clothing closet, and share communion with those who gathered for worship on the loading dock of the food distribution warehouse. This time of service and worship was not only meaningful for those receiving care, but also deeply enriching for those who came to give of their time and compassion. These two events are just the beginning. They are a glimpse of the love and care that can ripple outward long after our Love Thy Neighbor Campaign ends.



I invite you to discover a cause that stirs your heart - jump in, serve, and share. When we serve those around us, we are serving God. Let us go forth and spread the hope of God to everyone we meet.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Alyssa

SAVE THE DATE!

September 21st is Love Thy Neighbor Sunday! The Evangelism committee hopes that you will invite your neighbors (friends, family, and community) to worship with us and join us for a pot luck lunch.

There are several openings for the Pot Luck. Call the Church Office (256-881-0150) or go to www.signupgenius.com/go/9040949AFA728A1FD0-58093914-love# if you would like to bring food or drinks or help with set up or clean 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, October 2**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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**BEYOND BROKENNESS –
BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY**

“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ... We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, NIV

Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 5 are nothing short of revolutionary. He invites us to see the world no longer “from a human point of view,” but through the lens of God’s new creation. In Christ, the old order—built on rivalry, suspicion, and estrangement— has been decisively overturned. God’s reconciling work is about transforming the way we live together here and now. To belong to Christ is to belong to this ministry—a vocation in which our every word, every action, is shaped by the message that God has already made peace with the world through Jesus. And because God has entrusted to us this ministry of reconciliation, the Church becomes the main organization of God’s new creation in a fragmented world.

The annual Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received on September 28th and October 5th (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Half of your gift remains with the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region.

Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide education, programming, and service through grants:

1. to General Ministries working across the whole church to move beyond brokenness.
2. to congregations, camps, and conferences that receive a grant from their region that are actively developing and implementing programs that dismantle racism and build beloved community.

With your vital support, leaders and congregations are being equipped to witness to God’s reconciling love in this time and this season.

You can support this ministry with a donation noting “Reconciliation Ministry” for any amount, by check to FCC or our PayPal account by clicking on the Donate button on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give or using the QR code. Please give generously.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

United Christian Church, Montgomery, AL
Westwood Christian Church, Pensacola, FL

CONDOLENCES to the family of Ruth Lackey, who passed on Saturday, September 13.

FALL WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING

For any women interested, a new Bible study will begin in September. In this 10-week study we will be using Adam Hamilton’s *Words of Life - Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments*.

The study group will meet each Thursday at 10:00 am in the church parlor **beginning September 25th. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lisa Fitzgerald by September 15th at lkfitzgerald0@gmail.com or 256-508-4837.**

FINANCIAL AID FOR ADULTS IN NEED

For our September project, Community Outreach is requesting donations for the Adult Services Unit of DHR and Enable (formerly CASA) to be used throughout the year in their work with needy adults, most with mental or physical limitations. Services range from building ramps and weatherization of homes to homemaker services and supplying medical equipment. Many are at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation. This is often a forgotten population but one frequently in need of services. Checks can be made to FCC with “CO September project” in the memo line for any amount, by check to FCC or through our PayPal account by clicking on the Donate button on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give. The project will go through the end of the month. Your support will make a difference as these organizations help our community’s vulnerable adults. Thank you for caring.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

Come join us Wednesday nights for an evening of fellowship and study. We have a meal at 5:30 followed by a Children’s Group, Men’s Group, Women’s Circles (first Wednesday Phoebe, second Wednesday Naomi, and third Wednesday Lois & Eunice. Esther Circle meets second Mondays at 9:30 am.), and a Roman’s 12 Study Group at 6:00. Call 256-881-0150 for meal reservations.

ATTENDANCE

Sept. 7 Worship Service: 106
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 124
Sept. 14 Worship Service: 115
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 71