



LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

In our community the months of October and November give us time to reflect on the many blessings we have received. October is busy because of special events in the life of the church, meetings, and other community events but when November arrives sometimes it is hard to begin to prepare ourselves for the season of Advent, Christmas, and the start of a New Year.

It is strange to think that in a few weeks it will be Advent, but before we begin this season of preparation we need to look back at the past year, remember what we have learned, and where we experienced God. This year we have seen growth in our membership, commitment, and understanding of evangelism. On September 24th we celebrated Love Thy Neighbor Sunday and had several families visit our congregation. Throughout October we will have special events, like our trip to Lyons Family Farm on October 15 or our Trunk of Treat on the 29th, that will allow visitors and members alike to fellowship and celebrate together.

Throughout the past year we have grieved the loss of friends and celebrated the birth of new family members. We have a new roof, have painted many areas, fixed ceiling tiles, installed new doors, and new equipment. We have made hard decisions about our budget but have remained committed to our church's mission. We are said goodbye to our Associate Pastor and welcomed a new Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Young Families, and are looking ahead to new ways to minister to our community. We have looked ahead to the future while remembering the lessons learned in the past. Through it all, we have remained faithful, loving, and open to new ideas and new understandings of how God works in our lives. We are beginning to gain a vision of where we want our church to go and how we will accomplish the goals God has put in place for us.

Overall we have had a year filled with momentous change but also filled with a new sense of hope. Our community is stronger because we have weathered the storm and emerged filled with the knowledge that united by God we can do marvelous things because we are a family of faith, the body of Christ. May God bless you and keep you throughout this season and let us give thanks to God for all we have received this year, because it has made us who we are here and now, a community of faith who trusts in God, seeks to continue the mission of Christ, and is strengthened by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN OCTOBER

Our sister Disciples of Christ church in Huntsville, Grateful Life Community Church, provides ministry, food, clothing, tent housing, blankets, reading glasses, bikes, over-the-counter medicines, and toiletries to those within our community who have little in the way of material goods. Also, at this time, Grateful Life is searching for a place to worship together. In October, please give generously to this local need. Make your check to FCC with "Grateful Life" in the memo line.

Thank you, Lynn Abernathy & Community Outreach

The *Journey* is published on the **first and third Monday** of the month.
The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, October 12**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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Telephone: 256-881-0150

**LONG TERM
PRAYER CONCERNS**



Not Published Online

Long term prayer concerns are published once a month in the *Journey*. **Please** keep the church office informed of the status of individuals you put on the list.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Velma Strong who passed on Wednesday, September 20 and the family of Stan Brockway, father of Pam Claugens & Joe Brockway, who passed on Monday, September 25.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian Church, Robertsedale, AL
Grace Christian Church, Helena, AL

Community Outreach supports Title 1 schools with needs for girls without monies to buy feminine hygiene products. CO would like to have regular donations of hygiene products such as:

- Sanitary pads. Sanitary pads are great for younger girls.
- Period underwear. Period-proof underwear is a relatively new period product. It looks and feels like regular underwear.

CO has a collection site in the church and will deliver the donations to the Health Officer, Jana Mason or Elizabeth Fleming at Huntsville City Schools Auxiliary Office on Bob Wallace. They would distribute the donations as needed at the schools.

This past summer, 22 items were delivered to the central office. Let's keep the box full.

HELLO CHURCH FAMILY!

Trunk-or-Treat is quickly approaching! We will be hosting this annual event on **October 29th from 5-7pm.**

I need your help to make this event a success. We will need bags of candy, Halloween themed snack cakes (Little Debbie's), bagged chips, small bottled water, and people to volunteer. Our goal this year is to have 15 trunks decorated and 5 or more games. We also need volunteers to hand out snacks on Grandma Sue's playground and to direct/greet people.



If you want to help or to donate supplies, please reach out to me!

Alyssa Burton, Interim Director of
Children, Youth, Families

FUN OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR ADULTS!

The Senior Adult Retreat will take place Thursday, November 2 and Friday, November 3 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana AL. The rooms are motel-style rooms with a bathroom. Anyone who has attended these retreats will tell you it's lots of fun, you'll meet new people and maybe see someone you haven't seen in a long time. There is a display in the Narthex. If you're interested, please take a flyer from the display. **The room cost is less if you register by October 13.** Please let me know if you decide to attend so we can carpool.

Roberta P. Shivers

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Want to start a new spiritual discipline or continue a tradition? Why not keep a "blessing box" handy? You can celebrate blessings large or small on a regular basis by dropping a coin or more in as an intentional, "Thank You, God." You can use your own container or pick up a CWM blessing box (created in 1953) from your circle or from the narrow table in the Commons hallway. Contents will be collected in late March or April to support the Disciples Mission Fund.

ATTENDANCE

Sept. 24: In-Person Worship Service: 127
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 93
Oct 1: In-Person Worship Service: 91
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 80