



The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, for Thanksgiving.

SAVE THE DATE

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8, following Worship Service to discuss and vote on the 2025 Church Budget.

CREATING A WELCOMING CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

Creating a welcoming environment for a new Senior Minister can set the stage for a strong relationship and encourage a positive start to their ministry. Here are a few steps to consider:

1. Congregational Support: Encourage members to pray for and personally welcome the new minister, both during services and in informal settings. It can help to remind members of the importance of hospitality and kindness, especially as the minister adjusts to their new role and congregation.

2. Team Collaboration: Establish a small committee or support team to assist with the minister's transition. This team could help with administrative needs, introduce them to key church members, and provide a direct line of support.

3. Warm Welcome Events: Organize welcoming events, like a special luncheon or open house, where church members can greet and introduce themselves. These gatherings foster a sense of fellowship and can create lasting memories for both the minister and the congregation.

4. Clear Expectations and Open Communication: Ensure that expectations are clear and realistic, allowing space for the new minister's personal ministry style. Open and respectful communication about church culture, values, and goals can help foster trust.

5. Highlighting Resources and Local Networks: Show them around the church facility and familiarize them with local resources, colleagues, and community leaders. This practical support can alleviate some initial stress.

6. Personal Connection Opportunities: Encourage members to invite the minister for informal coffee meet-ups, dinners, or small group gatherings. This can help them feel genuinely valued and connected to the church family.

These steps can help make First Christian Church a place where the new Senior Minister feels not just welcomed but embraced as part of a loving and supportive community.

Pastor Cameron

The *Journey* is published on the first and third Tuesday of the month. The submission **deadline** for the December 3rd *Journey* is **9:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 27**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

FUNKY CHRISTMAS FASHION SHOW!

Hello all! Get ready for a brand-new fundraiser led by the youth group! Introducing the Funky Christmas Fashion show. This fundraiser doubles as a fun event for the entire church. Following the 5:30 meal on **Wednesday, December 4**, join the youth for a night of Christmas cheer and ugly Christmas sweaters to fund Christmas presents for 5 local children. The way the Funky Christmas Fashion show works is that members of the church, children's group, and youth group sign up to dress up in their ugliest, funkiest, most adorable, Christmas outfits and show them off to the congregation in the fashion show of the advent season. The fundraising part of this event happens directly following the runway show when all are invited to vote for their favorite contestant, one dollar is equal to one vote! At the end of this event, we will tally the votes and announce the winner!



Make sure to mark your calendars for **December 4th at 5:30 pm in McMains!** If you are interested in participating in the fashion show or would like to donate towards the shopping please contact Alyssa Burton at alyssa@fcc-hsv.org or sign up on the board located outside of the sanctuary!

Our Habitat Home #29 (3129 Nassau Drive SW, 35805) dedication will be on Saturday, November 23, at 9:00 am.



THE FOOD BASKET is given in honor of John & Jill Hall's anniversary

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
United Christian Church, Montgomery, AL

ATTENDANCE
Nov. 10: Worship Service: 98
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 95
Nov. 17: Worship Service: 116
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 45

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN NOVEMBER

FIRST STOP, INC.



"First Stop encounters the homeless where they are, connects them to critical services and support, and empowers them toward independent sustainable living." (firststop.org)

In 2001, First Stop was formed through the efforts of the City of Huntsville and the Interfaith Mission Service to serve the homeless population with compassion, respect, and excellence. In 2008 it was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and in 2023 opened a new facility on Stokes Ave.

First Stop partners with the City of Huntsville and other local agencies to offer case management, medical care, mental health care, and other services to the homeless community. Please give generously with a note in the memo line for "First Stop" by check or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give. Please go to firststop.org for more info and to learn about hands-on opportunities to serve with First Stop.

Thank you!

SEARCH COMMITTEE PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. - Psalm 136:1

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings. William Arthur Ward

As we pray for our search committee, let us start with a heart full of gratitude. We are thankful for our wonderful staff, church family, our ECM, and the love that is shared by this congregation in this city and around the country. As we pray, let's be thankful for all that God has done and will do in the life of our congregation. As we pray, let's remember that God is in control and will lead us to the best person to lead our congregation. Amen

CHRISTMAS SEASON WILL SOON BE HERE

Christmas Charities Year Round (CCYR), as noted in the name, is a year round locally founded nonprofit serving the area. In addition to providing assistance with basic living needs throughout the year, CCYR has Operation Believe providing gifts to children, home bound and seniors during the Christmas Season. Much gratitude for the quick response to shopping to fill these stockings which need to be returned by December 1st. Cash donations for their programs are also welcomed during this season and can be made by noting CCYR in the memo line of your check or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give.

Thank you in advance for your generosity with the joy brought to our friends in the local area. ccyr.org

Community Outreach

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING



Since its beginning, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has pledged its dedication to the support of higher education. Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM) provides support, nurture and funding in the denomination's realm of higher education. HELM currently partners with 15 colleges and universities, and 7 seminaries and divinity houses, all of which are associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). HELM is also looking to expand its relationship with other schools and institutions to better serve the educational needs of all our Disciples.

Supporting students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly. We ask for your support during this year's Thanksgiving Offering (November 17 & 24) so that HELM can both continue supporting the needs of higher education and learning and grow to meet the broader needs of our Disciples students. It is HELM's mission to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world. Together, we can make this obtainable for all.

You can add a note "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo line of your check or on your PayPal offering through our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give.

Please give generously.

Karen Ball, Outreach Ministry Chair

November Pantry Needs

- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Cereal
- Chef Boyardee
- Crackers
- Bar Soap
- Canned Fruit
- Mixed Veggies
- Spaghetti Sauce

HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
MATTHEW 23:33



The 2024 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. You may contact the office at publisher@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150 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 Community Outreach. Make checks payable to First Christian Church and Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give