



The Journey

Volume XXXIII No. 23
December 2, 2025
www.fcc-hsv.org

IT IS ADVENT

At this time of year, we speak and sing of silent nights and holy nights, and yet we dare not take such things seriously because it is far too hectic and chaotic a season for us to find time for sentimental silence and solitude.

Right?

I mean, come on, there are decorations to put up, gifts to purchase (hey, even buying online takes time and effort), parties to attend, goodies to bake, trips to make, church to attend (!), songs to sing, and ugly sweaters to wear. It's enough to make a body positively Grinchy.

And still the silence and the solitude call us, beckoning us to those times and places where the memories of what has been and what could have been gather round and bring joyful sorrow to the tear in our eyes. All of it is moved first and last by the silence and solitude found in the story that also beckons us, only not to memory but to the reliving of a birth which had seemed so very impossible before: God with us.

That birth in Bethlehem probably had its fair share of the cries of both mother and child. But our Christmas cards (does anyone still send those?), our nativity creches, and even the hymns we sing assume that silence and solitude inhabited the scene at the first Christmas.

So, I would be remiss if I did not nudge (shove) you now, when it is early in the season, to block out time for the aforementioned sentimental silence and solitude when you can hear the rush of angels' wings, a baby's soft cry, and the quiet whispers of two new parents. For this is the heart of the season, and without it, all else is empty and short-lived.

Pastor Brad

IRS CREDIT FOR 2025 GIVING

Thank you so much for your tithes and offerings; they have a tremendous impact on the missions and ministries of our church. Please remember that all contributions to be credited toward 2025 giving must be received by the church office **before 12:30 pm on Wednesday, December 31, 2025** (that is when the office closes for New Year's Eve) or in the **collection plate on Sunday, December 28**. Mailed contributions may be credited toward your 2025 giving as long as they are **postmarked by December 31, 2025**.

IRS regulations require that checks received after December 31, unless received by mail postmarked December 31 or prior, will be credited to your 2026 giving and not 2025.

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 11**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Frank Ahlbin, father of Jon Ahlbin
 Alan Brenneman
 Grace Carter, friend of Cameron &
 Diane Douglas
 Chad Cegelski, nephew of the Seward's
 Judy Chaney
 Christy Denton, mother of Chris Clark
 Vonda Dihm
 Pam Gilliland
 Bud & Linda Hooker
 Lane Ingram, friend of Jean Patterson
 Katherine Jordan
 Stephen McCreary
 Robbie Melrose, husband of Shawna Stiles-Melrose
 Lisa Miller, niece of Monty Love
 Becky Love Roberts, sister of Monty Love
 John Robinson
 Tommy Ross & Madisyn Magistiadou, friends of
 Chris & Rhianna Clark
 Mary Spencer
 Hillary Hettinger Steiner
 Helga Tucker, Rhianna Clark's grandmother
 Bev & Don Williamson
 Jay & Cynthia Wright, parents of Holly Ahlbin

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

Community Outreach is asking for regular donations of hygiene products such as: sanitary pads and/or period underwear (period-proof underwear is a relatively new period product that looks and feels like regular underwear.). The donations will support girls who do not have funds to purchase these products. The donation site is located in the church Narthex.

Please consider helping with this needed project.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

First Christian Church, Meridian, MS

The Food Basket is given in honor of Stan Ball's birthday by Matt & Karen Ball.

2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Dear Friends in Christ,

The mission of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region is to encourage and equip its congregations and pastors for the ministry of Jesus Christ in local communities and throughout the world while seeking to nurture them into deeper relationships with God, with each other, and with the whole Church.

Christmas is a time to give thanks for all the ways in which we as Christians, as Church, and as Disciples make God's love visible. Whether it's through the work of our board and regional officers, camp directors and counselors, volunteers, pastors serving and retired, together we make God's love visible to our world.

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas offering. 100% of your Christmas gifts go to our Region. And thank you for all the ways you give to make God's love visible.

This offering is received on December 14th and 21st. Please note "Christmas Offering" in the memo line of your check or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give.

Please give generously!

Outreach Grateful Praise

In early November, we made a special appeal for attention to basic needs for those affected by the government shutdown. Due to an outpouring of generosity, you made it possible to send more than \$4,000 collectively to the following organizations that directly provide emergency assistance:

- Food Bank of North Alabama
- Huntsville Assistance Program
- Manna House
- Rose of Sharon
- Shower Up

May God give the increase for these monetary gifts, along with our prayers and service, to have the greatest possible benefit for those who need it.

Karen Ball,

Chair, Outreach Committee

ATTENDANCE

Nov. 23 Worship Service: 90

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 44

Nov. 30 Worship Service: 99

Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 20