



The Journey

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THE WILL TO DREAM

Our Advent theme this year has been, “The Will to Dream.” When Alyssa first showed me this seasonal program, it struck me as the perfect theme for where we are as a congregation: we have been through difficult times, but God has not abandoned us. We have endured loss of membership and financial support, but we are still here. We ponder our future and often find ourselves doubtful and uncertain.

In other words, now is the perfect time to dream.

As Christians, we seek to dream with God, asking that God’s dreams would become our own for this place at this time in the life of First Christian Church. But I’ve noticed that dreaming comes hard for this congregation. During the budgeting process, leaders and teams were encouraged to dream, to not let the attitude of scarcity hold us back from going where God is calling us to go. And yet, many areas remained at previous budget levels or asked for minimal increases.

And I understand. Coming from an upbringing in which we always had enough, but rarely more than enough, the sense of scarcity comes to me easily. The same is true for congregations that have spent recent years trimming fat and biting fingernails to pay bills and continue ministries.

But we must remember that God is an extravagant God, one who desires to give us more than we have dreamed. “I have come that they might have life and have it in abundance,” Jesus said. It’s time to take him at his word.

It is at Advent (and also Lent) that we remember and, in some way, live again, the reality that God is willing to give God’s very self to us, an extravagant, abundant gift at Christ’s birth and his death. Might we embrace this gift and begin to live with a sense of God’s abundance rather than our own scarcity? Might we find again the will to dream?

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. Wednesday, December 31**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

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

HELPING OUR FOSTER CHILDREN

The Community Outreach Committee's **project for January** is collecting financial donations for the Foster Care Unit of DHR (Department of Human Resources) to purchase gift cards to Walmart. The Unit does not have its own checking account, so gift cards ensure that the funds will be used to help meet the needs of the children in their care. There are over 430 children in foster care in Madison County and funding is not adequate. Community Outreach, with your help, would like to ensure that the Foster Care Unit has funds on hand to use throughout the year to help our children who are suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally. Please note "DHR" in the memo line of your check to First Christian Church or through PayPal on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give.

Thank you for caring about the vulnerable children in our community.

The 2026 sign up chart for **FOOD BASKETS** is available. **You may come by the office or email publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call 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 the Outreach Committee.

Make checks payable to First Christian Church with Food Basket on the notation line. You may also make your payment through PayPal and designate Food Basket through on our website at fcc-hsv.org/who-we-are/how-to-give

The Food Basket is given in honor of Coleen & Thomas Jenkins birthdays.

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.

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!

Hello Church Family,

As we enter into the winter months and all of the germs that go along with that, ECM is in need of some supplies to help ensure the health of the students and staff! They are seeking donations of water wipes, Kleenex, disinfectant wipes, and disinfectant spray. Please consider dropping off donations to the box in the narthex or purchasing for deliver on this Amazon Wishlist:

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/7SG5AJODUJB?ref=wl_share

Thank you! The ECM Board

CONDOLENCES to the family of Tom Craig, who passed on Friday, December 12.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Regional Church, Helena, AL

ATTENDANCE

Dec. 7 Worship Service: 103
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 52
Dec. 14 Worship Service: 100
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 15