



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Anyone else look around at the world from time to time and silently ask the universe how we got to this point?

I'm sure that every generation asks the question, thinking that their particular situation is worse than any generation before them has ever experienced. Our Christian tradition certainly has its share of esteemed individuals who have pondered this mystery of the presence of sin and darkness in a world created by none other than the holy, light-filled and omnipotent God. How could darkness so permeate creation born of light?

In one of her visions of Christ, Julian of Norwich, a 14th century mystic writes that Jesus answers her question of why God has allowed sin to exist if it causes such pain in the world by saying,

"It is true that sin causes all this pain, but all will be well, and all will be well, and every kind of thing shall be well."

Those words come to mind from time to time, and they do so now as I look at a world rife with chaos, anger, and violence. While Jesus does not give details as to how all will be well, I love the reassurance that, even in a history populated by people enamored of the darkness, Christ will yet see all things made well and light once more.

I need to hear this.

We all need to hear this.

And somewhere along the way, we need to embrace it. This is something we do by faith and by trust. We cannot always see the path that stretches before us, and we cannot always see the answers we so desperately want.

But Jesus still says it: all will be well.

I hope so. And I believe so.

Pastor Brad

APRIL OUTREACH PROJECT: HUNTSVILLE LEARNING CENTER

When you support Huntsville Learning Center, here's what happens:

- A student walks into a safe place after school instead of an empty house.
- A backpack holds completed homework instead of frustration.
- A growing child receives a nutritious snack & essential supplies.
- A young mind hears, "You can do this," and begins to believe it.
- A teenager experiences a future that feels possible and sustainable.



You can note HLC for any amount on your check or whatever your preferred method of donating to First Christian Church.

Thank you

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

The **deadline** for *Journey* submissions is **9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 30**. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org



Get ready to get connected! VBS 2026 is coming, our theme this year is #KidsConnect! We will explore connections with our families, friends, community, and God. We need you to get connected with us to make this event a reality. VBS will be held July 6-9th from 9am-11:30am.

There are 2 main ways you can get involved:

1. Volunteer for VBS! There are a varied of jobs for every skill set! Do not know what to sign up for? No problem! Contact Alyssa, alyssa@fcc-hsv.org or 256-881-0150, and she will help you find the best job for your gifts. Sign up here: [FCC - HSV: Vacation Bible School 2026](https://www.fcc-hsv.org/vbs2026)

2. We need supplies! Feel free to peak at our amazon list and have needed supplies shipped directly to the church. This is a great way to help make VBS a success! https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1G58ZABP5SSJY?ref=wl_share



Congratulations to Dr. Sharifa Love-Rutledge for receiving two teaching awards at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She was awarded the **Teaching Excellence Award in Chemistry** and the **Distinguished**

Teacher Award.



The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center would love for you to join them at their annual fundraiser, Branches of The Vine, on Thursday April 30th from 5:30-8:00. You can purchase tickets online at vinepcc.com/donate and go to vinepcc.com/fundraiser for more information.

In May, Outreach is collecting for the Community Free Clinic of Huntsville.

The mission of the Community Free Clinic is to provide quality, free medical care and education to those residing in our community who are without healthcare benefits. Having access to healthcare and life-saving medications improves the quality of life to those with few healthcare options.



This clinic provides free healthcare, education, and medications to uninsured and low-income residents of Madison County. It is staffed entirely by volunteer physicians, nurses, medical students, and specialists who offer primary and specialty care, including ophthalmology, dermatology, and psychiatry. An on-site dispensary supplies patients with necessary prescriptions, and the clinic's operations rely on donations and community support.

Please be generous! You can make your check to FCC with Free Clinic in the memo line.

Thank you, the Outreach team

THE FOOD BASKET is given in honor of Karen Ball's birthday by Matt Ball.

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS
Macedonia Christian Church, Birmingham, AL

ATTENDANCE
April 12 Worship Service: 97
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 90
April 19 Worship Service: 89
Small Groups (During week & Sunday): 62