



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

January 31, 2024

Lenten Reflection

Lent is the 40 days (but not Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and repentance to grow closer with God. The forty days of Lent correspond to the forty days Jesus spent in a wilderness preparing to fulfill God's plan of salvation. This means this time for personal reflection prepares people's souls and minds for what is marked on Good Friday and Easter.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, is the first day of Lent. Throughout the day and into the evening those who've attended an Ash Wednesday observance will wear a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the palm fronds used in the previous Palm Sunday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, commemorates the night before Jesus died, when he washed the disciples' feet and instituted the Holy Communion through the shared Passover meal. Good Friday is the next day. It marks the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of God raising Jesus from the dead to give us the option for choosing the way leading to eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

Inside...

February Birthdays, Events, News and Announcements, Prayer Requests and more!

The three main things people focus on during Lent are 1. Prayer, 2. giving something up (or taking something on) and 3. practicing charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) to receive God's mercy. Giving something up (or taking something on) is a very ancient practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, will be a constant reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God. Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to then respond to God's grace. Some people spend a part of their time volunteering or maybe donating money they would normally use at Starbucks.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn, or deserve Jesus' sacrifice, or a relationship with God. People will never be good enough to measure up to God's perfection. Only Jesus has the means to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. God raised him from the dead on Easter Sunday so constructing a spiritual bridge connecting one who so believes into a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting, taking something on, and practicing charity makes a person of faith closer and more attuned to Jesus' scourging, pain and sacrifice on the cross so that his resurrection three days later is even more meaningful.

May God bless you during this Lent,

Rev Colby Smith

FCC KIDS CORNER

Upcoming Calendar of Events

February 4th-We finish our series "Jesus is Sweeter than Candy" with Snickers.

February 11th-Souper Bowl Luncheon with families

February 18th-Destination Unknown

We will pile into the Church Van and try to guess where we are headed with clues on the way!



February 25th-Lent: It's NOT from your dryer!

FCC Kid's Club for children in K-5th grade meets most Sundays immediately after worship until 1:30.

We have lunch together and fellowship with games and activities on a theme. Friends are always welcome!



Souper Bowl Luncheon and Dessert Auction Sunday, February 11th

The Annual "Souper" Bowl Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, February 11th, immediately following worship. This fun event includes a Chili/Soup potluck lunch followed by a Live Dessert Auction. There are so many ways you can be a part of the fun:

- Bake a cake, pie, cookies or your favorite dessert for the auction
- Bring a pot of your favorite chili or soup to share. (Sandwich and veggie trays will be provided)
- Plan to attend and bid on the delicious dessert offerings in the live auction

Sign up to provide a pot of soup or chili or a dessert for the auction at the Worship Table on Sundays or by contacting the church office. Proceeds benefit youth & children's programming.

Lenten Activities for Children

What's the 40 Days About?

Here are some activities for you to do with your child during February. More in the March Highlights!

- Explain to your child that Lent is 40 days. Help your child count the days of Lent starting with Ash Wednesday (2/14) and ending with Easter (3/31) Oops! It is 47 days, not 40! Explain that during Lent, the Sundays don't count for fasting!
- Have your child find 40 of one object (toothpicks, paper clips, etc. and take one away each day (not Sundays) until Easter
- Explain that the number 40 has symbolic significance in the bible. With you child, read some (or all) of these scriptures to see what they say about the number 40.

Genesis 7, 8 (Noah)

Deuteronomy 8:2 (Israel in desert)

Jonah 3:4 (Jonah)

Exodus 24:18 (Moses on the mountaintop)

Samuel 5 (David's reign)

Luke 4:2 (Jesus in the desert)

For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright

Email patti@firstchristiandanville.com or text (812) 483-9004

Snow Policy

Sundays will proceed as normal in snowy weather.

In the case that emergency vehicles only are to be on the roads, church would be altered or held online and a One Call Now message will be sent out.

Additionally, check these news outlets closing information: LEX18, WKYT, WTVQ.

If Boyle County Schools are cancelled, church staff will move to a one hour delay. At that time the senior pastor will make the decision to close the church or not and will contact local media.

News & Announcements

Give From the Heart

Each day, place the food item of the day in your box. Bring the box to the narthex when you come to church on February 25. These items represent the current food pantry needs of our community.

- February 1 Canned Fruit
- February 2 Pinto/black beans
- February 3 Oatmeal
- February 4 Cereal
- February 5 Muffin Mix
- February 6 Pancake Mix
- February 7 Syrup
- February 8 Pasta
- February 9 Pasta Sauce
- February 10 Corn Bread Mix
- February 11 Dry milk/shelf stable milk
- February 12 Hamburger Helper
- February 13 Pop-Tarts
- February 14 Granola Bars
- February 15 Instant Mashed Potatoes
- February 16 Rice
- February 17 Peanut Butter
- February 18 Jelly
- February 19 Cooking Oil
- February 20 Crackers
- February 21 Ramen Noodles
- February 22 Canned Soup
- February 23 Canned Mixed Vegetables
- February 24 Canned Meat
- February 25 Instant Mac & Cheese (with sauce)

Bonus Items:

Please consider adding a few of these much needed personal hygiene items to your box:

Soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush/toothpaste, Deodorant, diapers/wipes, laundry detergent, and dish soap.



Walking Track

The FCC Walking Track has seen a lot of use during the recent frosty weather!

Because my office is right at the entrance, so many people have stopped to tell me how nice it is to have this wonderful facility to use at no charge!

Take time to let your friends and family know about this great ministry we have!

The Walking Track is open 8:-noon and 1:00-3:00 Monday through Friday. *-Patti Wright*

Braving the Cold for our Community!

January 20th was a cold and icy day and many events in our area were cancelled but the FCC Soups on Us team rallied to prepare AND deliver 292 meals to our community! Special thanks to all who braved the snowy roads and frigid temperatures to get this important mission accomplished!

Also a shout out to the FCC members who volunteered their time by signing up for a shift (or more) at the Community Warming Center at Centenary Methodist Church. Thank you for making this important emergency service possible! *-Patricia Calvert*

Connections Book Group-February 4th

Our study of Peter Enns book continues as we discuss chapters 11 &12. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship with Judy Morgan leading the discussion and Janice Bohannon providing lunch. All are welcome! *-Jan Bradshaw*

Mercer/Boyle County Church Women United

Join us on March 1st at 9:30 at the Harrodsburg United Methodist Church for a potluck breakfast followed by the March Human Rights Celebration. Contact Judy Morgan to register or for more information.

Waynesburg Manor Valentine Party February 12th

Join us to put on a Valentine's Party for the residents of Waynesburg Manor! We need the following items to make the party a success: 24 cans of Diet Cola, 24 cans of regular Cola, a large container of Cheese Puffs, 30 small boxes of raisins, 36 cupcakes, and a large bag of wrapped candy. Sign up for these items at the Welcome Table or by calling the church office.

Most important of all, we need volunteers to facilitate the party on Monday, February 12th, leaving in the church van at 1:00 and returning at 4:00. Please sign up to go make this a fun holiday for the residents! *-Jan Bradshaw*

Four Cans for Others

122 cans were donated during January. Let's keep bringing in those cans so we can beat our total for 2023 of **1,421 cans!**



FCC's popular Lenten lunches with speakers are returning this year!

Plan to spend an hour each Monday during Lent for lunch and thought-provoking Lenten Meditations by these speakers.

Feb. 19-Mickey Anders

Feb. 26- Tom Huckleberry

March 4-Elmer Jackson

March 11-Basil Hall

March 18-Melinda Weathers

Lunch will be provided at noon followed by the speakers, finishing before 1:00 so those that need to go back to work can attend.

Desserts are needed! Please sign up at the Welcome Table on Sunday or in the church office.

Please Keep the following in your Prayers

Lee Ann McCann
Larry Davidson
John Caywood
Lesa Cooper
Gary Gibson
John Taylor Ross
Jan Sheffield
Bill Morgan
Mary Lou Withers
Trevor & Lucy Graham
Shannon Warren

Steele Gregory
Bill Grimes
Rodger Morris
Kim Baird
Robin Lee
Donna Brown Vanhook
Family of Odell Hines
All Unspoken prayers



Shut-ins

Martha Akin
Bill Barker
Jerry Boyd
Pat & Steve Bruce
Mindy Carter
Tom Ensslin
Hugh & Mary Jo Coomer

Charles Highfield
Lucille Lemmon
Margaret Milburn
Mike Swain
Bonnie Wilson

Staff Changes

The personnel committee is excited about how quickly and smoothly our staff is adapting to personnel changes. We are thrilled to have **Scott Walker** as Interim Director of Music and **Trista Hinkle** as Interim Administrator. Head Housekeeper **Yvonne Brand** has added office reception duties to her position and is managing the office from 8:00am-12:00pm Monday-Friday.

Ash Wednesday February 14th

There are two ways for you to begin the season of Lent:

6:30-8:00 am-Drive up

Drive up to receive the imposition of ashes, blessing, and a cup of coffee. Come to the Family Life Center covered entrance at the east end of the building.

7:00 pm Worship

Imposition of ashes, music and a message in the FCC Sanctuary. Invite your family, friends and neighbors.

Men's Dinner and Discussion

Thursday, February 8th 6:00 pm

Get a chance to meet and get to know other men in the church on the second Thursday of the month. Gather for conversation, a meal and discussion led by Pastor Colby.

Coming Soon!

As we enter Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, that means Holy Week is just around the corner.



Mark your calendar now and plan to celebrate with First Christian.

Maunder Thursday, March 28th: Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29th: Prayer Vigil

Palm Sunday March 24th at 10:45 am
Jubilant Palm Procession and music from our Handbell Choir followed by our Easter Egg-Stravaganza for our children and families.

Easter Sunday, March 31st. A joyful service with our choir and instrumentalists.

Watch for details in the March Highlights.

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*The season of Lent
begins this year on
Valentine's Day,
February 14th.*

*See inside for a
variety of Lenten
Activities at First
Christian Church.*



First Christian Church

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