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First Christian Church

The Word

February



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Loyalty is a disappearing idea. Something bigger or better always seems to come along. Which is great when you are the one that is the bigger or better thing. But, what if you are the one left in the dust?

One of the all-time greats in baseball was Babe Ruth. His bat had the power of a cannon, and his record of 714 home runs remained unbroken until Hank Aaron came along. The Babe was the idol of sports fans, but in time age took its toll, and his popularity began to wane. Finally the Yankees traded him to the Braves. In one of his last games in Cincinnati, Babe Ruth began to falter. He struck out and made several misplays that allowed the Reds to score five runs in one inning. As the Babe walked toward the dugout, chin down and dejected, there rose from the stands an enormous storm of boos and catcalls. Some fans actually shook their fists. Then a wonderful thing happened. A little boy jumped over the railing, and with tears streaming down his cheeks he ran out to the great athlete. Unashamedly, he flung his arms around the Babe's legs and held on tightly. Babe Ruth scooped him up, hugged him, and set him down again. Patting him gently on the head, he took his hand and the two of them walked off the field together--
unknown source

In your life things will come and go. My dog growing up, that toy that I just had to have, my best friend who we made a pact that we would be friends forever; all of them gone, misplaced, or loss touched with. And yet, Jesus will never leave your side.

Continued on next page



Servers for February 2023

Worship Leader:

Elders and Deacons

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2/05 Reta Bush | Luellen Wittenbach |
| Cheryl Sehon | Dwight Smith |
| Doug Sanders | Claudia McClaran |
| 2/12 Conrad Duprez | Debra Hood |
| Marc Harkins | Jeffrey Daniels |
| Erin Guyton | Samantha Guyton |
| 2/19 Jan Shropshire | Jason Jarnagin |
| Darla Oberlender | Jacque Buser |
| Dwight Smith | Pam Witt |
| 2/26 David McClaran | Dana Cravens |
| Shane Wyatt | Jon Molder |
| Cheryl Sehon | Claudia McClaran |

Agape Ministry Schedule

2/05 Reta Bush
2/12 Conrad Duprez
2/19 Jan Shropshire
2/26 Dana Cravens





We have a great way to make your donations. Simply go to our website at www.fccchick.org, click the link, set up your profile and chose the amount you want to give and where you want it to go.

Would you like to find out what's going on in the church faster? Do you have/use a cellular telephone? Then all you need to do is text @mroberlen to 81010 to receive updates and texts to your phone when news or events happen! Remember text @mroberle to 81010!



Our Church Directories are now online. If you would like to view your information, need an address or phone number for a member, please go to www.fccchick.org, click on members at the top of the page. Click on the Red Chalice in the middle of the page and enter the password **redchalice**. Happy hunting!



**First Christian Church in Social Media
(Like us on Facebook)**

Darla Oberlender updates on a regular basis our Facebook page, take a look at it often. She has also updated our webpage. You can find a link to our Facebook page on the welcome page of our website by going to www.fccchick.org. Thank you Darla for your hard work.



Continued from previous page

When the world is done with you, shaking their fists at you because you did not give them what they wanted; Jesus will run to you and take your hand and walk with you. Loyalty may be a disappearing idea to humanity but never to our Lord and Savior.

See ya Sunday,
Michael

BINGO Night!!!

It's BINGO time again, and our next BIG Bingo Night will be Thursday, February 16th. You're not gonna want to miss this action-packed fun event.

Dinner & desserts will begin @ 5:30 pm with Bingo to follow.



Bring a White Elephant gift to be used as a door prize. The more the merrier for fun & fellowship!



Pictures of Bingo night in January! Looking forward to the February Bingo Night!





Blessing Bags

There are so many opportunities in the world with our 'friends in need' that it was agreed to have this as an ongoing outreach project. Next time you're at the store, please pick up any of the following items and bring them to (currently) the downstairs Sunday School

Classroom.

On the first Sunday of each month, we will put together as many Blessing Bags as we can supply for distribution individually or through 'helping' organizations.

THANK YOU for adding blessings to our Blessing Bags!

Items Needed

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gallon Ziploc Bags | Toothbrushes |
| Toothpaste | Soap |
| Toothbrush containers | Bottles of water |
| Flavor packets for water | Shampoo (small) |
| Granola bars | Small canned food items |
| Can openers | Wash cloths |
| Socks | Combs |
| Chapstick | Wet wipes |

The Adult Sunday School Class packs the "Kits for Needy Friends" the first Sunday of each month. The kits are to be distributed to our members to give away when encountering a 'friend in need'.

Contribution Statements



All our contribution statements have been mailed out to everyone. Please review your statement when it arrives and let the office know if there is a discrepancy.

Prayers & Concerns



Cancer:

- Paula Wilson**, Friend of Bob & Pam Witt, Cancer
- Twana**, Claudia's cousin cervical cancer
- Jill Clark**, Crystal Wyatt's mother, cancer
- Jeff Douglas**, Deloris Rodgers' son, Lung cancer & Brain tumor
- David McClaran**, Prostate Cancer

Medical:

- Eddie Pruitt**, Claudia McClaran's brother, medical concerns
- Connie Pruitt**, Claudia McClaran's niece, medical concerns
- Bill Clark**, Crystal Wyatt's father, Medical Concerns
- Ken Jones**, Sue Kendall's brother-in-law, Hospice
- Ann McCalla**, Medical Concern

Immediate:

- Perry**, Garry & Sarah Drake's grandson, Ear Reconstruction Surgery
- Mox Jarnagin**, Jason & Kristy's grandson, Medical concerns
- Makenzie Park**, Craven's neighbor's daughter, Medical concerns
- Debbie Moody**, Severe Medical Concerns
- Dana Cravens**, shattered heal
- Conrad Duprez**, medical concerns
- Jerry Rich**, CPD Communications Officer, serious medical concerns
- Patti Rogstad**, pacemaker
- Kent Hubbard**, medical concerns
- T J Taber**, Carolyn Spradlin's great great nephew, blood clot

Please keep all that are affected by loss of family members, Covid 19, the Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Wild Fires, Volcanos & Weather in your prayers.

Continue to pray for all **Homebound**: Cora Jenkins, Laura DeHart & Maxine Dyer
Nursing: Fern Coster; Our military, Our Missionary of the week and others with special needs.

Meet our Staff

MINISTER

Rev. Michael A. Oberlender

SECRETARY

Tammy White

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sharlene Morgan &
Steffanie Morgan

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Crystal Wyatt

PIANIST/ORGANIST

Dr. Jan Hanson

CUSTODIAN

Sharlene Morgan

Anniversaries:



John & Jamie Seyler February 12
Michael & Darla Oberlender February 13
Garry & Sarah Drake February 14

Birthdays:

Molly Seyler February 3
Ann McCalla February 5
BJ DeHart February 6
Carolyn Wittenbach February 13
Luellen Wittenbach February 15
Michelle DeHart February 16
Judy Duprez February 18
John Seyler February 20
Jagger Smith February 20
Elliot Seyler February 22
Mayson Smith February 22
Martie Andrus February 25
Paul Krueger February 28



MISSION STATEMENT

As Disciples of Christ, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Our mission, as His disciples, is to lift up our prayers to God; study His word, bring and welcome others into His Church; and promote spiritual growth through a compassionate and caring ministry to one another.



Scan. Pay. Go.

We have an awesome way to make your donations. Simply scan the QR code to the left with your phone and make your weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual or special contributions. If you do not already have an account, setting one up is easy and convenient. Then all you need to do is choose the amount you want to give and where you want it to go.

Volunteers Needed!

Sign up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. We need volunteers for the following:



Monthly Worship Leaders for 2023 and Monthly Soup Kitchen Leaders for 2023 and monthly Bingo leaders. Please prayerfully consider filling one of these rolls in 2023. Thank you!

If you are interested in serving on a committee in 2023, please let the office know.



Fellowship Dinner



Our next fellowship dinner will be on Sunday, February 12th immediately following worship. Please make plans to bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share with all also, this is Scout Sunday also so bring extra for our guests and stay to enjoy the fellowship, great food and fun. You are all appreciated.

Donna, Jacquie & Reta

Stitches of Love



Greetings fellow followers of Christ.

- 1) We have made and distributed 2 Prayer Shawls
- 2) We are finishing up Soap Sacks for Teacher Appreciation gifts for public school teachers.

- 3) We have 15 more cold weather kits for the needy or homeless.
- 4) We are crocheting hearts that we hope you will help us hand out during February, Kindness, Pass It On!
- 5) We are knitting squares which we will turn into Easter Bunnies for our homebound and others.

As always, YOU are welcome to join us at 9:30 on Wednesday morning in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and a devotional, conversation and fun.

Blessings

Carolyn

February 5 and February 12 YOU can join in and take a crocheted heart on a card and drop it off at a restaurant , at the grocery store shelf, where ever you chose.

2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

During the first Board Meeting of the year a member was presented to be Volunteer of the Year for 2022. Many of our members work behind the scenes and so their work may go unnoticed. Darla Oberlender was

the one who came up with the idea of the Peanut Butter and Jelly ministry. She also posts daily on our church Facebook Page, prints signs of us and so much more. Congratulation to Darla Oberlender for being the 2022 Volunteer of the Year.



COULD YOU HELP?! —Lenten Devotional Books



Let us all write a poem, meditation, or devotional for our own Lenten devotional book. Please consider sharing your talents.

This year we are trying something a little different. The Worship

Committee is asking for your help in putting together a Lenten Devotional Book. Please consider writing a paragraph or two. Your contribution can be as creative as you are; poems, short stories, or personal insight. Then we will put them all together into a book for the congregation to use during Lent. Please have your submission into the office by February 12th. You can email them to fcchick@yahoo.com. You can also mail it in or bring it by. Looking forward to reading all submissions.

Super Bowl Sunday,
February 12, 2023
Bring on the Football!



The Office will be closed on Monday, February 20th for President's Day, so that our staff may enjoy the day with their families. We will be open for regular business hours on Tuesday, February 21,

2023 at 8:00 am.



You are invited to attend the Lenten Lunch series presented by our community churches starting Feb. 22, 2023. Each Wednesday during lent local congregations will be offering lunch at 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm (The time was changed to accommodate working schedules) with a brief worship. The following is a list of the locations and who will be preaching.

Feb. 22 LOC: First Christian Church (202 S. 6th Street)
Preacher: Pastor Chad (Chickasha First Assembly of God)

Mar. 1 LOC: New Life Christian Church (1828 S.13th Street)
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Michael Butler (First Baptist Church)

Mar. 8 LOC: Epworth Methodist Church (320 S 4th Street)
Preacher: Father Bill Carlin (St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

Mar. 15 LOC: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
(124 S 6th Street) (Spring Break)
Preacher: Rev. Kyle Clark (Epworth United Methodist Church)

Mar. 22 LOC: Holy Name Catholic Church (210 S 7th Street)
Preacher: Rev. Michael Oberlender (First Christian Church)

Mar. 29 LOC: Chickasha First Assembly (3340 S 16th St)
Preacher: Father Michael Wheelahan (Holy Name Catholic Church)

Apr. 5 LOC: First Baptist Church (324 W. Colorado)
Preacher: Pastor Matthew Reiber (New Life Christian Church)



Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023
when Lent begins



Receipts for Food Pantry



The Food Pantry would appreciate all those who shop at William's Grocery store to save your cash register receipts and turn them in to the office or place them in one of the baskets kept in the Narthex or in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen or by mail. The Food Pantry can redeem all receipts turned in for cash to use toward items needed in the pantry. Thank you for your help, and as always it is greatly appreciated.



Another great Soup Kitchen day for FCC. Back row (l-r) Catherine McMahan, Virginia Ramsey & Jacquie Buser. Front row (l-r) Larry Brown, Bob Witt & Garry Drake. Front & center Rev. Michael Oberlender.



February 9, 2023 National Pizza day.
Enjoy your slice of the pie every one!

Women's Fellowship News



The ladies of First Christian had a good time as usual when we got together at the Andrus' home on Jan. 12. Nancy Smith gave a good devotional on being the Light to others, and Donna gave the Treasurer's Report. We discussed our members that are convalescing and ways we might be able to help them. Stitches of Love made and donated 25 hats for students and made 84 soap sacks for teachers before the holidays. We also donated coats and hoodies to the Intermediate clothing drive and donated 36 duffle bags to the foster children of Chickasha. They were distributed at the Christmas party for them at First Baptist Church.

Other business was to discuss possible new outreach projects for the year. We don't have enough funds for a big project at this time, but we did decide to give Luellen \$75 for stamps and cards to those who might need a little cheer and to give \$200 to the minister's discretionary fund for emergency situations for people that are in need.

We will be serving at the Soup Kitchen in January and discussed the meal that has been planned. All helpers are appreciated. We serve every third Wednesday.

We also planned for the rest of our year. Here is a schedule of our next meetings:

Feb. 9 at the church fellowship hall - 1:30 - Carolyn Spradlin is hostess

March 9 - 1:30 - Nancy Smith hostess - 1158 County Rd, Chickasha - Or we can meet at the church to car pool to her country home.

April - We hope to have a retreat again at the Brown's lake home by Gainesville. That will depend on Larry's recovery from knee surgery. Dates to be announced.

May 11 - 1:30 - Becky Kruger's house in Blanchard. Again, meet at the church at 1:00 to caravan.

June 8- Judy Duprez's home - 11:00 - 801 S. 12th. This will be a salad luncheon.

No meetings in July or August

Sept. 14 - Virginia's - 11:00 - This will also be a salad luncheon to kick off our new year.

After the schedule was complete we had refreshments and visited for as long as people could stay. A great time was had by all.



Ash Wednesday Service 2-22-23 @6 pm



Please mark you calendars on Feb. 22nd for our Ash Wednesday Service at 6 pm. This year's service will be like some of those in the past with an interactive element. We will make our way around the sanctuary to stations that will guide us through a contemplative focus on Lent and

preparing for the Easter Message.

February 2023

| January 2023 | | | | | | | February 2023 | | | | | | | March 2023 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|--------|----------|
| 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship | 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM TOPS | 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Line Dance Class. In Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Scouts in Fellowship hall | 1 First Day of Bl...History Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Stitches of Love Devotional 10:00 AM Stitches of Love 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship | 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Scout Committee | 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Line Dance Class. In Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Scouts in Fellowship hall | 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Stitches of Love Devotional 10:00 AM Stitches of Love 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM DWF- at Church | 10 | 11 |
| 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rev. Michael Vacation Rev Pam Holt to Preach Scout Sunday 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Fellowship Dinner | 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM TOPS | 14 Valentine's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Line Dance Class. In Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Scouts in Fellowship hall | 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Stitches of Love Devotional 10:00 AM Stitches of Love 10:30 AM FCC Soup Kitchen Day 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Bingo | 17 | 18 |
| 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship | 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Closed for Holiday Presidents' Day 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM TOPS | 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Line Dance Class. In Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Scouts in Fellowship hall | 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Stitches of Love Devotional 10:00 AM Stitches of Love 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch at First Christian (Pastor Chad Chickasha First Assembly) 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Elder's Meeting 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship | 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 PM Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM TOPS | 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Line Dance Class. In Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Scouts in Fellowship hall | 1 First Day of W...istory Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Stitches of Love Devotional 10:00 AM Stitches of Love 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch at New Life Rev. Dr. Michael 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Daily Bible Readings for February 2023

| Not Many Elite Called | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| February 1 | W | Psalm 8 | How Majestic Is God's Name! |
| February 2 | T | 2 Samuel 7:1, 4-17 | God Will Build You a House |
| February 3 | F | 2 Samuel 7:18-29 | Who Am I before God? |
| February 4 | S | 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 | God Confounds the Wise |
| February 5 | S | 1, Corinthians 1:25-31 | God Chooses the Lowly and Despised |
| Called with a Holy Calling | | | |
| February 6 | M | Galatians 4:1-7 | God's Children and Heirs |
| February 7 | T | Exodus 19:1-8 | A Holy Nation |
| February 8 | W | John 15:1-14 | Abide in Christ |
| February 9 | T | John 15:15-27 | Chosen by Christ |
| February 10 | F | Leviticus 19:2-4, 9-18 | Be Holy |
| February 11 | S | Leviticus 20:22-26 | Keep God's Statutes in Holiness |
| February 12 | S | 2 Timothy 1:3-14 | Kindle God's Gift within You |
| God Chooses the Poor | | | |
| February 13 | M | James 1:19-27 | Pure and undefiled Religion |
| February 14 | T | Amos 5:7-15 | Defender of the Oppressed |
| February 15 | W | Psalm 68:1-13 | Father of Orphans, Protector of Widows |
| February 16 | T | Proverbs 31:1-9 | Defend the Poor and Needy |
| February 17 | F | Luke 4:16-30 | Good News for the Poor |
| February 18 | S | James 5:1-11 | Coming Miseries upon the Rich |
| February 19 | S | James 2:1-12 | God Has Chosen the Poor |
| God Calls You into Light | | | |
| February 20 | M | Colossians 1:9-22 | Rescued from Darkness |
| February 21 | T | 1 Timothy 6:11-16 | Paul's Charge to Timothy |
| February 22 | W | Isaiah 42:8-17 | God Turns Darkness into Light |
| February 23 | T | Psalm 119:121-136 | God's Word Gives Light |
| February 24 | F | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 | You Are Children of Light |
| February 25 | S | 1 Peter 2:1-12 | You Belong to God |
| February 26 | S | 1 Peter 2:13-25 | Live Free in the Light |
| The Prodigal Son | | | |
| February 27 | M | Psalm 28 | Lord, Hear My Prayer |
| February 28 | T | Matthew 11:25-30 | Come to Me, You Weary |