



# FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

February 10, 2026

Volume 63

Number 33

## How Does Ash Wednesday Begin the Journey of Lent?

“Ash Wednesday marks the start of the 40-day Lenten season—a time in which Christians are called to prayer, fasting, and repentance before celebrating Easter. The 40 days (excluding Sundays) reflect the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness being prepared for His public ministry. In a similar way, Christians are challenged to maintain a posture of humility, acknowledging our dependence on God’s grace and mercy. Lent is a time to study and reflect on our thoughts, actions, and attitudes that separate us from the life God intends for His children.

In her article, “What Is Lent? It’s Meaning, Importance, and Fasting Explained”, Sarah Phillips writes, ‘Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from, bringing our need for a Savior to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Good Friday and Easter come, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing graces God has to offer.’”  
*Christianity.com*

## Week of Compassion Offering, February 15 and 22



Week of Compassion is more than a week. Week of Compassion is a ministry of the whole Church, serving vulnerable communities throughout the world. Anytime and anywhere we respond to a need, bearing witness to the unity of the Lord's table, faithfully sharing the gifts that we have received as an expression of Christ's love. As we work with partners, we represent the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) commitment to unity, allowing our resources to reach farther, growing our impact on a global scale.

### Mission

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

### Vision

A world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

## Disciples Men's Fellowship

Disciples Men's Fellowship will meet **Monday, February 16, at 6:30 pm**. Carroll Abbott will make a presentation about the Gideons.

## Work Schedule Change

Pam will be working **Wednesday, February 18**, instead of Tuesday, February 17.

## Donation Bins

Donation bins for Hope Campus and Community Outreach will be located in the narthex only on Sundays and in the Administration Building the rest of the week. *Ellis*

## Blankets of Love



Thank you for your kind donations to this year's Blankets of Love drive. The amount we sent was \$385.00.

## In the Life of the Church

- **Sunday, February 15, 9:00 am** Intergenerational Sunday School Class
- **Sunday, February 15, 11:15 am** Disciples Bells Rehearsal
- **Monday, February 16, 6:30 pm** Disciples Men's Fellowship
- **Tuesday, February 17, 11:30 am** Lunch Bunch at Boondocks, 12200 Hwy. 71 S
- **Tuesday, February 17, 4:00 pm** Serve at Hope Campus
- **Tuesday, February 17, 5:15 pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, February 18, 8:00 am** Ecumenical Men's Bible Study
- **Wednesday, February 18** Ash Wednesday Services (12:00 and 6:00 pm)
- **Thursday, February 19, 10:00 am** Crazy Crafters
- **Thursday, February 19, 1:00 pm** Disciples of Music
- **Thursday, February 19, 2:00 pm** Book Club

**Dianna's Notes**

**Special Music**

**February 15** Disciples Bells Quintet  
**February 22** Chancel Choir

*Disciples Bells Quintet meets at 8:30 am Sunday to rehearse. No robes.*

*Chancel Choir meets at 9:20 am Sunday to rehearse. Green stoles.*

**Thanks for your ministry.**

**Elder for February**

Greta Pryor

**Deacons for February**

Terry Hales (Foreman), Walter Ahart, Tim Fleming, Floyd Hamm, Becki Hanson, Calvin Reed, Jennifer Sanchez, David Williamson

**Greeters for February**

Calvin Reed, Jennifer Sanchez  
 Disciples Hall Entrance: Floyd Hamm

**Prepare Communion for February**

Becki Hanson

**Group 3 News**

Group 3 will meet **Tuesday, February 10, at 6:00 pm** at Whippoorwill, 509 Garrison Avenue. Hope to see you there.

**Prayer Concerns**

- **Ruth Carson**
- **Mickie Matthews**
- **The Maxeys**
- **Nick Oliver**
- **Jeanne Stebner**
- **Evelyn Warrington**

**Book Club News**

Book Club meets **Thursday, February 19**, to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Our book for March is *Restored In Tuscany* by Angela Correll.

We meet at 2:00 pm in the admin building. All are welcome!

**Hope Campus News**

We are collecting 12 oz. styrofoam or paper bowls and plastic spoons. Unused plasticware from takeout food is also appreciated.

**Lenten Sermon Series 2026  
 Journey to the Cross with Jesus**

<b>February 15</b>	Sunday before Ash Wednesday	<i>Behold the Dust and Ashes</i>	Genesis 18:27
<b>February 22</b>	First Sunday of Lent	<i>Victory in the Wilderness</i>	Luke 4:1-11
<b>March 1</b>	Second Sunday of Lent	<i>Jesus Is for Real</i>	Matthew 17:1-9
<b>March 8</b>	Third Sunday of Lent	<i>Quenching Spiritual Thirst</i>	John 4:5-42
<b>March 15</b>	Fourth Sunday of Lent	<i>20/20 Spiritual Vision</i>	John 9:1-41
<b>March 22</b>	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>When Jesus Delays</i>	John 11:1-45

**First Christian Church**

3501 Rogers Avenue  
 Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903  
 Phone: 479.783.1139

**OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 am-3:00 pm - Monday-Thursday

**SERVICE TIMES**

Sunday School at 9:00 am; Worship at 10:00 am

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson**, Senior Pastor, 479-651-0456  
**Dianna Jackson**, Director of Music Ministry  
**Mary Beth Oliver**, Organist  
**Barbara Brown**, Office Administrator  
**Pam Shelby**, Financial Administrator  
**Lesley Fleming**, Nursery Attendant  
**Rev. Howard Marshall**, Pastor Emeritus (1990-2022)  
**Rev. Randy Jay**, Pastor Emeritus

**FOR THE RECORD  
 February 8, 2026**

<b>Operating Receipts To date</b>	<b>\$ 3,755.00 10,022.00</b>
<b>Endowment To date</b>	<b>160.00 345.00</b>
<b>Blankets of Love Total</b>	<b>385.00</b>
<b>Children's Building Offerings Balance Due</b>	<b>45,621.00 48,379.00</b>
<b>Monthly Budgeted Needs</b>	<b>\$30,065.30</b>