

NEWS, NOTES AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Isaac and the C.E. Committee is excited to offer a new Bible study for this Lenten season. The study will be called “The Case for Easter” and will include both a book that can be read on your own, as well as a video we will watch for group discussion. If you would like a book, please sign up at the welcome desk. Class begins Wednesday, March 4, at 10 AM and will run through the last Wednesday of March

CWF BLESSING CALENDARS: The CWF is once again publishing blessing calendars for people to use this month. The idea is to make a small donation every day for each of the blessings you have listed on the calendar. All Money collected will go to the Helping Hands Soup Kitchen at the First Baptist Church.

LENT PRAYER PACKETS: There are prayer packets up front that can be picked up this evening when you go forward for communion and to receive ashes. Otherwise, you can pick one up after the service. This is a great opportunity to pray for other members of our church! Please consider picking up a packet and participating in this powerful prayer experience.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES: The Presbyterian Church will host Lenten Music and Meditation Services each Wednesday at 12:00 noon during Lent. These are ecumenical services open to the community and led by various pastors from the local churches each week!

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UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!

Get ready for some exciting events! We have planned a variety of fun activities to bring people together for fellowship and to strengthen our church connections. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. We hope to see you there!

- Mar 1st: Soup Luncheon
- Mar 1st: Evangelism Mtg
- Mar 3rd: Circle of Light 5 PM
- Mar 5th: Elders Mtg 5 PM
- Mar 5th: Trustee Mtg 6 PM
- Mar 9th: Staff Relations Mtg 6 PM
- Mar 10th: Board Mtg 7 PM

FCC Staff Contact Information

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First Christian Church

Paris, IL

~ 2026 ~

CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION & WORSHIP

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 18th, 2026

6:00 PM

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PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES	Amy Horton
WELCOME AND OVERVIEW	Pastor Isaac
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Ellen Webb
HYMN OF REFLECTION & REPENTENCE <i>"Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"</i>	#451 vs. 1 & 2
INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER	Pastor Isaac
OLD TESTAMENT READING #1 <i>Genesis 2:7 and Genesis 3:19</i>	Ellen Webb
OLD TESTAMENT READING #2 <i>Joel 2:12-17</i>	Pastor Isaac
NEW TESTAMENT READING #1 Matthew 6:16-21	Ellen Webb
NEW TESTAMENT READING #2 2 nd Corinthians 5:17-19	Pastor Isaac
HYMN OF REFLECTION & REPENTENCE <i>"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"</i>	#568 vs. 1 & 4
HOMILY AND COMMUNION INVITATION <i>"Repent – From Ashes to Redemption"</i>	Pastor Isaac
HYMN OF REFLECTION & REPENTENCE <i>"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"</i>	#445 vs. 1 & 5
IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND PARTAKING OF COMMUNION* Pastor Isaac, Ellen Webb, Angel Templeton & Kim Woods	
A LITTANY OF CONFESSION AND GRACE <i>Responsive Reading on the Screen</i>	
BENEDICTION	Pastor Isaac
POSTLUDE	

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Thank you for coming to this Ash Wednesday Service of Preparation. May it help prepare you for the Lenten journey to Easter. Today begins our Lenten Prayer Program. As noted inside this bulletin, Prayer Packets are available this evening at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions about the program or the names in your packet, feel free to call the office.

EXPLANATION OF LENT

Lent comes from an old word meaning "lengthen", or "springtime", referring to this time of year when the days are getting longer. Lent is not found in the Bible. It is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. So, while it is actually 46 days prior to Easter, it is officially listed at 40 days in length. The origin of Lent is two-sided. First, the early Christians celebrated the resurrection with a simple fast that was soon extended to a 40-hour fast. Second, it became the tradition to baptize on Easter morning, but a time of study and preparation was needed – so the days before Easter became that time. These two emphases of fasting and a time of preparation became the season of Lent. The color of Lent is purple, to remind us of our need for repentance and forgiveness. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. In some churches the occasion is observed by making a cross on the forehead with the ashes of the palm branches from the previous year. Lent ends with Holy Week; the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It continues with Maundy Thursday, the remembrance of the Last Supper. Lent concludes with Good Friday, our remembrance of the crucifixion, and Easter, our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

***Lenten Prayer Packets** are available for you to pick up at this time as you go forward. Once you return to your seat, please check your packet to make sure you did not receive your name on the prayer cards. If you do, you may exchange your card or packet after the service.