

Pastor Ronn's Ponderings: Lent: A Fresh Start

The Season of Lent is a good time to fix relationships. One way to build strong relationships quickly is to admit your mistakes. That might sound easy at first, but few people practice it. James 5:16 tells us to confess or admit your mistakes to one another... and THAT can be terrifying and risky!

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
James 5:16

This wonderful little verse though is powerfully effective, and when done in a Christ-like manner can bring about three important growth areas in a Christian's life. When you confess your sin to someone you have sinned against you get....

A fresh start. Ask forgiveness, receive forgiveness, and then let it go!

Emotional and spiritual healing. Emotional healing really comes from telling someone else. It sure helps to "get it off your chest."

The power to change. This power comes from God through His grace. When we get our vertical relationship right, relationship with others improve drastically.

God wants to turn your hurt into healing. Then he wants to use you in the lives of other people. He's just waiting for you to surrender. Sounds risky to be that open and transparent, but I promise you, it's worth the risk! One note of action on this. Make sure you admit your faults to someone you trust! Doing otherwise will only complicate your life and relationships.

Praying for you to have healthy relationships!

Pastor Ronn



March 5, 12, 19, 26

*10:00 a.m. Worship Service in our Sanctuary and Online
To join online, visit our YouTube channel:
Firstchristiannewcastlein*

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

*Book of Acts Bible Study in the Fellowship Lounge
Two sessions, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (No Morning Session on 3/2)*

March 5, Board Meeting

After Worship Service, in the Fellowship Lounge. All are welcome

Easter Coloring Contest for Adults and Youth

*Pick up coloring sheets beginning March 5. Completed sheets due back March 26
(or sooner). These will be used to decorate the Main Hallway for Easter*

March 8, Soul Sisters

*Pizza and Painting, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Lounge,
Please RSVP to Yvette Oren or Claudia Jackson, \$3.00 Cost for Supplies*

March 12, Congregational Closet

The Congregation is invited to "shop" the Henry County Foster Closet and take tours

March 19, Baptism Class after Worship Service

See Pastor Ronn

March 19, Elders Meeting after Worship Service

March 21, 3:30 p.m., Worship Planning Team Meeting

March 22, Men's Fellowship Group, Pizza at 6 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

March 24, Potato Fundraiser for Mission Team

Details coming soon!

March 26, Baptism Class after Worship Service

See Pastor Ronn

March 31, Youth Field Trip



April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

10:00 a.m. Worship Service in our Sanctuary and Online

To join online, visit our YouTube channel:

firstchristiannewcastlein

April 6, 13, 20, 27

Book of Acts Bible Study in the Fellowship Lounge

Two sessions, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Morning Session ONLY on 4/6)

April 1, Easter Egg Stuffing Brunch

9:00 a.m., all are invited to help prepare for our Easter Egg Hunt. Food Provided

April 1, Ladies' Closet Clean Out Event

Clothing Give-Away, 11-1 p.m., Back Parking Lot

April 2, Palm Sunday Worship Service

10:00 a.m.

April 2, Board Meeting after Worship Service

April 6, Maundy Thursday Self-Guided Worship Service

3-8 p.m., Sanctuary

April 7, Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

April 7, Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Begins at 8:00 p.m. and continues until Noon on Saturday, April 8

You may sign up to pray at home or at the church. Sign up sheets will be out soon

April 8, Churchyard Clean Up

Donuts at 9:00 a.m., Work starts at 9:30 a.m. See Duane Matthews to volunteer

April 9, Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

After Worship Service, go directly to the Shelter House for Easter Egg Hunt and Food!

April 15, Victory Lane Car Show in our Parking Lot

April 20, Forest Ridge Dessert Auction to Benefit the Henry County Foster Closet

April 26, Men's Fellowship Group

Fellowship Lounge, Food at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Concerns: Jim Bell, Terry Ewing, Glenda Baker, Stacey Crane, Amy Madden, Dennis Lindsey, Sarah Hanlon, Byron Paul, Bradley Davidson, Jack Marcum, Our Youth Groups, Greg Walcott, Angel Irwin, Carolyn and Don Gibson, Unspoken Prayer Requests, Brad Coffey, Flora Clampitt, Larry Stroud, Pastor Ronn Oren, Billy Evans, Robbie Pope, Eric Johnson, Brenda Leduc, Tracey Bell, Wayne Perdue, Debby Weaver, Lynda Graeb, Alberta Hughes, Debbie Ewing, Mary Ellen Reyman, Darrell Fox, June Jacobson

Shut In, Homebound, or Special Concern: Joan Paul, Sheila Jackson, John and Joan Cleveland, Sharleen Heckley, David Williams, Evelyn Keith, Dee Igo, Susan Rhoades

Donations Needed!

The Worship Planning Team is seeking donations of artificial ficus trees (any type of silk tree), and silk spring flowers and garlands (all sizes and types of spring flowers). Trees can and will be returned after Easter (please place your name on the bottom). Please be on the look out at rummage sales, thrift shops, etc. Thank you in advance! Please bring donations to the church office.

Upcoming Greeter Schedule

March 5, Tracey and Jesse
March 12, Bev P and Buck
March 26, John C and Azure
April 2, John D and Pam
April 9, Jennifer H, Jesse, Don, Tracey



Worship Leader Schedule

3/5/2023	Beverly Matthews
3/12/2023	John Miller
3/19/2023	Tami Eversole
3/26/2023	Tracey Bell
4/2/2023	Buck Quigley
4/9/2023	Don Denney
4/16/2023	Brian Jackson

Upcoming Elder Schedule

March 5, Don and Sherry
March 12, Sherry and Don
March 19, Duane and Beverly
March 26, Beverly and Duane
April 2, Tracey and Claudia
April 9, Claudia and Tracey

Limiting distractions

Getting a cell phone is a major milestone for kids — and a huge decision for parents. Despite our boys' complaints, we made them wait longer than most of their peers. We emphasized accountability, monitoring and time limits. Out of curiosity, I checked my own phone usage. It was more than double the limit we set for our kids! I came up with reasons (excuses, really) why I needed more time.

But God stopped me in my tracks and prompted me to use a "time's up" notification. It helps me be intentional about removing distractions. What diverts you from God's best? Are you listening to him and then redirecting your attention? God, speak clearly — and prompt us to listen!

—Janna Firestone



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:00 A.M.

On Saturday evening, our clocks need to "spring forward" one hour.



Family Team Chairperson, Jennifer Day, is putting out a call for **Candy Donations and Donations of plastic Easter Eggs**

Please place donations in the bin in the Narthex.

Thank you so much!

News of our Ministry Teams



Tami Eversole reports that the Mission Team meeting was attended by 30 adults and 6 youth.

The Team is planning 2 fundraisers in the near future. These fundraisers will benefit the team's trips.

The Team hopes to travel to Kentucky to aid tornado and flood victims. The date is still to be determined.



Sarah Murphy and Tami Cunningham-Neal stir up some pancake batter for the Shrove Tuesday meal.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was enjoyed by 80 people!

A special thanks to everyone that came out for food and fellowship and a great big **THANK YOU** to everyone that helped prepare, serve and clean for the event.

-Melanie Renner, Culinary Chairperson

Youth News

Submitted by Youth Pastor, Yvette Oren

February was a busy month for us! We made valentine baskets, and then delivered them to several of our members who are no longer able to come to church.

The youth and Christian Education committee also spent a workday in February painting the youth room upstairs and began organizing the youth space where the Renaissance Preschool used to be.

At the end of March, the youth will be taking a trip to the Ark Encounter in Williamsport Kentucky. We will be using the funds that we raised when we sold the cheese balls, so THANK YOU for everyone who supported us and is making this trip possible!

Below is a picture of our visit to Mary Lou Dye (center).

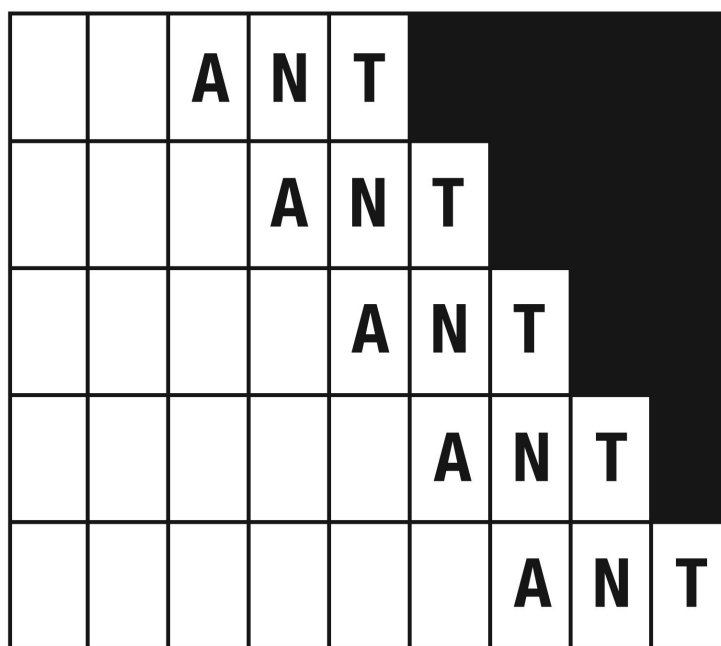


*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

Proverbs 11:25 NIV

Puzzle!

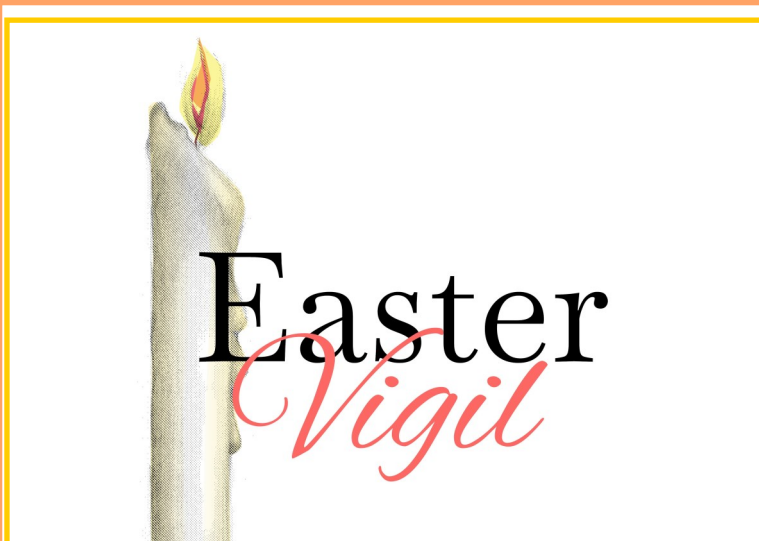
Are you getting “antsy” for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to
complete these words that end in A-N-T.



CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one’s testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant



It is a long-standing tradition here at FCC to hold a prayer vigil beginning on Good Friday and ending on Holy Saturday.

The Elders of our church take the lead in organizing and monitoring the vigil. The word "vigil" comes from the Latin word *vigilia* meaning wakefulness.

It is in the spirit of watching and waiting on the Lord that our members are being asked

to sign up for a half-hour time slot to pray in the church or at home.

We will be scheduling time slots soon. Please plan to participate if you are able. The vigil begins at 8:00 pm on Good Friday (April 7) and goes until Noon on Holy Saturday (April 8). Please call the church office for available time slots.

The office telephone number is 765-529-2403. Please leave a message if there is no answer and we will return your call. Let us join with all the Saints gone before us to continue this sacred tradition.

Foster Closet Upcoming Events

March 12, Congregational Closet

The Congregation is invited to "shop" the Henry County Foster Closet and take tours

April 1, Ladies' Closet Clean Out Event

Clothing Give-Away, 11-1 p.m., Back Parking Lot

April 20, Forest Ridge Dessert Auction to Benefit the Henry County Foster Closet

For complete details see flyer available in the Narthex. You can help support this event by donating baked goods or attending the auction (6-8 p.m., 4/20) at Senior Living at Forest Ridge and bidding on baked goods.



A Prayer for Today

Jesus, you long to gather everyone under your sheltering wings. Like a stubborn child, I often resist. Help me instead to welcome your loving care.

Amen

Please Keep Us Updated!

If you are admitted to the hospital, please have a friend or loved one contact the church office so we will know you are there. If you are ill or have another need that requires a visit from our Pastor or an Elder, please contact the church office. The church office phone number is 765-529-2403.

When we are notified, we will ask if you want to be placed on the prayer concerns list or prayer chain. If you wish to keep your information confidential, your privacy will be respected.

**First Christian Church
2000 Bundy Avenue
New Castle, IN 47362**

