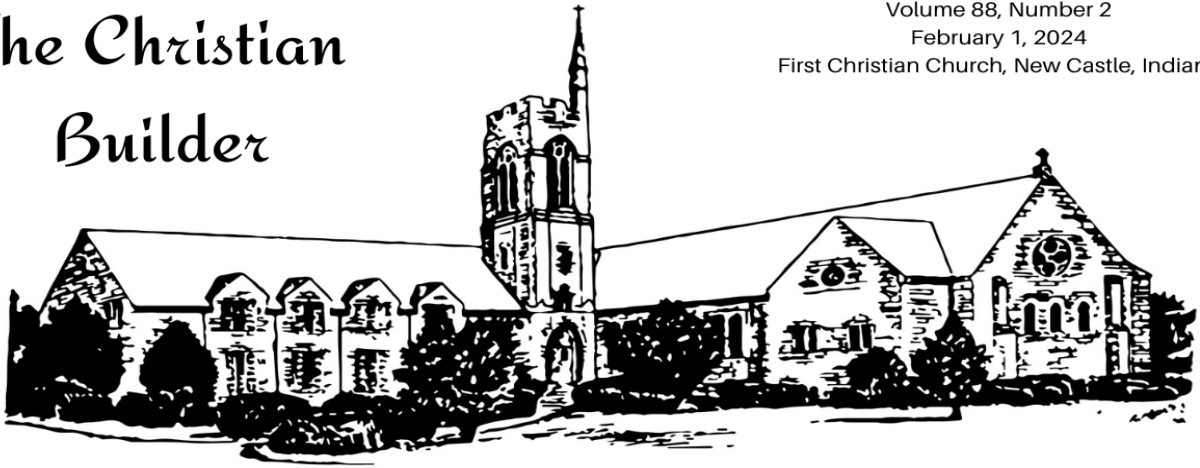


# The Christian Builder

Volume 88, Number 2  
February 1, 2024  
First Christian Church, New Castle, Indiana



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## Pastor Ronn's Ponderings

As believers in Christ, we go through different seasons in our spiritual journey, each offering unique opportunities for growth and renewal. One such significant season is lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. It is a time of reflection, repentance, and preparation leading up to the glorious celebration of Easter. Joel 2:12-13 beautifully captures the essence of Ash Wednesday, exhorting us to return to the Lord with all our hearts and express genuine repentance.

### **A Somber Recognizing of our Need for Repentance:**

Joel 2:12 begins with a solemn call to the people of God: **"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart."** This invitation reminds us that no matter how far we have drifted away, it is never too late to return to the loving arms of our Heavenly Father. Ash Wednesday urges us to honestly assess our lives, recognizing our need for repentance and turning away from anything that hinders our relationship with God.

### **A Wholehearted Return:**

The Lord does not merely desire external displays of repentance; rather, God longs for a genuine transformation of the heart. Joel 2:13 emphasizes this truth, saying, **"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate."** Ash Wednesday invites us to examine the innermost corners of our hearts, allowing God to uncover any areas of sin or spiritual stagnation. True repentance involves a complete surrender, tearing down the walls we build around ourselves and embracing the deep work of healing and restoration that God offers.

### **Embracing God's Grace and Compassion:**

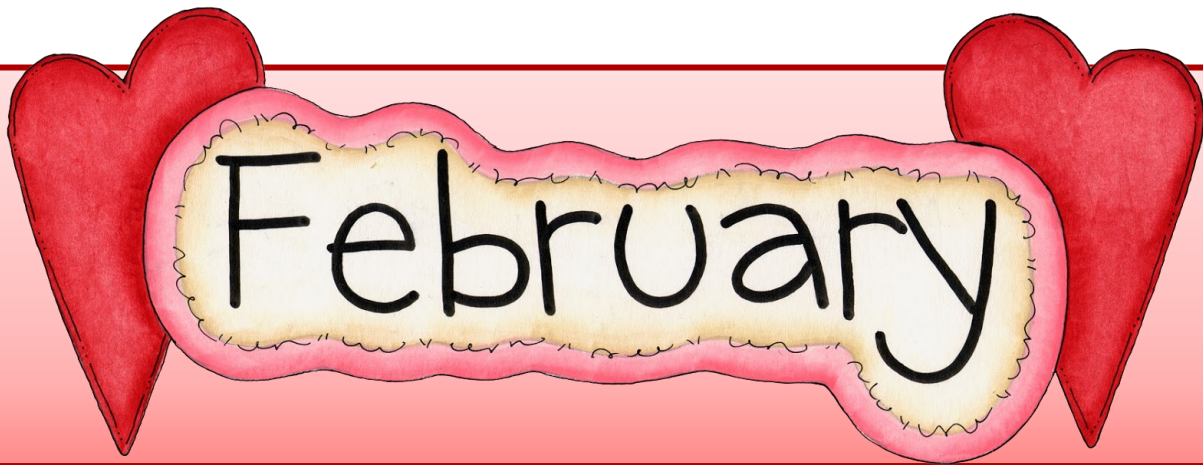
In the midst of our repentance, we find immense comfort and hope in the character of our Heavenly Father. Joel reminds us that God is gracious and compassionate. Despite our failings, He eagerly awaits our return, ready to pour out His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday provides a sacred space to experience the profound depth of God's grace, reminding us that no sin is too great for His loving arms to embrace.

I personally invite you to our Ash Wednesday service on February 14<sup>th</sup> in our Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. and begin your Lenten journey with your church family.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ronn



**Sunday, February 4, 11, 18, 25**

10 a.m. — Worship Service

11:15 a.m. –12:15 p.m. Deep Dive (18th)

6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group (11th and 25th) (No Youth Group 4th)

**Wednesday, February 7, 14, 21, 28**

9 a.m. - Friends in the Middle Prayer Group

10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study (No 6:30 p.m. Bible Study on February 14)

**Sunday, February 4**

Board Meeting - Following Worship Service

**Monday, February 5 and 19**

Group of Grace Small Group - 4:30—6:00 p.m.—Fellowship Lounge

**Tuesday, February 6**

Mission Team Dine to Donate—Applebee's of New Castle—11:00 a.m. until Close

**Thursday, February 8**

Soul Sisters Galentine's Pitch-In—6:30 p.m.—Fellowship Lounge  
Meat and Drinks provided • A-M bring side dishes • N-Z bring dessert  
Bring a decorated box and 48 valentines to share with others

**Friday, February 9**

Mission Team Italian Fundraiser—Free Will Donation—6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

**Sunday, February 11 and 25**

Feeding Your Faith Small Group 6:30 p.m.—Fellowship Lounge

**Tuesday, February 13**

Shrove Tuesday - 5:30—7:00 p.m.—Great Hall

**Wednesday, February 14**

Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 18**

Elder's Meeting—Following Worship Service  
Fan the Flame Small Group—Following Worship Service

**Thursday, February 22**

Band of Brothers - 6:00 p.m.

# February

## Youth Events

**4**

FEB

**No Youth Group**

**11**

FEB

**Youth Group/Small Group**  
Fellowship Lounge

6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

**18**

FEB

**Deep Dive**  
A time of diving deeper into a  
topical/apologetic study.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

**25**

FEB

**Youth Group/Small Group**  
Fellowship Lounge

6:30 PM - 8:15 PM



All Are Invited To  
Join Us At The

# CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Sunday, February 4  
Following Worship  
In the Fellowship Lounge



## *Dining to* **DONATE**

**APPLEBEE'S WILL DONATE 15%  
OF YOUR CHECK TO:**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
MISSION TEAM**

**Date: 2/6/2024**

**Time: 11am–Close**

**APPLEBEE'S UNIT**

109 S Memorial Drive

New Castle, IN 47362

Present this flyer to your server at time of order

**- OR -**

Order online at [Applebees.com](https://applebees.com) or through our  
mobile app and:

- Select location listed above
- Choose your menu items
- At checkout, enter code: **DOINGOOD**
  - A penny will be deducted from your total to allow us to track your order
- Checkout and pickup order at designated time

Valid on dine-in and To Go orders, not valid on delivery. Valid at location listed above  
on scheduled date only. 15% donation excludes tax and gratuity.

## *Soul Sisters*

### GALENTINES PITCH-IN

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR  
FOOD, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

**FEBRUARY 8 | 6:30 PM**

MEAT AND DRINKS PROVIDED  
A-M BRING A SIDE N-Z DESSERT

PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Bring your decorated Valentines box and 45  
valentines ready to hand out to all who attend

## *Italian* DINNER FUNDRAISER

**Friday, February 9**

**6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION TEAM**

## *Fun Food Fellowship*

Enjoy spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and  
beverages to help raise money for our Mission Team

**FREE WILL DONATION**

We would like to get a head count  
If you are planning on attending please reach out to Tami Eversole or the Church Office

# Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers is open to all men in the church and meets the 4th Thursday of each month. In January, Zac Hess demonstrated forging iron and helped the men make cross necklaces. There was a good turnout for this event and a great time was had by all.



## Continue praying for these loved ones:

### Prayer Concerns

Jim Bell, Terry Ewing, Amy Madden, Dennis Lindsey, Our Youth Ministries, Greg Walcott, Angel Irwin, Larry Stroud, Robbie Pope, Eric Johnson, Wayne Perdue, Alberta Hughes, Diane and Dennis York, David Parrish, Michelle Denney, Herb Stage, Judy Jacquay, Brian Matthews, Diane Sweeney, Paul Hess, Erich, Marsha Barnard, Florence Joyce, Joyce Branham, Bonnie Barger, Kathy Saul, Rachel Joyce, Angela Harbaugh, Jake Nichols, Gary Marcum, Shirley Conner, Cheryl May, Billie Jo Smith, Peggy and Gene Guffey, Claudia Jackson, Mary Lou Dye, Debbie Evans and Family

### Shut In, Homebound, or Special Concern

Sheila Jackson, John and Joan Cleveland, Sharleen Heckley, Evelyn Keith, Dee Igo, Jo-Ann Privett



# Shrove Tuesday Breakfast for Dinner

5:30-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13

Pancakes, Sausages and Sweets  
in the Great Hall



## Ash Wednesday Service



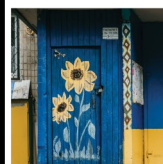
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14  
7:00 PM



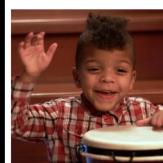
Welcome To Our Newest Members

**Paul Tinoco**  
**Gina Tinoco**  
**Sarah Murphy**  
**Kathy Saul**  
**Lonny Nation**  
**Teresa Nation**

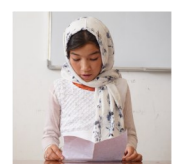
It is with the warmest of hearts and most joyful of minds that we welcome you to First Christian Church! To bring a new member into our congregation is an exceptional blessing, and we look forward to sharing our faith in the Lord with you.



**GIFTS TO  
LIVE ON**



**February 18-25**   
**Special Offering**  
**2024 Planning &**  
**Resource Guide**



**Week of  
Compassion**  
weekofcompassion.org  
**FOR 80 YEARS**



"...they contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."  
 + LUKE 21:4

# Thank You!

To the Henry County Foster Closet,

Thank you for all the donations! Our residents would have not had a good a Christmas if it wasn't for you all. Have an amazing New Year!

From Everyone at the Waters

Dear Members of our Congregation,

On behalf of the entire pastoral staff, we write to express our deepest gratitude for the generous Christmas bonus you bestowed upon us. Your thoughtfulness and support are truly humbling to us, and we are extremely grateful for your unwavering commitment to our church community. Your generosity, throughout the year, allows us to continue our shared mission of spreading love, hope, and faith throughout the year. We thank you for your continued support and blessings.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Pastor Ronn, Staff and Band of First Christian Church

To the First Christian Church Evangelism Committee.

Thank you so much for the blanket made for me. It is amazing. Thank you for praying for me too! Hoping 2024 brings good health and healing to all! - Eric Johnson

Thank you so much for the gift card and the sacks of food. Bless you in your giving!  
Foster Grandparent, Romana Wilkinson

Thank you for the Christmas basket and gift card. It is much appreciated. God bless you all. Foster Grandparent, Lillian Sylvester.

Many thanks for the groceries donated to our Foster Grandparents. I shared mine to help another family. Bless you all! Foster Grandparent, Joy Humbert

Your generosity knew no bounds with your wonderful Christmas food gifts to our Foster Grandparents. We waited to tell them about the baskets five days prior to distribution. Needless to say they were very touched and surprised. Many of the grandparents have told us how the food baskets and Kroger card helped them to have a wonderful Christmas dinner and many other meals as well. In a time when food insecurity is very prevalent, your kindness and thinking of us meant more than we can say. May God richly bless you for all you are doing for the community. Again, our sincere thank you for being God's hand extended. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - The Foster Grandparent Program



**Please Keep Us Updated!**

If you are admitted to the hospital, are ill, or have another need that requires a visit from an Elder or Pastor Ronn, please have a loved one contact the church office.

When we are notified, please let us know if request is to be placed on the prayer concerns list and/or submitted to Elders and Pastor Ronn. If you wish to keep your information confidential, your privacy will be respected.

First Christian Church  
2000 Bundy Avenue  
New Castle, IN 47362