



February 2018, Newsletter
 First Christian Church of Santa Fe (Disciples of Christ)



Join Us in Worship every Sunday at 10:30 AM

MISSION STATEMENT: In communion with Christ and with the world, First Christian Church serves God by building spiritual bridges between people. Inspired by Christ and the Spirit, we plant seeds of caring in the world, using gifts of music, active service, teaching and openness. United in Holy Faith, individuals work together to create a unique way of sharing faith.



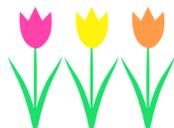
the
 Season of
 Lent

Lent is the name given to the period of preparation for the chief Christian festival, Easter. The work Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lenten*, meaning "Spring." Christians have developed various traditions within their respective denominations for the preparation of the great festival season of Easter.

Questions have been raised about the symbolism of this significant season. Why is it 40 days long? Sundays are not counted in the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Forty hours were first devoted to this observance in token of the time Jesus spent in the tomb.

The 40 days have been likened to a number of biblical parallels: Moses' fast on Mount Sinai; Elijah's fast on his journey to Mount Horeb; the 40 days' grace given to Ninevah in Jonah's preaching; and Jesus' fast at the beginning of public ministry.

-Ronald E. Ingram

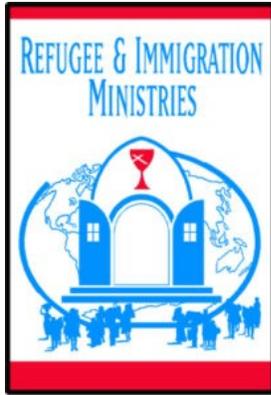


**WEEK of COMPASSION
 SPECIAL OFFERING
 in FEBRUARY**



The theme for the 2018 Week of Compassion offering is **MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.** It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world. It is easy to feel we are too small, too insignificant to make a difference, to believe that nothing we do can help. An African proverb says "If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito." As Christians, we are part of God's answer to the need in the world!

Mother Teresa said: "We cannot do great things, only small things with great love." Will you accept the invitation to make a difference and see what God will do with your giving? Prayerfully consider a gift to the Week of Compassion offering during February.



The **Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries** has put together a **Lenten Devotional Guide** themed around immigration. Each day has a scripture, reflection, story, actions, and prayer. You can print or view the pdf at this link. As our broader ministry as a congregation is very involved in immigration issues, this is a good resource for learning, reflection and prayer for us.

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/LENTEN-Devotions-DISCIPLES-2018-9-part-FINAL.pdf>

Who God Chooses

Human imperfections plagued many biblical figures. When we overlook this, we minimize the effectiveness of God in using common people for uncommon purposes. (consider Moses)

Sometimes, like Moses, we may withdraw “to the far side of the desert,” into some personal wilderness, waiting to achieve perfection before making ourselves available to God. We recognize our sinful history and human limitations, and so we flee God’s presence instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us to develop dormant talents.

Whenever we feel inadequate to serve God, we do well to remember that God chose a shepherd with a criminal history to lead Christ’s human ancestors to the Promised Land.

—K. Jackson Peevy in *The Upper Room*, August 12, 1997



Copies of the spring issue (March, April, May) of the Secret Place have arrived. They are on the table near the front door of the church building.



Pastor Tiffany will be away March 17th and 18th to officiate a wedding in Ohio.



Daylight savings time begins Sunday March 11th. Don't forget to set your clocks forward.

Signs & Wonders

Sign outside First assembly of God, Indianola, IA: “If God is your co-pilot, switch seats!”

Sign on a bakery in downtown Dover, DE: “Cupcakes are muffins that believed in miracles.”

Sign outside South Seminole Church of Christ, Winter Park, FL: “A Bible falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn’t.”

Sign outside Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York City: “Tweet others as you would want others to tweet you.”

Please consider the following for your prayers:



- For all those affected by and involved with school mass shootings.
- For us to learn to better care, respect, and cooperate with the earth, our common home.
- For all who are incarcerated & for their families and friends who are impacted.
- For our neighbors living on the streets - especially the women, children, and young adults, who often go unnoticed in their housing insecurity.
- For immigrants & refugees and all who are seeking a safe place to call home.
- For those who are sick, in the hospital, or facing chronic health concerns, and for their friends and families who care for them.
- For all who lead local, state and national governments; both elected and appointed.

A Prayer for Lent

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see more clearly the condition of my soul. If there is darkness, mean-spiritedness, egotistic pride...or worse within, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Renew a right spirit within me and make me truly Christ-like in all my thoughts and actions. And when I begin to edge away from your will, please stir up my conscience until I am in harmony with you again. In Christ's name. Amen

Pray also for other churches and helpful organizations each week:

- Feb. 18-24: Christ Lutheran Church & Feeding Santa Fe
- Feb. 25-Mar. 3: St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish & Santa Fe Dreamers
- Mar. 4-10: Community Table & Tewa Women United
- Mar. 11-17: Temple Baptist Church & Public Service Employees, Military, Care Givers
- Mar. 18-24: Moslems in the Santa Fe area & St. Elizabeth Shelter



Service Schedule

Date	Elder	Deacon
Feb. 18	Bob Cady	Anita Hett
Feb. 25	Nancy Scheer	Neil Curran
Mar. 4	no elder	Craig Borner
Mar. 11	Ed Bethel	Anita Hett
Mar. 18	Nancy Scheer	Neil Curran

If a Deacon or Elder needs a substitute, please call the church at 983-3433.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February

14 – Catherine & Craig Borner

March

21 Stephen Baca



CONTACTING the PASTOR:

Church Phone: 505-983-3433 (checked daily, Sunday-Thursday)

Email:
rev.tiffany.disciples.santafe@gmail.com
 (checked daily, Sunday-Thursday)



Drop-In office hours: Feel free to drop by Wednesday and Thursday, 2-4 pm.

Save the date:



Sun. Feb. 18: First Sunday in Lent

Sun. Feb. 18: Church Business Meeting after worship

Mon. Feb 19-20: Rev. Tiffany on silent retreat at Christ in the Desert Monastery

Thur. Mar. 1: Community Table, Fellowship Hall, 5:30-7:00pm

Sat. Mar. 10: Santa Fe Vipassana Sangha, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall, Daylong Retreat,

Sun. Mar. 18: Guest Preacher Wendy Russel



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<https://santafedisciples.org>

