

Chalice Tidings

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
120 North McArthur Street, Macomb, IL 61455-2101

Volume XXX, Issue 2

February 1, 2026

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Custodian

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Alejandro Solis
A/V Intern

Karsyn Trusley
Nursery Attendant

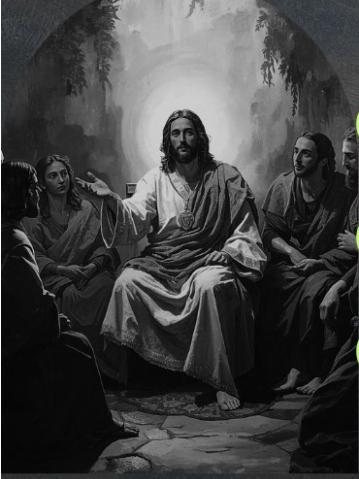
Linda Webb
Organist

Darren Woods
Choir Director



February Sermon Series

Jesus-ed



02/01 - Matthew 5:1-12
Bless-ed

02/08 - Matthew 5:13-20
Command-ed

02/15 - Matthew 17:1-8
Transfigur-ed

Worship at 10:30 am

February Sermon Series

HEART MATTERS



02/01 - Psalm 86:8-13
A DIVIDED HEART

02/08 - Psalm 147:1-5
A WOUNDED HEART

02/15 - Ezekiel 36:24-28
A NEW HEART

WORSHIP AT 6:30 PM



Kelly's Korner

Have you seen the TV show Ted Lasso? It was very popular a few years ago. And is often re-watched by loyal supporters. The premise of Lasso is that a British Premier League soccer team hires an American football coach from Kansas to be their soccer manager. We quickly learn that the team's new owner (who got the team through divorce) wants to drive the organization into the ground, to spite her husband. She has hired a completely inept coach expecting many losses.

There is a poster that gets taped to the top of the doorway leading to Coach Lasso's office. One single word on it. Believe. This poster is significant from the beginning to the end of the series. And, while Coach Lasso has lots of sayings—Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse. If you're comfortable while you're doing it, you're probably doing it wrong; You say impossible, but all I hear is I'm possible; Be a goldfish (referencing their 10-second memory)—it is the way that he genuinely cares for his team that will not allow them to fail.

There are many ups and downs. Ted Lasso perseveres through professional and personal strife. He says

I believe in hope. I believe in 'believe'.

As faithful followers of Christ, we cannot allow a fictional character to have more hope and belief than we do. In our world, at this exact moment, we must step up to overcome the strife we encounter and see on the news or in our social media feeds. We must not let perpetrators of violence tear away the very fabric of our society. We must be the embodiment of love and peace and hope—even when we are tempted not to be the body of Christ just now.

We must believe in hope. We must believe in 'believe'.

For the aims of God to be realized we must live the faith we profess to believe, the kind of faith that leads to hope. Even when it is difficult. Even now.

See you soon!

Peace,



February Event Calendar

February 1: Emergency Cupboard Collection

February 1: There's A Place for You Ministry Fair - 9:30 am @ *Parlor*

February 7: Disciples Men - 8:00 am @ *Old Dairy*

February 9: Second Monday Women's Group - 6:00 pm @ *Los Charros East*

February 16: Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

February 18: Ash Wednesday - 7:00 pm

February 19: Third Thursday Groups

- Meditation - 12:15 pm @ *Parlor*
- Men's Group - 7:00 pm @ *Buffalo Wild Wings*

February 23: Elder's Meeting - 6:00 pm

February 24: Ladies Luncheon - 11:00 am @ *Old Dairy*

February 25: Lenten Lunch & Learn - 12:15 to 12:45 pm @ *Parlor*

February 25: Movie Night & Potluck - 5:30 pm @ *Youth Room*

Lenten Sermon Series: *Lent Is Miserable...Or Is It?*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and this year we will journey through the season with the theme "*Lent Is Miserable...Or Is It?*" In both Traditional and Xperience services, the Lenten sermon series will explore how God meets us in moments of struggle, suffering, and uncertainty, transforming what feels miserable into spaces of grace and hope. The Xperience service will also incorporate music from *Les Misérables* to deepen reflection on mercy and redemption, with a congregational movie night and potluck on February 25 at 5:30 pm to further enrich the series.

LENT IS MISERABLE... OR IS IT?

02/18 - Ash Wednesday - Joel 2:15-16
START AT THE END

02/22 - Matthew 4:1-2
MISERABLE TEMPTATION

03/08 - John 4:1-5
MISERABLE THIRST

03/22 - John 11:35
MISERABLE GRIEF

03/01 - John 3:1-5
MISERABLE CHAT

03/15 - John 9:1-12
MISERABLE BLINDNESS

Lent is MISERABLE... or is it?

02/18 - Ash Wednesday - Joel 2:15-16
Start At The End

02/22 - Jeremiah 30:15-17
The Miserable Is Cast Out

03/01 - Ephesians 4:29-32
The Miserable Receives Forgiveness

03/15 - Matthew 26:36-39
The Miserable Prays

03/08 - Micah 6:8
The Miserable Has Purpose

03/22 - John 3:1-5
The Miserable is Confounded

Worship @ 10:30 am Worship @ 6:30 pm

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Xperience

Disciples Women

Char Carden, President

2026...WOW! Where did 2025 go? Hang on, another year has begun...may it be full of peace, joy, kindness, health and LOVE!

The Ladies Luncheon is on **February 24th at 11:00 am at Old Dairy**. Disciples Women are on hiatus until **Tuesday, March 24th** at the Old Dairy. In March, the Ladies Luncheon will begin at 11:00 am and a short Disciples Women meeting will follow after at 12:00 pm. **All women are welcome for both!** If you do not want to stay for the meeting, no problem! Join us for lunch with conversation, fun and laughter. Hope to see YOU!!!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY EVERYONE!

Roses are not always red,
Violets can be white or blue,
But what never changes LORD,
Is the love coming from YOU.

WE know WE ARE not perfect,
But YOU love US any way
YOUR love is like the sunshine,
That brightens up OUR day.

YOU love US like no other,
What more could WE need
For YOUR love comes with...
A satisfaction guaranteed.

YOUR love is in OUR hearts,
WE can feel it with each beat
WE can't think of anything
So fragrant and so sweet.

Roses sometimes are red,
Violets may come blue...
But YOUR love for US Lord
Is constant and true!

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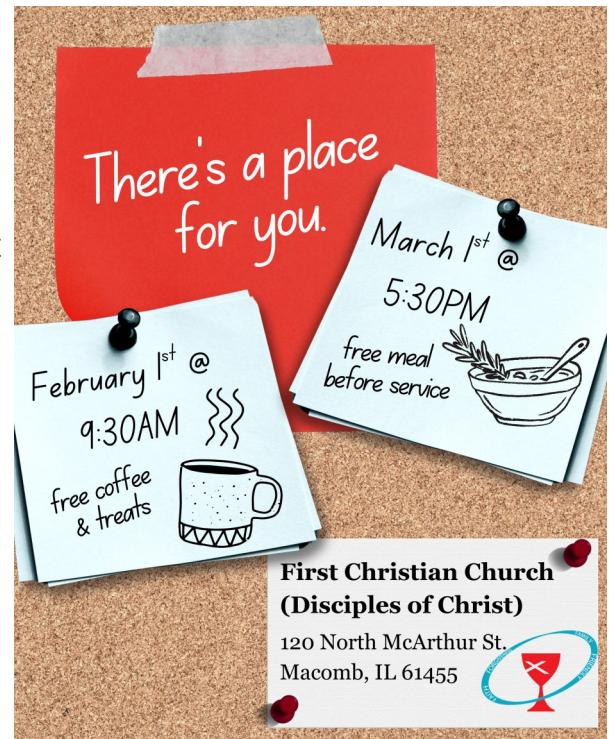
1 John 4:16

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

### There's A Place For You

Join us for two upcoming opportunities to connect and feel at home. On February 1st at 9:30 am, stop by for free coffee and treats. Then on March 1st at 5:30 pm, come early and enjoy a free meal before the service. Whether you're new or have been around awhile, you're always welcome, there's a place for you here!



## **Faith Based Creation Care Committee**

Kathy Fischer and Jack McKinnon

Since our ***Faith Based Creation Care*** committee has been in existence for almost two years now, we thought it would be good to summarize our accomplishments over this period of time:

- We are now up to 15 active members, representing six churches in Macomb
- The following is a partial list of our goals and activities:
  - Write environmental education articles for our church newsletters and share them with the committee, to share with their churches. The focus is on “little things you can do...”
  - Educate ourselves: Each member is assigned to present a topic to the committee at each meeting (e.g., composting, plastic pollution)
  - Share resources with the committee
    - E.g., information/projects conducted by individual churches pertaining to creation care and environmental justice
  - Provide information on how people can recycle, via our church newsletters as well as other media

In summary, our committee’s mission is to collaboratively examine, educate, and implement faith based creation care in our respective faith communities. We feel fortunate to have been given this opportunity to be leaders for creation care in the church!

## **Elders**

Jack McKinnon, Chair

The Souper Bowl of Caring meal prepared by the Elders will take place on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026. A spaghetti meal will be served to inmates at the jail, as well as police and sheriff staff, First Responders, Samaritan Well residents, and several shut-ins, with plans to prepare around 100 meals. This is a wonderful opportunity for outreach in the Macomb community, and we need your help, keep reading to learn how to get involved!

Volunteers are needed on both Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8, 2026. On Saturday, preparations will begin at 9:30 am at the church (following the Men’s Breakfast at 8:00 am), and all helpers are welcome. Please note that the Health Department guidelines require all hair to be pulled back and covered with a hat, and gloves must be worn when handling food (gloves will be provided). On Sunday, volunteers will meet at the church at 1:00 pm to make final preparations, with meals ready by 4:15 pm for delivery to the jail at 4:30 pm. Help is also needed to decorate serving containers and write cards to include with each meal, there is a place for everyone!

You may make food donations or monetary donations. There is a food donation sign-up sheet in the Parlor. Monetary donations may be given to the office clearly marked as “Elders Spaghetti Dinner” or given to Jack McKinnon.

Thank you for your help. The Elders truly appreciate your help with this outreach project.

## **Christian Action & Outreach**

Jan Rockwell, Chair

Over the past months Christian Action & Outreach has been busy! We've received three generous donations from our community, enlarging our Emergency Cupboard supplies greatly. This has come at a most helpful time as the government's SNAP program to assist low income people was temporarily halted. FCC responded by doubling the times food is loaded into the Cupboard. It's not unusual for the stocking volunteers to find items left by someone besides our church members. Our committee now has twice as many volunteers assisting, including a concerned community member and some college students. Additionally our ROYALS high school volunteers unload and stock large orders as supplies are replenished. It might surprise you to know that those orders can be over \$1,500 at a time. With the generous donations, luckily we don't need to order monthly but it's a lot of food that is being gratefully received.

Speaking of volunteers: BIG THANK YOU'S go out to several folks!

Those who removed the stored old Boy Scout supplies from the Youth Room closets, cleaned, remodeled, and built additional more usable shelving, and transferred the mountains of food, THANK YOU!! We now have more efficient storage.

Those who continue to stock the Cupboard and those newly started the 2nd shift daily, THANK YOU!!

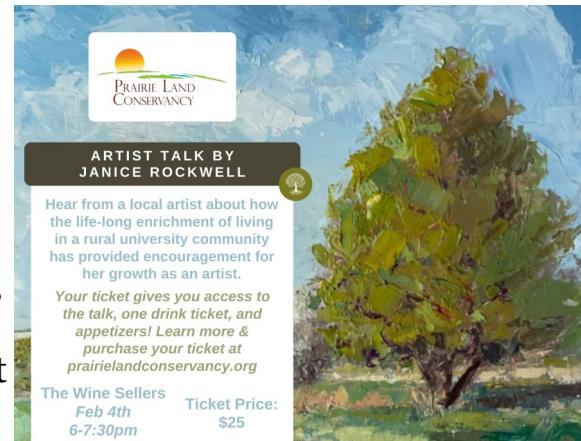
Those who made the Special Needs Christmas Party so special for our wonderful community, THANK YOU!! As well as so many of our own folks, we had additional help from ROYAL staff and students as well as some lovely ladies from a local African American Christian Sorority. The cool thing is they had so much fun, they asked to be invited back for future FCC events.

Our church is making a difference in our community. It's encouraging others to do the same. Isn't that what our calling of faith is all about?

### **Artist Talk with Jan Rockwell at The Wine Sellers**

Prairie Land Conservancy invites you to an inspiring event with local artist Jan Rockwell on Tuesday, February 4 from 6:00-7:30 pm at The Wine Sellers. Jan will share how the lifelong enrichment of living in a rural university community has encouraged and shaped her growth as an artist, offering insight into her creative journey and the influences behind her work.

Tickets are \$25 and include admission to the talk, one drink ticket, and appetizers. Space is limited, so we encourage you to reserve your spot soon. Learn more and purchase tickets at [prairielandconservancy.org](http://prairielandconservancy.org).



## **Evangelism**

Anne Ingersoll, Chair

This February, as we celebrate love in all its forms, let's reflect on simple yet powerful ways to share God's love within our community and beyond. Here are some easy suggestions:

- Acts of Kindness
  - Compliment Someone: Take a moment to uplift someone with genuine praise.
  - Help a Neighbor: Offer to run errands or assists with chores for those who may need a helping hand.
- Volunteer Opportunities
  - Community Service: Join a local food bank or shelter for a day of service. Your time and effort can make a real difference.
  - Church Activities: Participate in church out reach programs. Whether it's organizing events or assisting with logistics, your involvement can spread love.
- Encouraging Notes
  - Write Encouragement Cards: Send handwritten notes to church members, friends, or family, letting them know you care.
  - Post on Social Media: Share uplifting messages or Bible verses that inspire love and kindness.
- Share a Meal
  - Host a Potluck: Invite friends and neighbors to share a meal, fostering community and connection.
  - Cook for Those in Need: Prepare meals for families in your congregation or community who may be struggling.
- Prayer and Support
  - Pray for Others: Take time to pray for those in need, whether they are facing challenges or celebrating joys.
  - Offer a Listening Ear: Sometimes, just being present and listening can be a profound way to show love.
- Invite Others to Church
  - Bring a Friend: February is a great time to invite someone to join you for worship or a church event, introducing them to God's love in a welcoming environment.

By implementing even a few of these ideas, you can actively participate in sharing God's love this February. Each small act contributes to a larger tapestry of kindness and connection, reminding us of the love that binds us all together. Let's embrace this month as an opportunity to reflect God's love in tangible ways.

What ideas resonate with you? Consider picking one or two to focus on and make this February a month of love in action!



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Chalice Tidings



**February is when we celebrate  
Black History Month!**



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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