

# February 2026 Newsletter

**The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Perry is a family that finds ways of supporting growth through the connection of worship and the compassionate care of our church members and community.**



## Attendance Report:

|         | 8:15 AM | 10:30 AM | 6:00 PM | YouTube |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1/11/26 | 49      | 75       | 13      | 21      |
| 1/18/26 | 50      | 82       | 15      | 22      |
| 1/25/26 | n/a     | n/a      | n/a     | 34      |
| 2/1/26  | 36      | 63       | 18      | 9       |

## Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026  
5:30 PM

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
701 Holly St.  
Perry, OK

## Giving Report

|         |                                   |             |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1/11/26 | General                           | \$4,793.00  |
| 1/11/26 | Restricted-Bad Girls of the Bible | \$55.50     |
| 1/11/26 | Restricted-Poinsettias            | \$18.00     |
| 1/11/26 | Restricted CWF Funeral Dinner     | \$100.00    |
| 1/11/26 | Restricted-Funeral Dinner         | \$150.00    |
| 1/18/26 | General                           | \$4,484.00  |
| 1/18/26 | Restricted-Navigating Trans.      | \$98.50     |
| 1/31/26 | Subsplash                         | \$1,551.88  |
| 1/31/26 | ACH                               | \$400.00    |
| 2/1/26  | General                           | \$12,770.00 |
| 2/1/26  | Restricted-Navigating Transitions | \$17.00     |
| Total:  |                                   | \$24,419.88 |



LET ALL  
THAT  
YOU DO  
BE DONE  
WITH  
LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV



# *Josh's Jottings*

## **Lent Is an Invitation**

As winter begins to soften and the days slowly grow longer, the Church turns toward one of the most meaningful seasons of the Christian year: Lent. At First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Perry, we will begin this holy journey together with our Ash Wednesday service on February 18. This simple, reflective time of worship and the imposition of ashes helps us slow down, remember who we are, and open our hearts to the work God longs to do within us.

Lent is not meant to be heavy or gloomy. It is honest and hopeful. It invites us to step away from the noise of daily life and return to prayer, reflection, and compassion. Rather than simply “giving something up,” we make space for God to reshape our lives, deepen our faith, and draw us closer to Christ as we journey toward Easter morning.

To help guide us through the season, we also created a daily February devotional for our congregation. Each day includes a short scripture, reflection, and prayer rooted in the lectionary and the themes we are exploring in worship. My hope is that these brief moments each day will ground us, encourage us, and remind us that even during the week we are walking this journey together as one church family.

February will also be full of meaningful opportunities for fellowship and growth. Our *Navigating Transitions* book club begins February 8 with Linda Burks, offering thoughtful conversation and encouragement for anyone experiencing change or new seasons in life. On February 15, we’ll gather immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service for our Chili Cook-off—a fun and delicious time to share food and laughter together. Please note that there will be no youth group on Super Bowl Sunday or on the 15th so families can enjoy those evenings together.

Later in the month, I will be traveling to Christmount Christian Assembly for my annual board meeting and to visit my grandmother, leaving after worship on February 22 and returning on the 26th. I appreciate your prayers during that time and look forward to being back with you soon. Whether Lent is a long-standing tradition or something new for you, I invite you to join us as we begin this sacred season together. Come to worship, open the devotional, share a meal, read a good book, and walk with one another in faith. My prayer is that these days prepare our hearts to experience the hope and joy of Easter in fresh and life-giving ways.

Shalom, Joshua

# Stewardship Minute

Every beginning holds new hope. New beginnings and stewardship intersect as an opportunity to responsibly manage time, resources and talents entrusted to you by God. It involves cultivating an intentional mindset of gratitude and service to Him.

Start today.

## CWF Knitting Workshop Info:



Snuggle season is here, and we're bringing you the coziest class yet! Join us for a relaxing morning as Carman Lowe-Bell guides you through making your very own luxurious chunky knit blanket or a pillow cover to fit an 18x18 pillow.

No needles or knitting experience needed – just your fingers. Six skeins of chunky yarn for a blanket or three skeins of chunky yarn for a pillow cover purchased in advance. Color is your preference. Suggested yarn is Yarn Bee Eternal Bliss at Hobby Lobby (\$8/skein not on sale) or Cozyful Chunky Yarn from Amazon (bundle of six skeins for \$28.00). Whether you choose a blanket or a pillow cover either one will be perfect for chilly nights, adding a touch of handmade charm to your home. Class is scheduled Saturday, February 21 – 10:00 am in the Big Room. The class will run about 2 1/2 hours. Light refreshments will be served. So grab a friend, bring your yarn purchased in advance and join the fun. No cost for the class. Pre-registration required. Sign up in the Narthex.

## February Birthdays

Lana Moore 2/1

Mary Kerfoot 2/1

Randy McGuar 2/6

Bobby Cunningham 2/7

Madeline Bell 2/8

Charlotte Stephens 2/8

Maranda Wilson 2/12

Jim Kelly 2/13

Everett Lighty 2/13

Hattie Fischer 2/14

Diesel Dillon 2/17

Brandt Bolay 2/27

Justin Schweer 2/27

Kristie Cook 2/29

## February Anniversaries

Jay & Sherry DeBord 2/14

Cory & Metha Whitehead 2/14

Justin & Codi Hodge 2/24

Ron & Nancy Frazier 2/25

Sean & Kim McLain 2/28



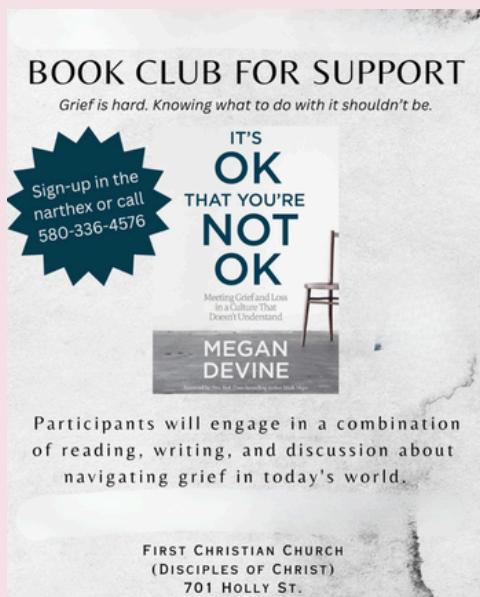
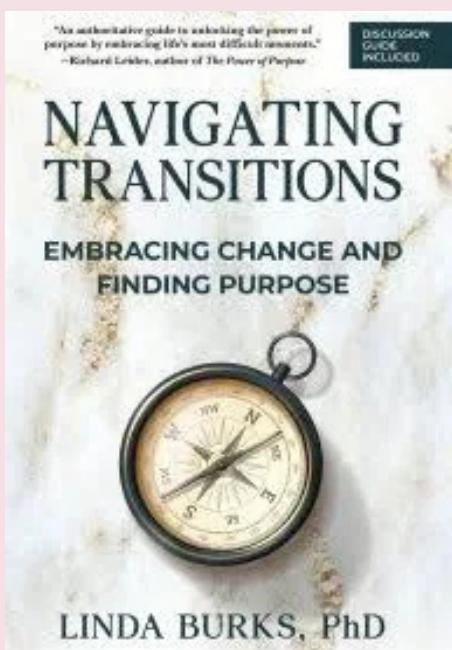
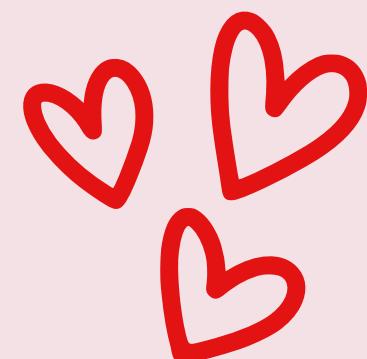
# GRACE AFTER SUNDOWN

Do you have a friend or family member that doesn't want to come to a traditional Sunday morning church service? Do you know someone with a Sunday schedule that doesn't fit with a morning worship time? We have an evening contemporary service that just might be a perfect fit - Grace After Sundown!

Grace After Sundown is a contemporary service that happens every Sunday evening at 6 pm in the sanctuary. We have created a down-to-earth Sunday evening service in which Ted Loring leads worship with popular songs, preaches a short message, and creates a space where everyone is welcome. The music selections are songs that are often played on local Stillwater station the House FM 105.9. Some attendees say they listen to similar music using the K-Love music station app. A typical service wraps up in less than 45 minutes.

Ted came to FCC Perry in 2020 from North Carolina and has a passion for leading contemporary worship. He plays keyboard and guitar. He and his wife, Shelia, operate a donkey rescue satellite just southeast of Perry. He sings to the donkeys as he practices throughout the week and likes to joke that every song is, "donkey tested and donkey approved."

Every six weeks or so, we like to mix it up and have country music night and have a lot of fun. We serve communion on the first Sunday of each month. We have guest musicians come in to help with worship. The purpose of every service is to laugh a little, worship God with all our hearts, and to exit feeling energized and ready to take on a new week. If you are looking for something a little different, or know someone who might be - we invite you to experience God's grace at Grace After Sundown.



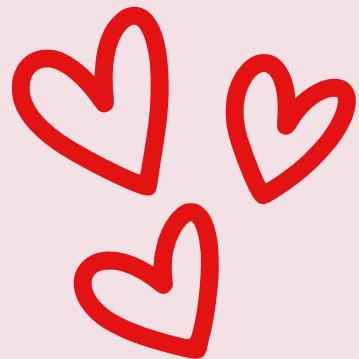
**New Session Beginning Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 3:00 PM**

**We will meet every other Sunday until May.**

Books are \$16.00 each. Please make checks payable to the First Christian Church. Feel free to order your own copy from Amazon or use a version for Kindle.

**Sign-up available now!**

**Navigating  
Transitions Book  
Study Begins  
February 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00  
PM. Books available  
for \$17.00 each.**



# Announcements

## Reoccurring Events:

**Sunday School :** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Sunday Worship Services:** 8:15 AM 10:30 AM

**Grace After Sundown** Sundays 6:00 PM

**Caraway Street:** 3rd Sunday at 9:30 AM.

**Disciples Kids:** Wednesday after school

**Youth:** Sundays at 5:00 PM

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM  
(except when Board meetings are scheduled.)

**Bell Choir:** Wednesdays @ 7:00PM (except  
when Board meetings are scheduled.)

**Bible Study:** Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

**Disciples Women:** 3rd Thursday of the month  
6:00 PM

**Quilters:** Thursdays 1:00 PM

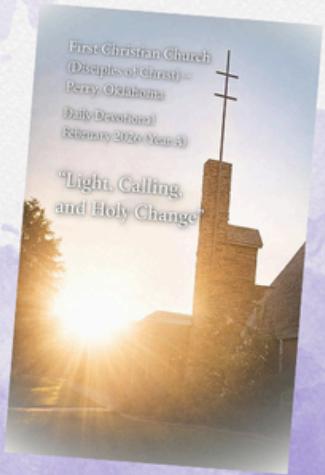
**Pickleball:** Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:00 AM

**Christian Women's Fellowship:** Events  
scheduled throughout the year.

**Christian Men's Fellowship breakfast:** 3rd  
Saturday of the month 7:00 AM.

## Pick up your free February 2026 Daily Devotional

(located in the narthex)



## FCC'S ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP

## CHILI COOK-OFF

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY  
15<sup>TH</sup> AFTER THE 10:30  
AM SERVICE.

**SIGN UP IS  
AVAILABLE  
now!**



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
701 Holly St.  
Perry, OK 73077  
580-335-4576



Rev. Dr. Joshua Bell, Sr. Minister  
Shiloah Kennedy, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Androes, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Paula Shryock, Music Director  
Nancy Wells, Organist  
Karen Douglass, Pianist  
Bobby Cunningham, AV tech  
Ted Loring, AV Tech  
Sharon Worrell, Custodian

*Thank you for reading!*

## February 2026

| Sun   | Mon       | Tue  | Wed  | Thurs.  | Fri.                             | Sat  |
|---|-----------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1</b><br>Sunday School 9:30 AM<br>Services 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM<br>Grief Support Book Club 3:00 PM<br>Youth 5:00 PM<br>Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Bible Study 9:00 AM<br>Pickleball 10:00 AM                 | <b>4</b><br>Disciples Kids 3:30<br>Choir 6:00 PM<br>Bell Choir 7:00 PM   | <b>5</b><br>Bad Girls of the Bible Book Club 10:00 AM<br>Quilters 1:00 PM                             | <b>6</b><br>Pickleball 10:00 AM  | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b><br>Sunday School 9:30 AM<br>Services 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM<br>Deacons' meeting 5:30 PM<br>Elders' meeting 6:00 PM<br>Navigating Transitions 3:00 PM<br>Youth 5:00 PM<br>Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>No Bible Study<br>Voting in the Big Room<br>No Pickleball | <b>11</b><br>Disciples Kids 3:30 PM<br>Board 6:00 PM   | <b>12</b><br>Bad Girls of the Bible Book Club 10:00 AM<br>Quilters 1:00 PM                            | <b>13</b><br>Pickleball 10:00 AM | <b>14</b><br>Valentine's Day   |
| <b>15</b> Sunday School 9:30 AM<br>Caraway St. 9:30 AM<br>Services 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM<br>Chili Cook off 12:00 PM<br>Grief Support Book Club 3:00 PM<br>Youth 5:00 PM<br>Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM       | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>No Bible Study<br>Pickleball 10:00 AM                     | <b>18</b> Ash Wed.<br>Disciples Kids 3:30 PM<br>Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 PM<br>Choir 6:00 PM<br>Bell Choir 7:00 PM | <b>19</b><br>Bad Girls of the Bible Book Club 10:00 AM<br>Quilters 1:00 PM<br>Disciples Women 6:00 PM | <b>20</b><br>Pickleball 10:00 AM | <b>21</b><br>CMF breakfast 7:00 AM<br>CWF Chunky Knit Blanket class 10:00 AM |
| <b>22</b><br>Sunday School 9:30 AM<br>Services 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM<br>Navigating Transitions 3:00 PM<br>Youth 5:00 PM<br>Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM   | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>No Bible Study<br>Pickleball 10:00 AM                     | <b>25</b><br>Disciples Kids 3:30 PM<br>Choir 6:00 PM<br>Bell Choir 7:00 PM   | <b>26</b><br>Bad Girls of the Bible Book Club 10:00 AM<br>Quilters 1:00 PM                            | <b>27</b><br>Pickleball 10:00 AM | <b>28</b>  |