

# Celtic Cross

The *Celtic Cross* is published once a month. News items intended for a specific issue should be submitted by noon on the Sunday prior to the last Wednesday of each month.

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February 2024

Editor: Cathy Taylor

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By the middle of February, we will begin the season of Lent. We will have a Lenten devotional available in the narthex Sunday, February 11. Looking through my pile of Lenten devotionals, I came across one that asked the question: "Can Lent really bring you closer to God?" Here's her answer: "Despite the resurgence of interest in rituals and traditions among evangelical millennials, Lent is not new, nor does it belong to any particular denomination. Historical records reveal the church has been observing a period of fasting and preparation before Resurrection Sunday since the time of the apostles, though it wasn't formalized as a universal practice until the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325. Over time, some turned Lent into an obligation rather than an invitation, and others responded by violently rejecting rituals that hinted at works-based salvation, leaving us hundreds of years later scrambling for some semblance of rhythm that will ground us in our Christian walk. Too many of us feel like Easter kind of sneaks up on us, and we're left spiritually and emotionally unprepared to celebrate this most glorious of all celebrations: Jesus' death and resurrection as victorious King. Is it possible, then, that we might reclaim this season of Lent to focus our hearts on Jesus in preparation for Easter Sunday? Can we leave behind the trappings of ritual that weigh down our souls and re-imagine what Lent could look like for 21 st century Christians who sincerely love Jesus and want to seek Him with all their hearts? I believe we can. Lent itself will not bring you closer to God. But in the hands of our heavenly Father, Lent becomes an invitation to uncover the love of Jesus, in a far greater way than we had ever imagined.

The author's devotional [Uncovering the Love of Jesus, Asheritah Ciuciu] gives creative ways to observe Lent—through her devotional or through any devotional, family time, family activities. Then, she gives a prayer for all of us: "Heavenly Father, may the eyes of our hearts be enlightened to see Your love toward us, as we never have before. Pour out Your love on us from the fullness of Your glorious and inexhaustible riches, that Christ may dwell in our hearts and strengthen us with power to grasp just how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ—so expansive that we can't escape it, so extensive that we can't exhaust it. May we be deeply rooted and established in Your love, growing to know Jesus' love not just in our minds but in our experiences. May Your love fill us to the measure of all the fullness of God, overflowing into the lives of those You have placed in our lives for this very time and purpose. Thank You for doing immeasurable more than we can even imagine right now through Your Spirit's power at Dear FPC Denton Church Family, By the middle of February, we will begin the season of Lent. We will have a Lenten devotional available in the narthex Sunday, February 11. Looking through my pile of Lenten devotionals, I came across one that asked the question: "Can Lent

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Lent is marked by the beginning of Ash Wednesday and held after Shrove Tuesday. This year, Lent **begins on February 14 (Valentine's Day!) and runs until March 28**, with evening mass on Holy Thursday. The last week of Lent is Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday and ending on Holy Saturday.

We will have a meal and service on Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) and a noon service on Good Friday.

## Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

Wow! One month of this new year of 2024 is almost over! We've had warm weather for winter—and then freezing weather—back to warm weather again. Some rain—and a tad

bit of snow. You never know in Texas what the day will bring weather-wise! February will be a busy month! February 11—is our “Pancakes for Lunch” luncheon along with our collection for Souper Bowl of Caring. We have set a goal of 360 food items (10 food items per student (36). February 14—Valentine’s Day is also Ash Wednesday. We will have a service at 7 pm. And February also has one extra day—yep—it’s a LEAP YEAR!

Here are the readings for February:

Feb. 4: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. Communion. Readings: Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c; Isaiah 40: 21-31; Mark 1: 29-39; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23. Sermon Title: “Healing”. Psalm 147, Mark 1, and possibly other texts. Theme: Healing

Feb. 11: Transfiguration Sunday. Readings: Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Mark 9: 2-9; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6. Sermon Title: “Seeing Clearly”. All four texts. Theme: Transfiguration.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday. Readings: Psalm 51: 1-17; Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10. Sermon Title: “Our Hearts”. Possibly all four texts. Theme: Repentance

Feb. 18: First Sunday in Lent. Readings: Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; Mark 1: 9-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22. Sermon Title: “God’s Promises”. Genesis 9 (also using Genesis 17 and Romans 4 from next week). Theme: Covenant.

Feb. 25: Second Sunday in Lent. Readings: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22: 23-31; Mark 8: 31-38; Romans 4: 13-25. Sermon Title: “Take Up Your Cross”. Mark 8 text. Theme: Discipleship.



Denton Christian Preschool

*Cookie Fiesta* Fundraiser

February 10—Saturday  
9 am to noon



Mission News:

In December donated winter needs were taken to Our Daily Bread.

The Denton Christian Pre School is having its cookie sale. Baked cookie donations need to be brought to the church by February 9<sup>th</sup>, in the morning.

Direction 61:3 (formerly Zoie's Place) is having 4 fund raising events this year for their clients who have "aged out" of foster care. Details can be found on their web page.

Several church members are making gallon size zip lock bags of food to carry in their cars. They are filled with crackers, protein, fruit bars, etc. to hand out to individuals that they may encounter who are asking for food.

The Little Free Food Pantry seems to have turned into a community wide venture and is WELL used. After Christmas, tree ornaments were found in the pantry. A day or two later they were gone. Warm clothing, hats, gloves, and jackets have also been put in and taken. Many people from the community (not church members) put food in regularly.

Look for information later on our regular collection drives, special offerings and a planned Pet Blessing Service on the grounds.



### Souper Bowl of Caring

It's that time again for the Super Bowl---February 11<sup>th</sup>! And that means---time to collect cans of soup, or any non-perishable food item, or donate money---for Souper Bowl of Caring. For the last several years, we have collected for Denton Christian Preschool---and it has been a blessing to so many students and their families as well as to the teachers and aides. This year, DCP has 36 students. If we collect 360 items---that's 10 items per student. That can really make a difference! Our donations will be delivered to DCP on February 11<sup>th</sup> during our "Pancakes for Lunch" luncheon. By the way, last year we collected 343 items---so this is not much more.

Back in 1990, a simple prayer was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. by Brad Smith. The prayer was: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." That gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice. The Souper Bowl of Caring organization just helps organize and collects the data---no funds go to them at all.

Please consider these precious Denton Christian Preschool children, their families and those that teach them and pray for them, and consider blessing them. Bring your canned or monetary donations to church. There will be a table and boxes in the narthex in which to place your donation. **The deadline for donation is February 11, 2024.**

# February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  	5	6 Women of the Church Bible Study 10 AM	7 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	8	9	10 Denton Christian Fund Raiser—Cookie Fiesta 9 AM—noon
11 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  Birthday: Louise Kraft	12	13	14 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY 7PM</b>	15	16	17
18 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Mission Committee 12:15P	19 	20 Session 7:00PM	21 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	22	23	24
25 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline	26	27	28 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	29		

Session Committees	
Committee	Chair
Administration	Carolyn Smith
Christian Education	Carol Nance
Fellowship	Beverly Hoch
Mission	Jim Welborn
Property	Vacant
Worship	Terry Nobles

Continued from Cover

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Blessings! Debbie work in us, all for Your glory in Jesus Christ for all eternity. Amen."

Blessings! Debbie

<b>Session</b>		
<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Terry Nobles (T)	Beverly Hoch	Carolyn Smith (T)
Vacant	Carol Nance (T)	Jim Welborn
<b>Diaconate</b>		
Linn Welborn	Marlene Nobles (M)	Scott Starkweather
Diana Shenberger	(T) Trustee	(M) Moderator

## **In the Kitchen**

In 2002, Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church published the revised edition of "In the Kitchen," their favorite recipes. The first edition was published in 1993. The ladies of the church, and some men, provided their favorite recipes.

I hope you enjoy looking back at these glimpses of times past.

Jim Welborn

### **Seafood Casserole** (page 150)



1½ lb. boiled shrimp  
 1 can crabmeat  
 1 can mushrooms  
 1 can mushroom soup (undiluted)  
 ½ roll Kraft sharp cheese  
 1 box Uncle Ben's white and wild rice, cooked as directed

White Sauce  
 1 Tbsp. flour  
 1 Tbsp. butter  
 ½ c. milk  
 Salt and pepper

Combine all ingredients in a 2 quart casserole. Cook at 350° for 30 to 45 minutes, until hot and bubbly.

Clarice Miller

# Households for Prayer

Let us continue to uphold our households in prayer with these members for

February 2024

Gene Finlay  
Valorie Frederico  
Chandler Hall  
Larry and Pat Harberson  
Brenda Howard  
Jim and Glenna Kirkpatrick  
Louise Kraft  
Lynelle McConnell

## CHURCH STAFF

*Rev. Debbie H. Spangler, Pastor  
Pat Edell, Church Secretary  
Jacob Augsten, Director of Music - Ezechiel Daos, Organist  
John Pinder, AV Technician - Irene Rodriguez, Church Caretaker*

Office Hours: Administrative Secretary, Mon/Wed/Fri 9—2 PM  
Pastor Tues/Thurs 9—2 PM  
Emergencies/after hours: 940-300-9748 (Elder Mike Steinel)  
CCLI #1859917

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FPC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FPCDentonTX/>

FPC Presbyterian Women: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWDentonFPC/>

Find us on the web: <http://www.fpcdenton.org>

facebook





## Prayer Concerns

**Health Concerns:** Helen B, Cheryl B, Gerald B, Lynda E, Gene F, Pat H, Jim K, Louise K, Martha M., Pat M, Don R, Pat R, Irene R, Diana S, Michael S. Price and Margaret B, Brenda C, Mike C, Sherman C, Connie D, Kevin Falconberry, Bob I, Kathy K, Sandy L, Jackie S, Tammy S, Ann S, Robin and Alana, Gladden and Lydia W, Craig White, Annemarie V, Clarice M, Carol W., Jan Carr.

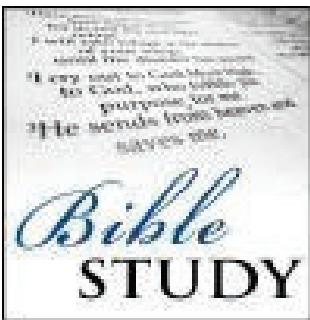
**Safety** DCP Children, military personnel and first responders

## February Birthdays

11 Louise Kraft

## Anniversaries

No Anniversaries



Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the conference room. We have just begun a 22 lesson study of Matthew using the Life Guide Bible Study guide.

On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the conference room, we are studying Daniel using the Life Guide Bible Study Guide.

## Bible Readings

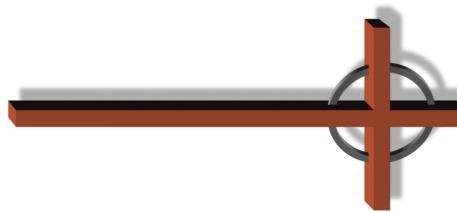
### February 2024

- 1 John 6:60–71
- 2 John 7:1–13
- 3 John 7:14–36
- 4 Mark 10:13–22
- 5 John 7:37–52
- 6 John 7:53–8:11
- 7 John 8:12–20
- 8 John 8:21–32
- 9 John 8:33–47
- 10 John 8:47–59
- 11 Luke 9:18–27
- 12 John 18:15–18, 25–27
- 13 John 18:28–38
- 14 Luke 18:9–14
- 15 John 17:1–8
- 16 John 17:9–19
- 17 John 17:20–26
- 18 John 12:44–50
- 19 Mark 1:1–13
- 20 Mark 1:14–28
- 21 Mark 1:29–45
- 22 Mark 2:1–12
- 23 Mark 2:13–22
- 24 Mark 2:23–3:6
- 25 John 5:19–24
- 26 Mark 3:7–19a
- 27 Mark 3:19b–35
- 28 Mark 4:1–20
- 29 Mark 4:21–34

Source: PC(USA) Common  
Lectionary

**Aerobics**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
Erwin Hall - 8:30 am

**Office Hours**  
Secretary M/W/F - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Pastor T/Th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Office Phone - 940.387.3894  
Fax - 940.387.3877  
Emergency - 940.300.9748  
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