



# February newsletter

## Try A Little Tenderness

1806 Central Ave.  
Hot Springs, Ar. 71901  
Office: (501) 623-3389  
Office Hours:  
9:00am –2:00pm  
Monday-Friday

### Church Staff

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Secretary

### Board Officers

**Linda Priddy** Board  
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In the 1960s, Otis Redding sentimentally crooned his way into the hearts of a generation, reminding young men who might be tempted to seek love by force or coercion to instead “try a little tenderness.” As his timeless hit assured them, “You won’t regret it.” And while these words are a guiding light that can lead a man to a woman’s heart, they are, in truth, a reminder that the way of tenderness is meant to define the *whole* of our lives and interactions with anyone we meet.

As St. Paul exhorted the Christian community in Ephesus, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” The Greek word used here for “tenderhearted” can also be translated as “compassionate,” and I find this to be a helpful window into the nature of true tenderness. Yes, in part, it is a gentle disposition that is never forceful or abusive. However, tenderness is not just the absence of something but is also the very real presence of a compassionate heart of love that sees the needs of others.

Tender compassion strives to see every single person, not simply those we naturally love or are drawn to, but even – and perhaps especially – learning to see our enemies as those who are beloved by God and made in his image. A truly tender life responds to hatred with love and disrespect with a desire to understand.

Of course, this is no easy task! And left to ourselves, we will fail time and time again to see others in this way and to extend a tender and compassionate heart to them. However, as we are again reminded in today’s verse, our ability to live this kind of life is directly tied to the tender compassion of God shown in the self-giving life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We forgive others because “God in Christ” has forgiven us, and we are able to live tender and merciful lives, even in the most difficult situations, because Christ loved us when we were unworthy of the tender compassion he so richly shared.

# ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT BEGINS

Wednesday, February 14th, is Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. Pastor Corey will be available at the church between 11am and 2pm for walk in communion and the imposition of ashes . We are hoping you'll drop by during your lunch hour if you work or come by at your convenience

The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversion, and simplicity. It can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and the cleaning out those things which hinder our relationship with Jesus and our service to Him. However, we must remember that our Lenten

disciplines are supposed to ultimately transform our entire person: body, soul, and spirit.

Lent is not just a time for prayer and fasting, it has been a traditional time of helping the poor and doing acts of charity and mercy. Lent is a good time to examine ways to get involved and to make resolutions to actually do them. Giving alms can be done in more ways than just giving out money to people on the street. It can be done by helping your family, friends, and neighbors out of tight situations or being more generous to hired help. However, one of the best ways to give alms is to get out of your comfort zone a little bit, maybe by volunteering for a charity or a shelter.

**What ever you decide to do during Lent, remember that Lent is about spiritual results not material ones.**

*The joy of the Lord*

*is your strength*

Nehemiah 8:10



Lenten  
Services at  
FCCC, 2024

**Wednesday, February 14,** is Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. The church will be open from 11am to 2pm for communion and the imposition of ashes. Open to the public.

**Sunday, March 24th** is Palm Sunday and will be marked with our traditional processional of the waving of the palms, marking Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

**Thursday, March 28th** is Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday remembers the Last Supper between Christ and His disciples.

**Good Friday, March 29th,** is being observed this year through a 24 hour prayer vigil.

**Easter Sunday, March 31st** will be celebrated in the traditional manner through worship.

**We hope you will join us for these special services that will lead us to the empty tomb.**





## CWF Resumes from Break

CWF( Christian Women's Fellowship) is all women of the church when

needed for projects like the fundraiser mini bazaars and bake sales, fellowship dinners and receptions. But those women who want to can join us on 3rd Thursdays year around for fellowship, book study and prayers for the church and members. We support local charities like Samaritan's Ministries, Teen Challenge, Crisis Pregnancy center and many DOC charities.

Beginning Thursday Feb. 15th at 11 am we will meet in the coffee shop and begin the study of Jen Hatmaker's book 'Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire.' This is a book to help women find their voice and true selves. Join us and receive your free book. Leader and CWF President is Rachel Shankles. Treasurer is Tracy Brodrick.

## How can you be a blessing to others this Valentine's Day?

- Send Valentine cards to our home bound or seniors you know that may be lonely
- Offer to run an errand for a neighbor or someone else who could use a little support
- Pack winter warmth kits for the homeless and include a small Valentine card inside
- Donate children's books to a family shelter. Like Potter's Clay
- Send a special lunch to healthcare workers in your community
- Share homemade desserts with family and friends.
- Collect canned goods for your community pantry
- Sign up for a volunteer shift at a local organization.

## Special Offering ~

February 18th & 25th, 2024  
Gifts To Live On

Your gifts to Week of Compassion bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life. Your contributions bring tangible relief and change the course of lives. When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education, and empower women through vocational opportunities. In so many different ways, your gifts of love have the power to transform lives. Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains.



[weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org)

# February 2024

Sun

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Thu

Fri

Sat

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4	5	6	7	8  Marleigh Leek	9	10
11  Alice Flanagan Special Leaders & Board Meetings	12	13	14   ASH WEDNESDAY	15 CWF Resumes at 11 am	16	17
18	19 	20	21  Denny Sharp	22	23	24
25	26  Edie Lehnerr	27	28	29		