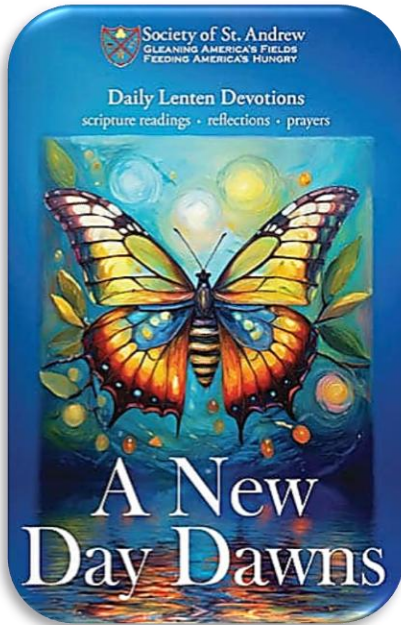


# Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
210 North Fifth Street  
Ponca City, OK 74601  
580.762.1667 www.fccponcacity.com

Seeking, Serving, Sharing  
March 16, 2025



## NEWNESS OF LIFE

### SCRIPTURE: PSALM 40:1-3

We often think of newness as something made more beautiful, more desirable. One surviving an illness may say, "I feel like a new person!" Or, after shining up corroded metalware, one may say it sparkles like new!

However, newness of life is not always beautiful. An injury that causes a dramatically reduced ability to do things one once enjoyed is a new, unwelcome lifestyle. Financial ruin means a new way of life, in some instances even causing hunger and homelessness. Becoming incapacitated or disabled may cause extended separation from loved ones, an especially cruel new circumstance to be faced.

II Kings 24 relates the dreadful experience of people being taken away into captivity in Babylonia. There they lamented, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" (Psalm 137) This may describe what one feels in life's trying times. Yet we believe that though singing may be a past enjoyment, God can "put a new song in our mouth." (Psalm 40)

Lent is sometimes called the season of the cross. The cross symbolizes Christ's sacrificial love. In real-time, though, it was a sign of shame, suffering, and death. The assurance of eternal life came on Easter. But Good Friday came first. And it wasn't pretty.

Though new things may sometimes be painful, God's unwavering love remains. "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory!"

Prayer: O God, for strength to endure tough times, we praise you. Amen.

[Lent | The Society of St. Andrew, Inc.](#)

Hasbrouck Hughes | Williamsburg, VA

### Giving in Review

As of February 28, 2025

Income Received YTD	\$62,197.49
Actual Expenses YTD	\$51,383.02
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$59,074.60

### Sunday, March 9 ~ Service Attendance

In Person: 61      Live Online: 22  
Social Media Hits: 74

### Sunday, March 16 ~ Service Information

Luke 13:31-35

"Go and tell that fox for me,..."

## The Sacred Steps

The Sacred Steps: Second Sunday in Lent - Christian Church in Oklahoma

**Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion**

**Fast from greed, Feast on sharing**

**Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance**

**Fast from fear, Feast on peace**

**Fast from lies, Feast on truth**

**Fast from gossip, Feast on praise**

**Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience**

**Fast from evil, Feast on kindness**

**Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement**

**Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude**

**Fast from noise, Feast on silence**

**Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope**

**Fast from hatred, Feast on love**

**What will be your fast? What will be your feast?**

(Unknown Author, "Ash Wednesday.")