



# PRESS RELEASE

## First Christian Church of North Hollywood (Disciples of Christ)

### Church Offers Grounds and (Optional Glitter) Ashes

First Christian Church to offer drive-thru ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 22, from 12-1 p.m. in the church parking lot, on the corner of Moorpark and Colfax. Free coffee and tea will be offered! A traditional service will also be held at 5:30 PM that evening, in the church sanctuary.

Most people associate “drive-thru” with burgers and fries, car washes, or coffee. The most spiritual experience for some in a “drive-thru” is getting coffee on a Monday morning. However, First Christian Church is offering “drive through” ashes on Ash Wednesday!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Most people head inside a sanctuary to receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their forehead. However, not everyone can make the Ash Wednesday evening service, so Pastor Jonathan Hall will be in the parking lot of First Christian Church from 12 to 1 p.m. to offer ashes to individuals who do not wish to leave their car. It allows people who may be sick, find it difficult to walk, people working at night, or individuals who do not feel comfortable in a typical church setting to participate in the holiday. Pastor Hall says that “Receiving ashes on your forehead or the back of your hand using the palms from last year’s Palm Sunday service is a way of reminding yourself that you are a human being. Most of us are good at being ‘human doings’ with deadlines, to do lists, etc. Ash Wednesday is an opportunity to remember that you are a ‘human being.’ Saying that, we need to remember the opportunity of being a better parent, colleague, friend, family member, etc.”

Pastor Jonathan Hall makes two unique options for ashes. The first option is traditional ashes mixed with olive oil, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The latter three parts honor the gifts that were given to Jesus by the magi! The second option is the same as the first with the addition of glitter as a way of publicly proclaiming faith and unity with the LGBTQ+ community.

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After receiving the ashes, all are welcome to enjoy some silence in the prayer garden, chapel, or sanctuary. If you prefer not to receive ashes for any reason, you are welcome to simply pray with Pastor Jonathan.

First Christian Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ by welcoming all people of diverse race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status to worship and participate fully in all aspects of church life in a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community. We affirm the faith, baptism and spiritual gifts of all Christians celebrating that all people are part of God’s good creation. We work to advocate for those who know the pain of exclusion and discrimination by the church and society. We invite you to help us embody our denomination’s identity statement - “We are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As a part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.”

For more information, please go to [www.fccnh.org](http://www.fccnh.org), call 818-763-8218, on various social media platforms @fccnh, or come by the church at 4390 Colfax Ave.