



Fort Smith Disciple

January 31, 2018
Volume 55, Number 31

First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Office: (479) 783-1139

Fax: (479) 782-4787

Office Hours:

8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

Senior Minister

252-414-9229

jarrett@fccdoc.org

Rev. Soniyah Key

Associate Minister Intern

Dianna Jackson

Director of Music Ministry

Evan Mino

Organist

Barbara Brown

Secretary

Pam Shelby

Financial Secretary

Randy Alexander

Custodian

Patience Hudlow

Nursery Coordinator

Lesley Fleming

Nursery Attendant

Mission Statement

The mission of First Christian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas is to lift up Jesus the Christ by:

- Enabling spiritual growth and deepened commitment, both individually and corporately;
- Developing a church family/ community that is accepting and encouraging;
- Serving our community and the world through spiritual, physical, and emotional support; and,
- Reaching out in His name to the unchurched in our community.

Praying for the Fort Smith Marathon

On Sunday February 11, from 8:20 am to approximately 8:40 am, 18 Ainsley's Angel Runners (including Kira Moore and Trish Allen) will be pulled by six Athlete Riders (including Seth Allen) by First Christian Church on Free Ferry Road in the Fort Smith Half Marathon. This will be the first time in the state of Arkansas that children with developmental disabilities will participate in a Half Marathon.

As the Arkansas Ambassador, I am encouraging all who are able to bundle up and gather along the street in front of our church—holding signs, ringing cowbells, playing music—or whatever you can do to cheer on our Angels and the other marathon participants.

Since we are a church, I also think it is appropriate to pray for all of the runners in this event.

Several years ago, someone once asked me how she should pray for me during the week leading up to a marathon. She even had the audacity to ask: “Do you want me to pray that you win the race?”

I responded: “First of all, let's get something straight. The winner of the marathon will have time to take a shower, eat some brunch, update their Facebook status, and take a nap before I cross the finish line!” (However, on February 11, my goal is to finish my run in time to lead the 10:45 am service.)

Then she asked, “Or do you want me to pray that you don't get injured and are just able to finish the race?”

Now, that is a better prayer.

However, I do not believe it is the best prayer.

The truth is that I ought to be grateful that I have the health and the ability to risk injury.

The real miracle on February 11 will not be that I finish the race, but that I have the opportunity to start the race.

So if you want to pray for me, Kira, Trish or any runner, don't pray for our legs.

Instead, pray for our eyes.

Pray that our eyes may see the sheer grace of this mystery we call life, this miracle we call the world.

Pray that our eyes may see that all that we have and all that we are is an unearned and undeserved gift of God's amazing grace.

Pray that our eyes will see how fortunate we are to even be able to walk, and we are so much more fortunate to be able to run.

And then, maybe, having seen the sheer grace and absolute glory of it all—we will not only run each mile with a smile, but we might even dance each mile!

Even if it takes us all day!

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

Worship—February 4

Mark 1:29-39
“Lifted up for Service”

Elders

Linda & Jim Creekmore

Deacons

Vicki Warren (Foreman), Katy Featherston, Tim Fleming, Dewayne Pryor, Greta Pryor, Audrey Stewart, Harold Stewart, John Warren

Prepare Communion

Rebecca Parke

Greeters

Harold Stewart, Rebecca Parke

Homebound Communion

1. Linda Creekmore, Tim Fleming
2. Jim Creekmore, Katy Featherston

Worship Leader

Linda Creekmore

Welcome Rev. Soniyah B. Key!

On January 28, 2018, the church board unanimously voted to call Rev. Key as our Associate Minister Intern. Please pray for her and our church as we work together to actively spread the hopeful message of God's inclusive love, extravagant grace and prophetic justice in our city, region and world!

Dianna's Notes

Music Schedule

February 11: Children's Choir
 February 18: Disciples Bells
 February 25: Prime Time Bells

Ash Wednesday Service

Mark your calendar for Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 14, at 6:30 pm.

Community Celebration “Practicing the Golden Rule”

What IF...we practice compassion, hope, tolerance, and acceptance?

**Thursday, February 15
 7:00 pm**

Reynolds Ballroom/Student Center at UAFS

“What IF...we practice?”

Hosted by
 Interfaith Fellowship
 & UAFS Cultural Network

Fellowship and Service Opportunities



Blanket the World with God's Love!

Our Disciple Women's groups are again sponsoring a **Blankets of Love** Offering. There will be a table in the narthex after early worship and after late worship on **Sunday, February 4 and 11**, to receive your donations.

A donation of \$5 will provide a blanket for someone desperately in need of comfort and warmth. Why not honor a loved one by donating one or more blankets in their name? For each \$5 donation, you will get one (1) gift card to send to the person you honor. Thank you for your generous support of **Blankets of Love**.

Please join our Senior Minister and take a Winter Plunge to support Ainsley's Angels in Arkansas. You can jump in the outdoor pool with him or just come to cheer him on!

February 17, 10:00 am at World Class Fitness.

Youth and Children

Wednesday Night Youth Club

Please bring one or two items each week to be placed in the food pantry at Creekmore Park. This is a chance for us to help those who are less fortunate than we are. You will be blessed! Thank you!!

Wednesday Night Youth Club Meals Needed

We have four Youth Club meetings that we need assistance with supper to serve about 20 folks. If you feel so led, and are able to provide a meal, please contact **Elizabeth Vaughn (883-6655) or Marilyn Maxey (452-6345)**. We need meals on **February 7, 21, and 28, and March 7**. We eat at 5:30 pm each week and appreciate your consideration of our request.

Youth Lock-In at FCC, Rogers February 9, 9:00 pm—February 10, 8:00 am

Our youth (grades 6-12) have been invited to join the youth of Rogers FCC for a Lock-In. For more information contact **John Mundy at 222-3401**.

Snoasis, February 16-18

Snoasis is a youth camp for grades 9-12, located at Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs.

Snoasis is a camp for the youth to meet new friends and connect with God, in a Camp setting. All youth grades 6-12 are encouraged to participate.

Members of the congregation may help in providing scholarships or even sponsoring a youth to attend.

Registration forms may be picked up at the church office or downloaded from the Great River Region website, Disciples Youth.

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 4

- Homebound Communion
- Blankets of Love
- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:25 am Opportunity for Prayer
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 pm Disciples Bells

Tuesday, February 6

- 10:00 am DWF Board

Wednesday, February 7

- 4:15 pm Children’s Music
- 5:30 pm Youth Club
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 8

- 10:00 pm Prime Time Bells

Friday, February 9

- Directory Pictures
- 9:00 pm Youth Lock-In, Rogers, AR

Saturday, February 10

- Directory Pictures

Pictorial Directory

The Membership Ministry will be working with Lifetouch to create a new church pictorial directory in the coming month. Pictures will be made on **Friday, February 9, and Saturday, February 10**. Please save these dates to have your picture made for this directory. We want everyone to be included in this new directory. There will be more information coming.

Need a Ride?

Do you need a ride to FCC Sunday service this week? Please contact Barbara in the church office or for the month of February, contact: **Steve Parke, 479-739-5894** or **Randy Alexander, 479-462-3199**

Mission Express O Café

The café opens at **9:00 am each Sunday** morning. All the proceeds support the Mission trips. Setup **begins at 8:30 am Sunday**. Come join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee and doughnuts.

For the Record—January 28

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Operating Receipts | \$ 3,536.30 |
| To Date..... | 21,106.92 |
| Endowment..... | 105.00 |
| To Date..... | 1,155.00 |
| Monthly Budgeted | |
| Needs | 33,361.63 |

Fort Smith Disciple (USPS 206-080) published weekly by First Christian Church
 3501 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith AR 72903-2961.
Periodical postage paid at Fort Smith, AR.
 POSTMASTER: Please submit address changes to FORT SMITH DISCIPLE, 3501 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2961