



# Fort Smith Disciple

February 21, 2018  
Volume 55, Number 34

**First Christian Church**  
3501 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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Office Hours:

8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

## Church Staff

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Senior Minister

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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.

## Jesus, Guns and Demons

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to prepare for Easter and the promise of new life. We are encouraged to take an introspective inventory of ourselves and remove those inward impediments that may hinder us from experiencing the good news of Easter, those things that could prevent Easter from transforming us into the people God has created us to be.

During this holy season of Lent, I believe God calls us to remove the demons in our lives that prevent this transformation. During Lent, we need to disturb, silence and rebuke the demons. Lent is a time for exorcisms.

I realize that most Americans may not put much stock in “demon exorcisms,” but after another school shooting, many would probably agree that there seems to be some demons at work in our country. And these demons are not just in the people who want to commit mass murder. They are in all of us. For something is terribly wrong when a school shooting fails to bring us together as a nation and only divides us further.

I believe the best way to disturb and silence the demons in our lives is to earnestly and prayerfully open our hearts to the teachings of Jesus, to make the teachings of Jesus our authority on all matters.

One day, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue in such an authoritative way that it disturbed a demon who was in the congregation. The demon that was inside of a man cried out in the middle of the sermon: “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” Then Jesus rebuked the demon, telling the demon to be silent and commanding it to come out of the man. We are told the demon obeyed Jesus immediately (Mark 1:21-28).

To prepare for Easter and the promise of new life, I believe the first thing we need to do is open our hearts to allow the authoritative teachings of Jesus to challenge us in such a way that it disturbs the demons within us.

While I served in Oklahoma, the local ministerial group had a monthly meeting and program. After a mass shooting, their program was entitled: *Christians and Guns: An Oklahoma Perspective*.

A good question is, “Why wasn’t such a program entitled, *Christians and Guns: A Jesus Perspective?*”

We’ve heard the Republican perspective and the Democrat perspective. However, if we truly want to experience new life this Easter, I believe we must open our minds and hearts to hear the Jesus perspective.

Jarrett

## *Worship and Education Opportunities*

### ***Worship—February 25***

**Mark 8:31-38**  
**“Ashamed of the Gospel”**

#### **Elders**

Jim & Linda 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

#### **Worship Leader**

Jim Creekmore

### ***Dianna’s Notes***

Prime Time Bells meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am to rehearse.

#### **Music Schedule**

February 25: Prime Time Bells

### **Church Women United March 2 First Christian Church**

Disciples Women’s Fellowship will host Church Women United on Friday, March 2, in observance of World Day of Prayer. Guest speaker, Robert McAfee, will speak about his work with the AR Citizens’ Climate Lobby focused on national policies to address climate change.

**9:30 am** Registration and refreshments

**10:00 am** Program

Please remember to bring soda can tabs, cancelled “Forever” stamps and newspapers for service projects.

### **Concerns and Celebrations of the Community**

- **Mae Harris**, Mercy Hospital
- **Bill Crowder**, 4318 South 89<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Smith, AR 72903

Please notify the church office or a minister if you are hospitalized or know of a member who is in the hospital. Jarrett visits the hospitals regularly.

### **Pastor’s Class**

During Lent, Jarrett would like to offer a class for children who are interested in church membership and baptism with the hope of having a baptismal service Easter Sunday. Please contact him if your child would like to participate.

## *Fellowship and Service Opportunities*

### **Habitat for Humanity**

If you are a college student looking for a great mission opportunity, Habitat for Humanity needs you.

We will be building a house in Van Buren during spring break March 18-23. Contact Jarrett or the church office

### **Interfaith Potluck, March 3**

Our church has been invited to a potluck on March 3 at 6:30 pm at Ben Geren Park with Al Salam Mosque.

Please bring a dish to share (no pork) and enjoy a time of meaningful fellowship and some Middle Eastern cuisine.

## Week of Compassion Offering, February 25

Compassion (kəm'pæʃən) *n* **a feeling of distress and pity for the suffering or misfortune of another, often including the desire to alleviate it**

[C14: from Old French, **from** Late Latin *compassiō* **fellow feeling**, from *compatī* to suffer with, from Latin *com-* with + *patī* to bear, suffer]

Luke 10:30-35

“In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ***But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’***”

The Samaritan did not just call an ambulance ...  
or just offer him money...  
or stand on the road offering thoughts and prayers...

He went to him (got down on his level) got personal...  
It's an intimate act to bandage wounds... not just a band-aide.

He poured oil and wine ( the best effort possible at that time).  
He did not wave down someone to put this dirty man in their vehicle  
But loaded him on “his own” donkey.  
He brought him to an inn ( a place of comfort and safety)  
And cared for him (freely spent **his time and money** on him).  
He paid for more care and committed to pay for any other care needed....!

We become aware of others who are hurting. We feel concern and commit money to try to alleviate suffering or misfortune.

**However, the example we have in Luke sets a much higher bar!!**

I would like to encourage you to extend thoughts and prayers as well as financial support, and also, if you can extend personal, intimate effort to alleviate suffering and misfortune.

The church has a mechanism in place to allow us to support others who are willing to get intimate. Please prayerfully support “Week of Compassion”. **Thank you, Tim Randolph, World Outreach Committee**

## Wednesday Night Programs

Our last **Children’s fellowship** for this school year will be on **Wednesday, March 7, at 5:30 pm**, after Children’s Choir. We will be finishing up our Mardi Gras floats and our woodworking project, both of which we will start this coming week.

Our last **Koinonia** until late fall will be on **March 14**, and will feature Cajun food and our annual Mardi Gras Parade, starring our young people and their handmade floats! Please join us to celebrate our children as they share with us an evening of fun and fellowship! This church is so blessed to have these young people in in our midst and our support of them and their programs is crucial to the future of our church. Thanks be to God for our faithful children and our loving church family!

## Announcements

### Church Calendar

#### Sunday, February 25

7:45am Elders' Meeting  
 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)  
 9:00 am Mission Café  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
 4:30 pm Disciples Bells

#### Tuesday, February 27

9:00 am Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, February 28

5:30 pm Youth Club  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

#### Friday, March 2

9:30 am Church Women United

### The Concordia Choir Concert

**Tuesday, February 27**

**7:30 PM**

First United Methodist Church  
 200 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Tickets available at [ConcordiaTickets.com](http://ConcordiaTickets.com)  
 800-838-3006 or at the door.

Adults \$20  
 Full-Time Students \$10

### Senior Adults

**Saturday, March 10, 2:00 PM**

Community School of the Arts  
 performance of Beauty and the Beast

Please contact the church office if you would like to purchase a ticket. Tickets are \$10. We will enjoy a meal together after the show.

### Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily to decorate our sanctuary for Easter in honor or memory of a loved one, you may do so for \$10.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to give a gift to the church in honor or memory of a loved one, you may also do so for \$10.

### July Mission Trip

Plans are being made for a mission trip to Thoreau, New Mexico, the first week of July. More information will follow. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

### Mission Express O Café

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

### For the Record—February 18

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 6,546.00
To Date.....	20,771.95
Endowment.....	65.00
To Date.....	679.00
Week of Compassion ....	289.67
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	33,361.63

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