



# Fort Smith Disciple

February 28, 2018  
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**First Christian Church**  
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Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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**Office Hours:**

8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

## Church Staff

**Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks**

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**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.

## God Has Not Left Our Schools

Sometimes things are said that demand a public response, especially from a minister. Like, blaming the school shootings on God's absence from public schools today.

I have read it almost every day this week. Something like: "We don't have a gun problem. Our problem is that we have taken God out of our schools."

This is when the truth must be told. God has never left our schools. And, any inference that God has left our schools calls for a response.

In fact, a theological argument could be made that God is more present in schools today than God was present in schools prior to the 1970's when schools were segregated by the evil of racism.

That public schools strive for equality and equity like no other time in our nation's history is evidence that God has not left our schools.

That gifted college graduates continue to sacrificially turn down higher paying careers to teach our children in public schools is evidence that God has not left our schools.

That schools are for children, our most vulnerable citizens, those Jesus said belonged to the Kingdom of God, is proof that God will never leave our schools.

And out of Parkland, Florida, we have seen even more proof.

That an entire nation has come together to grieve with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is an undeniable verification that God has not left our schools.

That teachers were willing to lay down their lives to protect their students is an indisputable sign that God has not left our schools.

That children are courageously marching in state capitals and in Washington DC to articulately speak truth to power is an irrefutable testimony that God has not left our schools.

That the efforts of these children are being demeaned, that they are being persecuted for righteousness' sake, is a certain confirmation that God has not left our schools.

That God is right now, in our midst, taking this tragedy and resurrecting it, that God is working in our world to transform the evil of this mass shooting into something good, is an absolute verification that God has not left our schools.

**Jarrett**

## *Worship and Education Opportunities*

### **Worship—March 4**

**John 2:13-22**

#### **Elders**

David Pulliam and Kristi Williamson

#### **Deacons**

Jimmy Hudlow (Foreman), Connie Alexander, Diane Fagan, Ginger Hamm, Janet LaForce, Alan Maxey, Michelle Moran, David Williamson

#### **Prepare Communion**

Diane Fagan

#### **Greeters**

David Williamson, Ginger Hamm

#### **Shut in Communion**

1. David Trent, Jimmy Hudlow
2. Brad Kidder, Sr., Connie Alexander

#### **Worship Leader**

David Pulliam

### **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.

### **Fellowship Meal with Al Salam Mosque, March 3**

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

Meet at the Storm Shelter building off Zero Street. No media will be present.

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

### **Library News**

Recent additions to the church library include:

*The Awakened Woman* (NF) by Dr. Tererai Trent

*Memory Rescue* (NF) by Dr. Daniel Amen

*Beneath a Scarlet Sky* (F) by Mark Sullivan

*Midnight Sea* (F) by Colleen Coble

### **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*

### **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!

### **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.

### **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.

If you would like to help serve lunch one day this week, contact the church office.

### **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.

### **DWF General Meeting, April 14**

**Mark your Calendar for  
Saturday, April 14, Noon**

All men and women are invited to this event. Lunch will be served. Guest speaker is Hope Campus.

## Announcements

### Church Calendar

#### Sunday, March 4

Homebound Communion  
 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, March 6

9:00 am Staff Meeting  
 10:00 am DWF Board

#### Wednesday, March 7

4:15 pm Children’s Music  
 5:30 pm Children’s Fellowship  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, March 8

10:00 am Prime Time Bells

#### Saturday, March 10

2:00 pm Senior Adult Trip

### Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

**Mae Harris**, Mercy Hospital

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.

### Thank You Notes

How comforting it is to have a church family like ours praying for your recovery! I felt those prayers from Jarrett and the church members. Also, thank you for the cards and food. **Mary Nelle Hales**

Thanks to FCC for the \$500 donation. Charolette Tidwell and her groups of volunteers will continue to provide nutritious food to children, working families, senior citizens and struggling veterans.

**Antioch Consolidated Association  
for Youth and Family**

**M**EMORIAL: We gratefully acknowledge the following gift, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...

In Memory of **Terry Hales’ aunt, Jean Hoff**

### For the Record—February 25

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 4,768.35
To Date.....	25,540.30
Endowment.....	115.00
To Date.....	794.00
Week of Compassion ....	710.00
To Date.....	999.67
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	33,361.63

### 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.

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