



Fort Smith Disciple

March 28, 2018
Volume 55, Number 39

First Christian Church
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8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

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Organist

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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.

Holy Week

Sometimes it seems odd to call this week “Holy.” The week that begins on Sunday with our Savior’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem ends with his death on a cross at a place called “The Skull. Shouts of “Hosanna!” on Sunday quickly turn into shouts of “Crucify Him!” by Friday.

Every imaginable evil is hurled his way. The powers that be, both religious and political, are ready to entrap and ensnarl him. He is betrayed by one of his very own followers with a kiss for thirty pieces of silver. After his arrest and a hasty trial, his disciples all abandon him. One of his closest friends on earth denies that he even knows him.

Then, deserted by his friends, Jesus is ridiculed, spat upon, utterly humiliated and beaten beyond recognition. A crown of thorns is put on his head, and he is forced to carry his own cross. His hands and feet are nailed to the cross before it is lifted into the air where he hung for six hours between two criminals before dying. The week ends with his burial.

What on earth is “holy” about any of these events?

The answer is a simple one. If Jesus is an ordinary man, then the answer is, “nothing.” If Jesus was but a man, then this week is utter tragedy. However, if Jesus is the Incarnate God, the creator of all that is who became one of us, then the answer is “everything!”

For it means that God understands every aspect of what it means to be human. Our God is a God who knows something about every imaginable evil that can be hurled our way. Our God knows betrayal, abandonment, humiliation, loneliness, and immense suffering. Our God has experienced death.

This week means that our God understands.

And three days later, an empty tomb reveals that God redeemed it all! God took the evil hurled God’s way and transformed it, recreated it into something wonderful.

Thus, the good news of this week is that not only has God only experienced all of the evil of this world, but that God takes that evil and transforms it into something wonderful, something profoundly “Holy.”

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

Worship—April 1

“???”
???

Elders

David Pulliam and Carl Warrington

Deacons

Greta Pryor (Foreman), Katy Featherston, Floyd Hamm, Ben Maxey, Marilyn Maxey, Dewayne Pryor, John Warren, Vicki Warren

Prepare Communion

Greta Pryor

Greeters

Dewayne and Greta Pryor

Homebound Communion

1. Kristi Williamson, David Williamson
2. Carl Warrington, Diane Fagan

Worship Leader

David Pulliam

Dianna’s Notes

Disciples Bells will meet at 9:00 am on Sunday to rehearse “Risen Lord”.

Music Schedule

March 29	Bruce Birkhead Carl Warrington
March 30	Disciples Bells and Chancel Choir
April 1	Disciples Bells

Holy Week Services

Maunder Thursday, March 29

Remember the night Jesus was betrayed with a worship service with communion at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday, March 30

Reflect on the passion of Jesus with a Candlelight Service of Tenebrae at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunday, April 1

Celebrate the good news of Easter beginning with a Sunrise Service in the courtyard off of Free Ferry at 7:00 am followed by an Easter breakfast at 7:30 am. There will be one Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10:45 am.



Easter Offering, April 1

The grace of God is overflowing in the gift we have in Jesus the Christ. Supporting the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of

Christ), by giving to the Easter Offering, is one of the many ways you share your response to God’s generosity. The work of these ministries overflows “from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.” David Trent

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 31, 11:00 am

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Saturday, March 31**, at 11:00 am, and we are asking for donations of candy to be used to fill the eggs. If you can, please bring small, individually packaged candy and leave in the designated boxes in the church office or in Disciples Hall. Thank you for your support for the kids so they can enjoy this fun day.

Please bring a lunch with you, and we will picnic outside, providing we have good weather. Membership Ministry will provide the drinks.

Randy Alexander Membership Chair

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 **John Mundy at 222-3401** or the church office.

Possible Branson Trip

There is going to be a new production of *Sampson* at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Branson beginning March 3 through December 29. If there is an interest of at least 15 people, we can get a group rate of \$46.55 per person. This would be a day trip up and back on same day using the church van. If interested, please contact **Mickie Matthews at 461-3998 or 434-5668**. She will get a list together, and then we can decide as a group when we would like to make the trip.

Youth Fellowship Fund Raiser

First Christian Youth Fellowship is hosting a fund raiser to help offset the cost of the up-coming mission trip to Thoreau, New Mexico. The youth voted to share the funds earned with Team Seth who is going to Washington, DC with Ainsley's Angels.

We are seeking light yard work, raking, pulling weeds, etc. for donations in support of said mission trip. Work to be completed Saturday, April 14. We also need assistance with our church friends to complete all tasks.

For more information please contact John Mundy. You can follow our activities on Facebook group First Christian youth fellowship.

Thank You from Ainsley Angels

As the Ambassador for Ainsley's Angels, I want thank First Christian Church for the many ways that you support this mission of inclusion in Arkansas. The Outreach Committee gave a gift of \$500.00. When this amount was added the donations from individuals, First Christian Church became the first church in Arkansas to be a FREDOOM SPONSOR. Sponsors who reach this level have their name or logo placed in both sides of one of our Freedom Racing Chariots. St. Luke Lutheran recently became the second church in Arkansas to be a Freedoms sponsor. St. Bartholomew Episcopal and St. John's Episcopal each made donations of \$500.00.

While very important to helping us fulfill our mission, the church's financial support is not the only way that you support Ainsley's Angels. Members serve as Angel Runners and Guardian Angels, helping me by serving hot chocolate at races, selling merchandise, sending thank-you notes, and keeping up with new registrations.

The church has also allowed me to use the church van to transport our racing chariots to races. Hopefully, we will be able to purchase an enclosed trailer soon for this purpose.

One of the things that makes Ainsley's Angels special for me as a pastor, especially this time of the year, is the way that it helps persons with different abilities experience new life. They are able to be a part of something that they never dreamed would be possible. Including them in endurance events makes a way when they have believed there was no way. Another word for that is "resurrection."

Thus, when you support Ainsley's Angels, you are fulfilling your mission to be Easter people. Thank you.

Jarrett

DWF General Meeting, April 14 April Showers for Hope Campus

The DWF will have the General Meeting on **Saturday, April 14**, at noon and will sponsor April Showers for Hope Campus. Speaker from Hope Campus will be Chris Joannides. All men and women are invited.

Lunch will be served: Chicken Tetrizzini, Salad and Dessert. A Love Offering will be taken for Hope Campus.

The following items are on their wish list. These can be brought to the General Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Items can also be taken to the Administration Building and left in the room across from the office.

- 8.5 x 11 copy paper
- Paper towels
- Bleach
- Disposable gloves for kitchen
- Feminine products
- Hair brushes
- Belts (gently used belts are fine)
- 33-gallon trash bags
- Pillow cases
- Drink mixes (Kool-Aid, lemonade)
- Twin fitted sheets (gently used are okay)
- Walmart gift cards

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 1

Easter Special Offering
 Homebound Communion
 7:00 am Sunrise Service
 7:30 am Easter Breakfast
 9:00 am Mission Café
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, April 3

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

Wednesday, April 4

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

Thursday, April 5

10:00 am Prime Time Bells

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ Lillian Slater, Connie Slater’s mother, is in rehab.
- ◆ Janice Rickman (Greta Pryor’s mother)
- ◆ Eckel Rowland, Ruth Carson’s mother

FCC White Elephant/Rummage Sale April 21

Now is your chance to get rid of your never used treasures. We’ll take them off your hands. Please bring your items to Disciples Hall, and we will help you get rid of them! Or call Barbara Lynch 719-8769 to make arrangements to pick up your things. No clothes please.

Make plans to come to the sale on Friday evening April 20 for church members to turn one man’s trash your treasure. Thanks to Harold Stewart, we will have pizza!!

For the Record—March 25

Operating Receipts	\$ 2,418.00
To Date	33,836.39
Endowment	25.00
To Date	255.00
Easter Offering.....	348.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	33,361.63

Mission Express O Café

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

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