



# Fort Smith Disciple

April 4, 2018  
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**First Christian Church**  
3501 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Office: (479) 783-1139

Office Hours:  
8:30am –4:30pm  
Monday-Thursday

## Church Staff

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Organist

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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.

## Good Friday Voices

During our Tenebrae service on Friday night, we listened to the voices of Good Friday.

"See my betrayer is at hand."

"The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."

"Then all of the disciples deserted him and fled."

"He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? He deserves death."

"I do not know the man! And the cock crowed."

"I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' Judas then went out and hanged himself."

"Release to us Barabbas." "Crucify Jesus." "Let him be crucified."

"If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." "He saved others, yet cannot save himself."

"Command the tomb to be made secure. You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." "So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone."

These are the voices of Good Friday: voices of betrayal; voices of denial; voices of disappointment; voices of hate; voices of cruelty; voices of finality. They are voices of no turning back; voices of no moving forward; voices of death. "Make the tomb as secure as you can. Seal the stone."

And the reality is that you did not have to attend either the service on Friday to hear these voices. For we live in a Good Friday World, don't we?

We even heard these voices on Easter Sunday.

"DACA is dead."

The children who survived a mass school shooting are "soulless" and "liars."

"Teachers in Oklahoma are greedy."

"Stephon Clark deserved to die."

These are the voices of Good Friday, and they echo throughout our world without ceasing. There is no escape from it. It is like being entombed in sepulcher by a large stone that has been sealed shut for eternity.

The good news is that there is another voice. It is a voice called "Easter."

"As the first day of the week was dawning...' As a week was beginning anew, fresh, bright, giving a chance to the promise of hope, "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it."

In our Good Friday world, oh how we need to hear this voice of Easter—this voice that says that our God who gave God's all for us on the cross is so much bigger than all of the cruelty and evil of the world, that God does not have to lift one finger, but sends an angel to break the seal that entombs all of us who are shrouded by the evil of our Good Friday world.

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## *Worship and Education Opportunities*

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The Good Friday world says: “Seal it up!”

Then our Easter God, without flinching a muscle, sends one meek angel to break the seal—an angel who then sits upon the stone and says *the* most hopeful words found in the entire Bible: “Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.”

The world says: “Seal it up; things are not going to get any better; the good old days are long gone; evil will get the best of us; death is final.

Then God, without lifting a finger, breaks the seal and says: “I am always working all things together for the good!” God says: “Although we cannot go back to the good old days, good new days are dawning.” God says: “Nothing in this world is final, not even death.” God says: “I will transform all of your despair into hope, all of your defeats into victory, all of your pain into joy, and even all of your deaths into life.”

The world says: “Seal it up; you will never amount to anything. You’re a loser. You are insignificant. You are worthless. You are not a good person. Nobody really cares about you. Seal it up.”

God breaks the seal and says: “I love you and suffered for you and died for you and raised Jesus to life for you, just as you are. There is nothing you could possibly do to earn my love. I will always be with you and never away from you. I will always be for you and never against you. I will always stay by your side fighting for you, doing all that I can to wring whatever good can be wrung out of all of your misery.” God says “I will give you an Easter Faith to live victoriously in your Good Friday world.”

My hope and prayer is that as people living an Easter faith, we will continue to raise our Easter voices: voices of hope; voices of justice; voices of equality; voices of peace and love; voices of life; voices of a new day dawning; voices of a tomb whose seal has been broken on this day and forevermore. Jarrett

### *Worship—April 8*

**“Absent Thomas”**

**John 20:19-31**

#### **Elders**

Kristi Williamson and Shawn Moore

#### **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

#### **Worship Leader**

Kristi Williamson

### *Dianna’s Notes*

Children’s Chimes will meet at 9:10 am on Sunday to rehearse “Jesus Shall Reign”.

## *Fellowship and Service Opportunities*

### **Youth Fellowship Fundraiser**

First Christian Youth Fellowship is hosting a fundraiser 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 from 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.

### **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.

## DWF General Meeting, April 14, Noon

### 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

### Poor People's Campaign—A National Call for Moral Revival

There is a movement afoot in our country for calling for a "moral revival." Religious leaders from across the country are leading this movement to reboot Martin Luther King's "Poor People Campaign." On May 6, 2018, First Christian Church will host a gathering in our sanctuary to discuss ways the River Valley can participate in this revival.

Below are the fundamental principals of this campaign:

1. We are rooted in a moral analysis based on our deepest religious and constitutional values that demand justice for all. Moral revival is necessary to save the heart and soul of our democracy.
2. We are committed to lifting up and deepening the leadership of those most affected by systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation and to building unity across lines of division.
3. We believe in the dismantling of unjust criminalization systems that exploit poor communities and communities of color and the transformation of the "War Economy" into a "Peace Economy" that values all humanity.
4. We believe that equal protection under the law is non-negotiable.
5. We believe that people should not live in or die from poverty in the richest nation ever to exist. Blaming the poor and claiming that the United States does not have an abundance of resources to overcome poverty are false narratives used to perpetuate economic exploitation, exclusion, and deep inequality.
6. We recognize the centrality of systemic racism in maintaining economic oppression must be named, detailed and exposed empirically, morally and spiritually. Poverty and economic inequality cannot be understood apart from a society built on white supremacy.
7. We aim to shift the distorted moral narrative often promoted by religious extremists in the nation from issues like prayer in school, abortion, and gun rights to one that is concerned with how our society treats the poor, those on the margins, the least of these, women, LGBTQIA folks, workers, immigrants, the disabled and the sick; equality and representation under the law; and the desire for peace, love and harmony within and among nations.
8. We will build up the power of people and state-based movements to serve as a vehicle for a powerful moral movement in the country and to transform the political, economic and moral structures of our society.
9. We recognize the need to organize at the state and local level—many of the most regressive policies are being passed at the state level, and these policies will have long and lasting effect, past even executive orders. The movement is not from above but below.
10. We will do our work in a non-partisan way—no elected officials or candidates get the stage or serve on the State Organizing Committee of the Campaign. This is not about left and right, Democrat or Republican, but about right and wrong.
11. We uphold the need to do a season of sustained moral direct action as a way to break through the tweets and shift the moral narrative. We are demonstrating the power of people coming together across issues and geography and putting our bodies on the line to the issues that are affecting us all.
12. The Campaign and all its Participants and Endorsers embrace nonviolence. Violent tactics or actions will not be tolerated.

## Announcements

### Church Calendar

**Sunday, April 8**

- 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
- 6:00 pm Cabinet
- 6:45 pm Ministry Teams

**Monday, April 9**

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting

**Tuesday, April 10**

- 10:00 am Group 1 (Parlor)
- 1:00 pm Group 2 (Parlor)

**Wednesday, April 11**

- 3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
- 4:15 pm Children’s Music
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, April 12**

- 10:00 am Prime Time Bells

**Saturday, April 14**

- 12:00 pm DWF General Meeting

### Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ **Juanita Robinson**, Dianna Jackson’s grandmother
- ◆ **Janice Rickman**, Greta Pryor’s mother
- ◆ **Eckel Rowland**, Ruth Carson’s father
- ◆ **Farreol Hansen** in the loss of his sister

### FCC White Elephant/Rummage Sale April 21

Don’t forget to bring your rummage to the church on Sunday, and on Wednesday and Thursday mornings between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. Please call Barbara Lynch at 719-8769 if you need your things to be picked up.

Pizza by Harold Stewart will be available on Friday evening the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm for church members. Shop while you eat!

### 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.

### For the Record—April 1

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 6,875.00
Endowment .....	190.00
Easter Offering .....	445.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs .....	33,361.63

### Cabinet & Ministries

**Sunday, April 8**

**6 pm: Cabinet**

*(in the Chapel, Administration Building)*

**6:45 pm: Ministry Teams**

*(in various rooms)*

Chairs: please contact your people and let them know where /when your Ministry will meet.

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