



Fort Smith Disciple

April 25, 2018
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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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Associate Minister Intern

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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.

The Vine and the Branches

Once, it was thought that people could accomplish anything they put their minds to. We put a person on the moon. We learned how to clone plants and animals. We cured many diseases.

However, the reality is that there is very little trust in those ideals anymore. People have awakened to the fairly obvious idea that there are many things beyond human control. We cannot divert a rainstorm from a flood-ravaged area and direct it toward a rampaging forest fire. Space shuttles can blow up in mid-air. Our government is filled with corruption.

Every improvement seems to cause as much damage as it does good. We can travel anywhere in the world within a single day, but the price in global warming and pollution make it a questionable value. We can communicate instantaneously around the world; but at the same time, we have opened new avenues for identity theft, fraud, and the hacking of elections. We can cure many diseases; yet we are living in the midst of an opioid crises.

Why is it that we are so impotent to change the world in significant ways? The reason is the same as it has always been. We are human and not God. We have done some good and notable things. However, any good thing that has been accomplished has come about as gifts of God’s grace. God is the source of creation. God is the genesis of all goodness. We know what St. Augustine knew long ago; apart from God, no good can come.

Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches.” Those who abide in me and I in them, bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

This is both bad news and good. It is bad news for those who seek to improve the world on their own. The Psalmist knew this: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” But, it is good news for those who are connected to the love of God through Christ. With the power of God flowing through them like sap through a vine, good fruits will develop.

Honest believers will admit that, on their own, they have difficulty of repenting from sin, forgiving others, showing patience in frustration, demonstrating love in consistent ways. But, when the Spirit of God flows through them, they are strengthened for Christian service and discipleship. They know that, apart from Christ, they can do nothing. But they also know that God’s chief means of accomplishing the will of God in the world is through the work of those who are firmly connected to the life-giving vine.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

Worship—April 22

“Baptism Obstacles”
Acts 8:26-38

Elders

David Trent 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

Worship Leader

David Trent



Meeting, First Christian Church, Disciples Hall
Sunday, May 6, 7:00 pm

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is bringing together people across the country (and right here in Arkansas) who are organizing to build a broad and deep national moral movement—led by the poor, impacted, clergy and moral agents and reflecting the great moral teachings—to unite our country from the bottom up. In the Spring of 2018, the Campaign will launch with 40 days of moral action, from *May 13th until June 21st*, in at least 32 states and Washington D. C.

Dianna's Notes

Music Schedule

April 29	Bell Solo
May 6	Disciples Bells
May 13	Children's Choir

Getting' Down and Dirty with Jesus – A Missional VBS

Vacation Bible School is set for **Monday-Friday, June 4-8, from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm**. The theme this year is *Getting Down and Dirty with Jesus*. This is a missional theme; therefore, children will participate in various mission projects during the week.

Along with nightly mission projects, children will participate in in-depth, interactive Bible lessons that will explore some of the ways that God gets down and dirty for us and the world through Christ, and they will be encouraged to model these ways in their daily living. The lessons will be reinforced each night with music, drama and games.

If you would like more information about this week or would like to volunteer, please contact Jimmy Hudlow at 479-259-3997.

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Youth Fundraiser

Saturday, April 28, we will attempt to complete the yard projects for the youth fund raisers. One-half of the funds raised will be donated to Team Seth for the Washington trip and the remaining funds to support the youth on the mission trip.

Youth and friends of the youth, let's meet at the church at 8:30 am to complete all projects. For more information, please contact John Mundy.

Beans and Bingo, May 2

It's time again for Beans and Bingo on **Wednesday, May 2, at 5:30 pm**. If you have a household treasure that you can part with as a prize, bring it with you. Beans and cornbread will be provided for a great time of fun and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend. This is always a good time.

Membership Ministry

Church Women United

Friday, May 4

9:30 am: Registration; Refreshments

10:00 am: Program

May Friendship Day

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Fort Smith

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.

River Walk Then Wine for Arkansas Citizen's Climate League on April 27

Fort Smith's venue is the Riverfront Events Building, adjacent to the Greg Smith River Trail. At 5:00 pm on Friday, April 27, everyone is invited to walk this beautiful trail along the banks of the Arkansas River. Return by 5:45pm, when corks will be pulled for the first pour of a special Arkansas-made wine to be launched this evening. Chateaux Aux Arc vineyard of Altus introduces "Splinters," a variety specially bottled and labeled for ARCCCL to support climate action.

A meal will be catered by R & R Curry Express. Entertainment by singer-songwriters Still on the Hill follows.

Admission to River Walk Then Wine is free; donations are welcomed.

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 29

- 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, May 1

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

Wednesday, May 2

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

Thursday, May 3

- 10:00 am Prime Time Bells

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ **Juanita Robinson**, Dianna Jackson’s grandmother
- ◆ **Janice Rickman**, Greta Pryor’s mother, is at Methodist Village.
- ◆ **Eckel Rowland**, Ruth Carson’s father, is at Methodist Village.

Thank You

Thank you to a loving church family. We couldn’t have had such a huge success without all of you who contributed in so many ways. Your donations of household goods, the willingness of the men and women who priced and moved everything into the Disciples Hall, the Friday night pizza, the posting of the sale on social media, the women who manned the hectic money tables, the men and women who stayed all Friday evening and most of Saturday to walk around and assist customers, the cleanup crew - all were outstanding. We accomplished all of this with never a sharp or hurtful word. That’s what love is all about. Bottom line: just a little under \$4100 was made for our church.

Welcome New Members

We welcome new members, Rev. Kaycee Young and her children, Mayzee and Maggie. Kaycee is the chaplain at Mercy. Please pray for them as they unite with us to serve our community and world.

Her contact information is 2024 C Beacon Ridge Way, Van Buren, AR 72956; 918-207-8505; email: kace94@yahoo.com.

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.

MEMORIALS: We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...

In Memory of **Guye Willis** by Hardie & Ginger Jefferies, John & Margot Mundy, Cherry Rains, David & Judy Trent

For the Record—April 22

Operating Receipts	\$ 2,417.25
To Date	34,806.69
Endowment	145.00
To Date	685.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	33,361.63.

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