



# Fort Smith Disciple

May 16, 2018  
Volume 55, Number 46

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

Office: (479) 783-1139

Office Hours:

8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

## Church Staff

**Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks**

Senior Minister

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jarrett@fccdoc.org

**Rev. Soniyah “Sonna” B. 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.

## A Moral Revival

On Monday, May 14, I am grateful I had the opportunity to join faith leaders in 36 states to defend the rights of the poor and call for a moral revival in our nation. For the Holy scriptures instruct us: “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9).

The re-launch of Martin Luther King’s Poor People’s Campaign will include five more Monday rallies, each calling attention to a specific poverty issue. This week’s issue is how poverty affects our most vulnerable citizens: children, women and the disabled.

The prophet Jesus quoted the most, Isaiah, proclaimed: “Doom to you who legislate evil, who make laws that make victims—laws that make misery for the poor, that rob my destitute people of dignity, exploiting defenseless widows, taking advantage of homeless children” (Isaiah 10:1-2).

It is a moral disgrace that in the United States, the world’s largest economy, millions of children are homeless, millions more lack adequate food and housing and do not have access to a quality education. Three-quarters of the people living below the poverty line are women and children. Women earn 79 cents to a man’s dollar. Ten million women a year are victims of domestic violence. 40 million Americans live with a disability, and in many communities, the disabled do not have access to the services they need.

A nation that doesn’t stand for its women, children, and its most vulnerable citizens doesn’t stand for anything. Such a nation will not stand tall in the 21<sup>st</sup> century or before God.

We are a stronger nation and our communities are better places to live when we care for our most vulnerable: children, women, and people living with disabilities.

In the words of Fannie Lou Hamer, “It’s time for America to get right.”

**Jarrett**

*-From a Litany to Prepare for the Launch of the Poor People’s Campaign*

# Worship and Education Opportunities

## Worship—May 20

**“Renewing Our Stewardship Mission”**  
Mark 12:41-44

### Elders

Brad Kidder, Sr. and Steve Parke

### Deacons

Stephanie Bailey (Foreman), Bob Harris,  
Jimmy Hudlow, Michelle Moran, Janet  
LaForce, Dewayne Pryor, Tim Randolph

### Prepare Communion

Patience Hudlow

### Greeters

Jimmy Hudlow and  
Dewayne Pryor

### Worship Leader

Brad Kidder, Sr.

## Dianna's Notes

Prime Time Bells meet at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”.

### Music Schedule

May 20	Prime Time Bells
June 10	Disciples Bells
June 24	Becki Struble and Friends

## Open and Affirming Statement

First Christian Church strives to welcome all people without judgment and to provide a hospitality that affirms the diversity that is the image of God in creation. Each Sunday, when we gather around the Lord's table and say “All are welcome,” we truly mean everyone.

When I became your pastor, I made the statement that I believe every church should be “open and affirming,” because any church that seeks to follow the teachings of Christ, that seeks to love as he loves, has no business being “closed and condemning.”

Of all of the human organizations on this fragmented planet, the church should be a place where all people are welcomed to join a community of grace, love and forgiveness. Without fear of being judged, condemned, or bullied, all people should feel welcomed to come as they are and honestly and openly confess their sinfulness and brokenness. They should then be encouraged to use the gifts God has given them to share the same grace they received with others.

Sadly, this is not the practice of many churches today. Therefore, the proposal is being made to add the following statement to our church's constitution under “Article III: Membership”:

“First Christian Church is committed to being a people of grace and welcome to all God's children though differing in race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, political stance or theological perspective. We affirm the faith, baptism and spiritual gifts of all Christians celebrating that all people are part of God's good creation.” **Jarrett**



## 2018 Pentecost Special Offering May 20 and 27

*Planting churches can help change the world*

“Planting a church can make a huge and lasting impression in the community it serves,” says Terrell L. McTyer, minister of New Church Strategies and church planter. “By empowering the oppressed, praying for the disenfranchised, caring for the poor and promoting hope in a fragmented world, the church can literally help change the world,” he adds.

Each year, half of the Pentecost Offering is designated to the local Christian Disciples Region/Area in an effort to start and sustain new churches. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy.

Disciples are on course to starting 1,000 new churches by 2020. For additional information visit [www.hopepmt.org](http://www.hopepmt.org).

# Fellowship and Service Opportunities

## Commitment Sunday Potluck Dinner

In celebration of Commitment Sunday, there will be a potluck dinner on **Sunday, May 20, at 6:00 pm**. Please plan to join us for good food and fellowship. If you are able, please bring a dish according to your last name:

<b>A-E</b>	Salad	<b>G-J</b>	Dessert
<b>K-P</b>	Meat dish	<b>Q-Z</b>	Vegetable dish

## Sunday School Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast

Sunday School teachers and your helpers are cordially invited to an appreciation breakfast on **Sunday morning, May 27**, to recognize and thank you for your service to our church. Please join us at **8:40 am** for breakfast and fellowship to start your day off right. Thank you so much for your dedication of time and talent! You are truly a gift!

## Renewing Our Stewardship Mission

Two weeks ago we addressed renewing our FRIENDSHIP mission with Jesus. Last week, we renewed our PARTNERSHIP mission with one another and with God. This Sunday, we will address renewing our STEWARDSHIP mission. Pledge cards were mailed on Monday to each of our members.

On **Sunday, May 20**, I will lead a joint Sunday School lesson in Disciples Hall for all adults on the topic of Financial Stewardship. During our worship services, we will present our Pledge Cards and ask God to bless our commitments. That evening, we will gather at 6:00 pm for a potluck dinner to celebrate our commitments to the Lord together.

Jarrett

## The History and Importance of Tithing

The "tithe" is mentioned early in the bible, originally in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The first tithe was the giving of one-tenth of agricultural produce to the Church (Levite priests). Since the majority of us are not farmers, the tithe was gradually adapted to 10% of one's income. The tithe was initially a required tax, although today it is considered "voluntary." Modern Christians considered the tithe in more spiritual terms, and Matthew 23:23 describes tithing as a requirement for justice, mercy and faithfulness. We are all fortunate enough to be a part of the Disciples of Christ, which has historically given generously to outreach ministries, charities, special offerings, Christian scholarships and anyone in need of financial assistance. It is your tithes that make this tradition of generosity possible, as well as continuing to fund the basic daily operations of our church. Please consider this as you complete your stewardship pledge cards for the upcoming year!

Stewardship Committee

## 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.

# Announcements

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, May 20

- Pentecost Offering
- 7:30 am 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
- 6:00 pm Commitment Sunday  
Potluck Dinner

### Monday, May 21

- 6:30 pm Men's Supper

### Tuesday, May 22

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, May 23

- 3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

## Wedding Shower

Come help us celebrate the union of **Rachel Watson Lutz and Brandon Lutz** with a Wedding Shower on **Sunday, June 3, from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm** in the Parlor here at First Christian Church.

Disciple's Women Fellowship Group 3 will host the shower. Rachel and Brandon are new members here at First Christian, and Rachel is the granddaughter of Regina and Mac Respass.

Please come and help us celebrate with our new married couple and family of First Christian. The couple is registered at Target and Walmart.

## Thank You

I would like to thank my church family for holding my hand and supporting the youth fellowship with our fund raising activities. With your kind generous contributions we raised \$1,003.00, money divided between mission trip and team Seth.

Thanks again to those who provided work, those who worked, those who baked and donated the baked goods, and to our church family who supported us.

**John Mundy**

## Teacher Needed

Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school is in need of a new teacher. You would only be required to teach one Sunday a month. If you are interested, please contact Kira Moore at [orbitalgyri@yahoo.com](mailto:orbitalgyri@yahoo.com) or 479-926-4955. Thank you

## 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.

## For the Record—May 13

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 3,862.00
To Date .....	10,546.35
Endowment.....	125.00
Operating Receipts.....	215.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	33,361.63

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