



**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  
252-414-9229  
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.

## Congratulations Graduates!

We will honor the following graduates during the 10:45 morning worship service this **Sunday, June 3:**

**Erin Allen**  
**Jamie Pape**  
**Jason Pryor**  
**Kourtney Williamson**

## Honoring Our Fallen

On Monday, we remembered and gave thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of our nation. During the pastoral prayer Sunday, many pastors in our country asked God to help us honor their memory by “caring for the family members they have left behind, by ensuring that their wounded comrades are properly cared for, by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms for which they gave their lives, and by demanding that no other young men and women follow them to a soldier’s grave unless the reason is worthy and the cause is just.”

To make sure the cause is just, we need to be astutely engaged in our national affairs. The late pastor of Riverside Church in New York, Harry Emerson Fosdick, once said: “I hate war for its consequences, for the lies it lives on and propagates, for the undying hatreds it arouses.”

In January 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower used his farewell address to alert the nation of what he viewed as one of its greatest threats: the military-industrial complex composed of military contractors and lobbyists perpetuating war. Eisenhower prophetically warned that “an immense military establishment and a large arms industry” had emerged as a hidden force in US politics and that we “must not fail to comprehend its grave implications.”

In his sermon on militarism at Riverside Church in 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the leaders of the original Poor People’s Campaign said: “If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.”

This is just one of the reasons the Poor People’s Campaign has been reignited. We want to ensure no more blood will be shed for this country unless the reason is worthy and the cause is just.

Speaking on behalf of those who sacrificed their lives in WWI, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae ends his beautiful poem *In Flanders Fields*: “To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high.”

May we honor their fallen hands by holding high the torch of truth while marching for peace.

## 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**

**Worship and Education Opportunities**

**Church Calendar**

**Sunday, June 3**

8:30 am Worship (Chapel)  
 9:00 am Mission Café  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
 3:00 pm Interfaith Meeting  
 4:30 pm Disciples Bells

**Monday, June 4—Friday, June 8**

5:00 pm—7:00 pm  
 Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday, June 5**

10:00 am DWF Board (Parlor)

**Wednesday, June 6**

7:00 pm Chancel Choir  
 7:45 pm Mission Trip Meeting

**Interfaith Meeting**

There will be an Interfaith Meeting at **3:00 pm** on **Sunday, June 3**, at the Literacy Council of Western Arkansas. Jarrett is the guest speaker. He will be speaking about the Poor People’s Campaign.

**Mission Trip Meeting**

On **June 6, at 7:45 pm** there will be a mission trip meeting to update all those who plan to attend, those who are thinking about attending or those who would be interested in obtaining information about the trip to Mexico.

This should be a short meeting to update on travel to and from, housing, and possible construction project or projects, and information on conducting a Vacation Bible School on the reservation.

So please plan on attending this informative meeting and remember be flexible. **John**

**Prayer Concern**

- ♦ **Maureen Moyle**, in the passing of her brother, Retired Major Thomas E. Little, Jr. Maureen’s address is:  
 1001 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace, Barling, AR 72923

**For the Record—May 27**

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 5,084.82
To Date .....	22,115.52
Endowment.....	25.00
To Date .....	305.00
Pentecost Offering .....	290.00
To Date .....	630.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	33,361.63

**Worship—May 27**

**“How Low Can You Go?”**  
**Luke 14:7-11**

**Elders**

Nina Abernathy and Jim Creekmore

**Deacons**

John Warren (Foreman), Tim Fleming, Alan Maxey, Ginger Hamm, Audrey Stewart, Harold Stewart, Vicki Warren, David Williamson

**Prepare Communion**

Vicki Warren

**Greeters**

Alan Maxey and David Williamson

**Homebound Communion**

1. Carl Warrington, Vicki Warren
2. Nina Abernathy; John Warren

**Worship Leader**

Nina Abernathy

**Dianna’s Notes**

**Music Schedule**

June 10 Disciples Bells  
 June 17 Maxey Girls Vocal Duet  
 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**

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