



**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.

## *The Church Is in Clothing Business*

In the beginning, God walks through the garden and meets Adam and Eve where they are. They are naked, exposed, and what’s worse, they know it. All has been laid bare, and they could not be more frightened and ashamed.

Then God does for Adam and Eve something that they cannot do for themselves. They cannot deal with their shame. They cannot deal with their sin. The reality of who they were, what they had become and where they were going was too much for them to bear. As revealed in every act of Jesus of Nazareth, God responds to their shame by amazingly bending to the ground, using God’s own hands, to create garments of skin to lovingly and very graciously clothe Adam and Eve. The good news is that God responds to their nakedness, to all of their fear and shame, by amazingly clothing them with grace.

I believe with all of my heart that this is one of our primary purposes as a community of faith. We are to always be a community of grace. If people cannot come through the doors of the church and take off their masks, stop the charade, and honestly lay bare all of their sin and all of their grief, knowing that they will never be judged, looked down upon or condemned, then I do not believe we are a church. I am not sure what type of business we’re running, but we are not a church, we are not a community of grace. As a church we are to always be in the business of yearning to meet people where they are, so we can be with them, so we can walk alongside of them, so we can listen to them, learn from them, forgive them and love them.

As the church, I believe we are in the clothing business. We are to always be in the business of bending ourselves to the ground, using our own hands, our resources and our talents, to clothe one another, to clothe all people, with the grace of God in the name of Jesus the Christ.

**Jarrett**

## *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**

**Worship and Education Opportunities**

**Fellowship and Service Opportunities**

**Worship—June 17**

**Elders**

Nina Abernathy and Brad Kidder, Sr.

**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

**Worship Leader**

Nina Abernathy

**Church Calendar**

**Sunday, June 17**

8:30 am Father’s Day  
 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)  
 9:00 am Mission Café  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

**Wednesday, June 20**

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**Dianna’s Notes**

**Music Schedule**

June 17 Maxey Girls Vocal Duet  
 June 24 Becki Struble and Friends

**Pastor’s Vacation**

Jarrett will be on vacation June 11-20. If a need arises, please contact our Associate Minister Intern, Sonna Key, at 479-561-4701.

**All Youth/Church Fun Night**

Youth fellowship would like to invite all youth and all church members who are young at heart to join the youth on June 22, at 6:00 pm in Disciples Hall. We will enjoy pizza by Chef Harold, After dinner we will break in- to two groups:

- Group 1: K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will watch a magic show by the amazing Jack Jackson, Jr. After the magic act, they will enjoy popcorn and a movie, so bring a blanket to lay on to watch the movie. (Movie to be determined)
- Group 2: Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through all church members young at heart—We will load up in the church van and travel to the bowling alley. The church will pay for three (3) games for the youth. Bring money for snack and drinks at the bowling alley.

This fun night out for all is sponsored by Youth fellowship. Follow us on Facebook, First Christian Church Youth Fellowship.

**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 [orbitgyri@yahoo.com](mailto:orbitgyri@yahoo.com) or 479-926-4955. Thank you.

**Allen Shower**

Group 3 is hosting a Congratulatory Shower for **Wesley and Mercedes Allen** who were married on May 10. Wesley is the son of George and Trish Allen. The Allen family is new to First Christian Church, so please join us in celebrating this young couple Sunday, June 24, from 2:00-4:00 pm. A money tree is being provided.



**For the Record—June 10**

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 8,464.25
To Date.....	16,128.95
Endowment.....	155.00
To Date.....	290.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	33,361.63

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