



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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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.

We Never Quit

It is hard to believe that we live in a nation where a person can lose a video game and become so despairing, that they go on a shooting spree before taking their own life. However, it is also not so hard to believe.

Despair these days is all around us. It is in our politics that is filled with greed and corruption and devoid of morality and common decency. It is in our families as we struggle with affordable healthcare, inflation and stagnant wages. It is in our churches, as we deal with predatory clergy, declining memberships and a distrust of organized religion in general.

This week, I have pondered Senator John McCain's final words to the nation:

"Do not despair of our present difficulties. We believe always in the promise and greatness of America because nothing is inevitable here. Americans never quit, we never surrender, we never hide from history. We make history. Farewell fellow Americans, God bless you, and God bless America."

Americans who have faith can hear the Word of God in these words, a Word that is sorely needed these days.

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair" (2 Corinthians 4:8).

"Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

"With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

No matter how dark this world seems, in our politics, families and churches, with God there is always hope. Nothing is inevitable. We must never quit. Because according to the Word of God: justice will prevail, joy will come, and love will win.

Jarrett

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction



Everyone is invited to an "Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction" on Sunday, **September 9, at 5:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by the membership committee. We will have delicious homemade ice cream and cookies. The evening will be topped off with a "Pie Auction". Proceeds from the Pie Auction will go towards VBS and missions.

Sign-up sheets for ice cream, cookies or a pie for the auction will be in the narthex. You can also call the church office to volunteer to bring goodies.

Linda Creekmore, Membership Chair

Church-Wide Retreat September 29, 2018

All are encouraged to attend this retreat in Disciples Hall to help us discern how and where Christ is calling First Christian Church to serve God in this new church year.

Snacks and lunch will be served. We will conclude the retreat with motivational speaker Jennifer Collings.

The retreat will begin at **9:00 am** and conclude at **2:00 pm**. Please begin praying for this retreat and considering how God may be calling you.

Jarrett

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Worship and Education Opportunities

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 2

- Homebound Communion
- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 3:30 pm Disciples Bells

Monday, September 3

- Labor Day
- Office Closed

Tuesday, September 4

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10am DWF Board (Parlor)

Wednesday, September 5

- 10:00 am Prime Time Bells
- 4:15 pm Children’s Music
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

September 2

**“Pure and Undeified Religion”
James 1:17-27**

Elders

Jim Creekmore and Regina Respes

Deacons

Tim Randolph (Foreman), Jesse Bailey, Stephanie Bailey, Margot Mundy, Elizabeth Vaughn, John Warren, Vicki Warren, David Williamson

Prepare Communion

Stephanie Bailey

Greeters

John & Vicki Warren

Homebound Communion

1. Linda Creekmore, Tim Randolph
2. Jack Jackson II, Elizabeth Vaughn

Worship Leader

Jim Creekmore

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Mercedes Allen and baby Rilee**, 109 Kennedy Circle, Roland, OK 74954
- **Juanita Robinson, Dianna Jackson’s grandmother**, is at Peachtree Hospice.

Please contact the church office with the name of any member of our congregation who has been sick or is hospitalized.

Dianna’s Notes

Choir Resumes

August 29 10:00-11:00 am Prime Time Bells

Choir Schedule

September 9 3:30 pm Disciples Bells
September 16 3:00 pm Disciples Bells
 5:00 pm Jubilation Bells

Thank You

Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during Donny’s illness and passing. We appreciate all of the kind words shared and the memorials given to the church in his name. He would have been honored. A special thanks to those who drove to Paris for his service. We loved knowing you were there with us.

We are blessed to have such wonderful and loving friends at First Christian Church.

Dwayne & Greta Pryor

Summertime and the Readin’ is Easy...

Close out your summer reading with the two new British mysteries now in our FCC library. *Moriarty* and *The House of Silk* are by Anthony Horowitz and were commissioned by the Conan Doyle Foundation so they are “anything but elementary.”

The first get-together of our FCC Book Club will meet on **Monday, September 17, at 10:00 am** in the Parlor. Cherry Rains will discuss the book *The Baby Thief* which examines the processes of fostering and adopting children.

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—August 26

Operating Receipts	\$ 4,343.50
To Date.....	25,996.80
Endowment	25.00
To Date.....	894.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	31,413.55

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