



Fort Smith Disciple

September 12, 2018
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First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
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8:30am – 4:30pm
Monday-Thursday

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Barbara Brown
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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.

9-11 Reflections

Around 8:50 am, on September 11, 2001, I arrived with members of my church at the town's community center to distribute bags of food to the impoverished. This was something that our church did every month.

About 40 people had gathered in the lobby of the community center that morning to receive one small grocery bag each containing five non-perishable food items. All wishing to receive a bag were asked to sign their name in a notebook that was passed around to each person.

After everyone signed their name, I had the painstaking task of reading and checking off each name as they were handed their bag of food. The names were often very difficult to read. Sometimes it was the handwriting that was challenging, but oftentimes it was the names themselves, as they obviously denoted a variety of ethnicities.

As the notebook was being passed around the room that day, someone turned on the television that was mounted on the wall. *The Today Show* hosted by Matt Lauer and Katie Couric was reporting that a small plane or a helicopter had crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. The room hushed as we watched the life-changing news unfold together. As Matt Lauer and Katie Couric were beginning to speculate that it was a large passenger plane, another plane flew into the South Tower. It then became obvious that we were being attacked.

As we watched together in stunned silence, someone handed me the notebook that everyone had finished signing. One by one, I somberly read the names, checking them off, as they received their small grocery bag. Strangely, maybe miraculously, the names were much easier to read on that day. Handwriting was more legible. Foreign names sounded familiar and even familial. As I read, I did not once secretly roll my eyes, wince or make any judgments.

On that day they were not African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native-Americans, middle-class Americans or poor Americans. They were not "entitled," "illegal," and they were certainly not "aliens," "trailer-trash" or "rag-heads." They were neither rich nor poor, Muslim nor Christian, black nor white, educated nor illiterate, democrat nor republican, deserving nor underserving, gay nor straight. They were only Americans. They were my family. They were my sisters and my brothers. *They were we.*

On that day, I believe we were miraculously united by something that our divided country desperately needs today. On that day, it was not fear of another attack that made us one. It was not hate for the foreigner that unified us. It was love. It was the fulfillment of what Jesus called the greatest of all of the great commandments. On that day seventeen years ago, if just for a few moments, we truly loved our neighbors as ourselves.

May God bless America and help us to love yet again.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

September 16

“Words Create Worlds”
James 3:1-12

Elders

David Pulliam and Zena Marshall

Deacons

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

Prepare Communion

Stephanie Bailey

Greeters

John & Vicki Warren

Worship Leader

David Pulliam

Dianna's Notes

There will be no music rehearsals
on Sunday, September 16.

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship. grades 6 through 12, will re-sume **September 16, at 5:45 pm until 7:30 pm.** There will be light snack/meal, devotional and an activity game.

There will be some meetings where we will go off campus. The church van will be available for rides to and from the church. We hope and pray that you will attend and also invite your friends.

John Mundy

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 be 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.

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

Men's Dinner

The women of the church are invited to the men's supper on **Monday, September 17, at 6:30 pm** for a presentation and introduction to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Quetico Provincial Park of southern Ontario, Canada. It will be presented by Danny Lynch and Dan and Zena Marshall. Maps, brochures, photos, and videos will introduce you to a pristine wilderness and fishing experience. Harold will prepare a fish fry. Invite a friend.

Bowling Fun with Youth

Attention all who are young or young at heart! Our Youth Fellowship Group is going bowling on **Friday, September 28**. We will meet at the church at **7:30 pm**, then travel together to Bowling World for an evening of fun and fellowship. The church will pay for two games for the youth. Please bring money for snacks. The church van will be available for rides to and from the event. We would love for adults to join the youth for this evening of fellowship!

John Mundy

An Opportunity for Service

We have a wonderful opportunity to prepare and serve lunch one Monday each month at Hope Campus, a local homeless shelter. The first opportunity for service will be **Monday, October 22**. The menu and food will be provided by the Campus Kitchen. The Hope Campus Chef will be there to lead us. We will work from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm. This time includes: doing the preparation, cooking, serving, eating lunch ourselves and cleaning up. For more information or to sign up, call/text **Ginger Jefferies at 414-2466**.

Worship and Wonder

Katie Alexander has agreed to lead a worship time for children (pre-school through second grade) each Sunday during worship. The children will leave the sanctuary after the children's sermon and go over to the education building for music, crafts and Bible Study. They will return to the sanctuary during the last congregational hymn. If you are interested in helping Katie, please contact **Jimmy Hudlow**, the **Education Ministry Chairperson**.

Announcements

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Dianna Jackson** in the loss of her grandmother, **Juanita Robinson**.

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

Hurricane Florence Disaster Response

Please pray for residents of the Carolinas as they prepare for Hurricane Florence. May we also pray for direction as we consider how to respond as a church with the Great River Region to this disaster.

Thank You

Thank you for your kind words, your thoughtful cards and memorial contributions to our church. We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

The family of John & Vicki Warren

Thank You

A great big "THANK YOU" to everyone who helped make our ice cream social and pie auction a success. The ice cream was great, and we had a lot of good pies for the auction. The auction brought in \$310. This will be divided equally for mission trips and vacation bible school.

Linda Creekmore, Chairman, Membership

Mission Express O Café

The café opens at **9am each Sunday** morning. All the proceeds support the Mission trips. Setup **begins at 8:30am Sunday**. Come join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee and doughnuts.

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 16

8:30 am	Worship (Chapel)
9:00 am	Mission Café
9:30 am	Sunday School
10:45 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
5:45 pm	Youth Snack Supper
	Youth Meeting

Monday, September 17

10:00 am	FCC Book Club
6:30 pm	Men's Supper

Tuesday, September 18

9:00 am	Staff Meeting
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Wednesday, September 19

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

For the Record September 2 and 9

Operating Receipts	\$15,443.07
Endowment.....	629.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	31,431.55

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