



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
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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.

A Light in the Darkness

I have used the word "anti-Christ" to describe our world more in the last year than I ever have. I have said that an obvious "anti-Christ spirit" seems to have "a grip" on our world. It is a spirit that is anti-thoughtfulness, anti-light, anti-empathy, anti-kindness, anti-love-your-neighbor, anti-welcome-the-stranger, anti-Golden Rule, anti-humility and anti-grace. This spirit was made manifest a year ago as we watched in horror Nazis marching in Charlottesville, Virginia. And just a couple of weeks ago, this spirit was evident in a mass murder in a Synagogue in Pittsburgh. I have heard United States historians say that the anti-Semitism and racism of 2018 is hauntingly similar to 1968.

However, in 2018, a "Christ-like Spirit" is also being made manifest in our world and it is evident through First Christian Church in Fort Smith.

It can be seen in people like DWF Chair Ginger Jeffries who is leading us to feed people who are food-insecure at Hope Campus.

It can be seen in people like Community Outreach Chair Janet LaForce who is leading us to purchase Christmas gifts for local children in need with an "Angel Tree."

It can be seen in people like John Mundy, Michelle Moran, Jimmy and Patience Hudlow, Leslie Fleming, and Ben and Marilyn Maxey who lead our youth and children on a mission to bless our community each week.

It can be seen in people like Margot Mundy who leads us to help local students in need with undergarments.

It can be seen in people like Kristi Williamson who is leading us to care for our homebound members.

It can be seen in people like Membership Chair Linda Creekmore who leads us to gratefully honor our veterans with a Thanksgiving meal.

It can be seen in people like DMF Chair Dan Marshall and Harold Stewart who is leading us to celebrate the birth of Christ with a Christmas Dinner on December 17.

It can be seen in people like Stewardship Chair Danny Lynch who leads us to be faithful stewards.

It can be seen in people like Ruth Carson who leads our Elders and Bradley Kidder Jr. who leads our deacons in weekly service.

It can be seen in people like World Outreach Chair Zena Marshall who reminds us that our love and our giving have no borders.

It can be seen in people like Church Board Chair Steve Parke who leads us to be faithful to our mission as the church.

It can be seen in people like Worship Chair Barbara Lynch who leads us to faithfully worship this Spirit.

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It can be seen in people Soniyah Key who leads us to do justice and in Evan Mino and Diana Jackson who lead us to love God and others through music.

The good news is that I have left off the names of over 100 more people in our church who are currently exhibiting the Spirit of Christ in this community and in our world. And the really good news is that we are not the only ones. There are people throughout the world who are letting the light of Christ shine in the darkness. They are shining the light of grace, the light of forgiveness, the light of justice, the light of hope and the light of love like cities set on a hill.

And the darkness will not overcome it.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

November 18

**“Grateful to Be Done with Religion”
Hebrews 10:11-25**

Elders

Regina Respass and David Pulliam

Deacons

Harold Stewart (Foreman), Jesse Bailey,
Stephanie Bailey, Tim Fleming, Jimmy Hudlow,
Audrey Stewart, John Warren, Vicki Warren

Prepare Communion

Patience Hudlow

Greeters

Tim Fleming and Jimmy Hudlow

Worship Leader

Regina Respass

Dianna’s Notes

Worship Music

Jubilation Bells meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am to rehearse “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”.

November 18 Jubilation Bells

No rehearsals:

Wednesday, November 21

Sunday, November 25

FCC Book Club Meets

The FCC Book Club will meet on **Monday, November 19, at 10:00 am** in the Parlor. The book *All Over but the Shoutin’* by Rick Bragg will be discussed at the meeting.

Thanksgiving Offering

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Currently, over 50,000 students attend our fourteen Disciples related colleges and universities or even seminaries and divinity houses. And in the past twelve months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these fine schools.

On **November 18**, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. Your gift to the Thanksgiving offering helps to support the work of our institutions of higher learning in many ways: financially supporting Disciples related schools, providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education.

This November, please give generously to this year’s Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.



Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Undie Sundays

Local schools need boys and girls size 6-16 underwear. This is the last Sunday to donate. Containers are in the Administration Building, Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

DWF and Community Outreach

Transgender Day of Remembrance, Saturday, November 16

This **Saturday, at 5:30 pm in Disciples Hall**, Jamie Pape will lead a special observance to remember transgender people who have been murdered since the last time Fort Smith held such a service in 2015.

The International Transgender Day of Remembrance is on November 20. It was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Gwendolyn Ann Smith writes:

"The Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."

The vigil will be preceded by a pot-luck dinner. Following the dinner, Jamie will read the names of over 60 transgender persons who were murdered in the last three years as candles are lighted.

All are invited to participate to show our love and support and to offer our prayers to a community that has been marginalized, dehumanized and demonized by society.

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. We will be serving on Monday, November 26. We will work from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm.

Ginger Jefferies

Announcements

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Janice Rickman**, Greta Pryor’s mother
- **Tije Musset**, 2915 South 33rd St., 72903

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, November 18

- Thanksgiving Offering
- 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
- 5:00 pm Jubilation Bells
- 5:45 pm Youth Snack Supper
- Youth Meeting

Monday, November 19

- 10:00 am FCC Book Club

Thursday, November 22

- Thanksgiving Day
- Office Closed

For the Record –November 11

Operating Receipts	\$ 5,485.55
To Date	15,711.90
Endowment	150.00
To Date	375.00
Thanksgiving Offering	387.25
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	31,413.55

December Concert

We are having an evening with Evan Mino and his mother, Teri Sparks, on piano and organ with a reception to follow. Concert begins at **6:00 pm on Thursday, December 6**. More information to follow.

Linda Creekmore, Membership Chair

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.

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