



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.

Grace and Gratitude

The Latin word for "grace" is *gratia*. It means thanks. The word "gratitude" comes from the same Latin root. That is why we ask someone at the dinner table to say "grace." We are asking them to say some words of thanksgiving for the meal.

The Greek word for grace is *charis*, which means both "grace" and "thanks." The two words are intermingled and tied together. They are inseparable. Grace does not exist and cannot work without gratitude.

I am giving you this word study during this Thanksgiving week because I believe this word, *gratia* or *charis* is not only the key to Thanksgiving, but is perhaps the most important word in our language. It is an amazing word with the sweet sound which saves wretches everywhere like me and like you.

The basic meaning of *charis* is that God has done something for us that God did not have to do. God has given us something that we did not have coming to us: something completely unearned, undeserved and unmerited. Something marvelous and wonderful has happened to us. We in no way deserve it, and we can never earn it, but here it is.

This is why we sometimes refer to the Lord's Supper as "the Eucharist." The Lord's Supper itself is an act of thanksgiving. Each time we share the meal together, we express our humble gratitude and sincere thankfulness for the grace of God revealed in Christ Jesus.

As you give thanks this week with Turkey and gravy with your families, be sure to you also make it a priority to give thanks this Sunday with the bread and the cup with your family of faith. **Jarrett**

**The office will be closed on Thursday, November 22
in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.**

Holiday in the Park

Community Outreach is sponsoring **Holiday in the Park** the night of **December 5** from 5:30pm-8:30pm. If you would like to supply cookies, please call the church office.

Poinsettias

On Sunday, **December 9**, we will have poinsettias adorning our sanctuary. You can reserve one "In Honor of..." or "In Memory of..." with your payment of \$10.

Your cash / check reserves your poinsettia. Use the small brown envelopes in the pew pockets, or drop your check off in the church office. Please be sure to write out **for whom** and **from whom** the poinsettia is ordered. **December 2** is the last day to order.

These order forms will be in the bulletins on **November 25** and **December 2**.

Gathering the Greenery

Please join us **Saturday, December 8**, to gather and prepare greens to adorn our sanctuary for the Advent season. If you are a gatherer, meet at **8:00 am** in the lower parking lot to travel to Birkhead Mountain to gather pine and cedar to build the sanctuary wreaths and window decorations. Dan & Zena will have breakfast ready at the mountain when the crew arrives! If you are a preparer (or not an early riser on Saturday!), join us in the Narthex at **1:00 pm** to build. Bring work gloves and hand-held clippers. If you are "in" for both activities that day, thank you! We will have a great morning and afternoon together.

Worship and Education Opportunities and Announcements

November 25

**“Who Is Your King”
John 18:33-37**

Elders

Danny Lynch and Regina Respass

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

Danny Lynch

Dianna's Notes

No rehearsals:

Wednesday November 21; Sunday, November 25

Worship Music

November 25	Evan Mino and Teri Sparks Duet
December 1, 3:00 pm	Ozark Bronze Bell Concert “Dashing Through the Decades” First Christian Church
December 2	Prime Time Bells
December 9	Disciples Bells
December 16	Children’s Chimes and Jubilation Bells
December 23	Bell Ensemble
December 24	Disciples Bells; Disciples Bells Quintet; Solo
December 30	Bruce Birkhead, Solo

Advent Worship

December 6	6:00 pm	An evening with Teri and Evan
December 9	10:45 am	Chrismon Service Hanging of the Greens
December 15		Youth (cookies and caroling)
December 24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Angel Tree

We have an Angel Tree located in Disciples Hall. Please choose an angel by removing the ornament. Place gifts in bag with angel information securely attached. Do not wrap gifts (may add wrapping paper to bag). Thank you for making Christmas joy for these angels. The last day is **December 16**.

Help Us Reimagine Aunt Reba's Celebration Festival!

Join us at **5:15 p.m. November 28** in the chapel as we reimagine the outreach possibilities of our Aunt Reba's Celebration Festival. Bring your ideas and your calendar, and we will find new ways to share the love of God through Christ with some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Church Calendar

Sunday, November 25

- *7:30 am Elders’ Meeting
- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 26

9:00 am—12:45 pm
Hope Campus Project

Tuesday, November 27

9:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 28

- 10:00 am Prime Time Bells
- 11:30 am Lunch Brunch (Patrick’s Burgers)
GreenPointe Shopping Center
- 3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
- 4:15 pm Children’s Music
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

*New Elders’ Meeting Time

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Janice Rickman**, Greta Pryor’s mother
- Please contact the church office with the name of any member of our congregation who has been sick or is hospitalized.

For the Record – November 18

Operating Receipts	\$ 6,020.15
To Date	21,732.05
Endowment	40.00
To Date	415.00
Thanksgiving Offering	727.25
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	31,413.55

New Phone Number

Please make a note of a new cell phone number for Janet LaForce: 479-653-3590.

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