



**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

**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.

## Ordination of Soniyah

This Sunday is going to be a big deal. Ordained ministers from this state and other states, our Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, and people from across the River Valley of all sorts of religious persuasions, will join us to ordain Soniyah “Sonna” B. Key to the gospel ministry. The ordination service will feature our chancel choir, our handbell choir and a solo from Bruce Birkhead. Rev. Billie Watts from San Antonio, Texas, will deliver an inspirational sermon before Sonna’s church, family and friends make a promise to pray for and encourage Sonna as she makes a formal commitment to be a minister with the help of God.

Some might ask, “Why all the hoopla?” “Why all the pomp and circumstance?” “Why are all of these people coming to pray for Sonna?” “Why is ordination such a big deal?”

Ordination is a big deal because Sonna is not joining a mere social service organization. She is not committing her life to a civic club or to a community organization. She is dedicating her life to lead people to follow the ways of One who was arrested, tried and crucified for those ways. Sonna is devoting her life to encourage people to stand against the culture, to speak truth to power, and to do all they can do change this world so the poor will be blessed and the oppressed will be free. Sonna is pledging her life to lead people on a journey that has gotten the prophets that have gone before her killed.

Sonna will need our prayers this Sunday, because the holy work she has committed her life to, according to Jesus, will inevitably bring persecution and hardship. It will never make her rich or popular. If she remains true to her calling, she will most certainly suffer.

The good news is that, having observed Sonna serve in the River Valley for these past eighteen months, I am convinced that our prayers and all of the pomp and circumstance of this weekend will not be in vain. Sonna has proved, not only through her studies, but through her selfless and tireless work in this community, that she has what it takes to fulfill her divine calling.

Therefore, this weekend is also an opportunity for us to rejoice together. We will celebrate the difference Sonna has already made in our church and in the River Valley and the difference we are confident she will continue to make in this world and in the larger Church. This weekend is both a time to lift Sonna up in prayer and to give thanks to God for her gifts.

And it will be a very big deal!

**Jarrett**

## *Worship and Education Opportunities*

### *January 20*

**Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Regional Minister of Great River Region, will deliver the sermon in both services.**

#### Elders

Kristi Williamson and Dan Marshall

#### Deacons

Jesse Bailey (Foreman), Stephanie Bailey, Jimmy Hudlow, Brad Kidder Jr., Kim Kidder, Barbara Lynch, Nick Oliver, Elizabeth Vaughn

#### Prepare Communion

Patience Hudlow

#### Greeters

Nick Oliver and Elizabeth Vaughn

#### Worship Leader

Kristi Williamson

### *Dianna's Notes*

**Disciples Bells** meet Sunday at 8:50 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse.

**Chancel Choir and Disciples Bells** meet Sunday in the Bell Room at 2:15 pm to rehearse for the ordination service.

**No rehearsals Sunday evening on January 20**

#### **Worship Music**

<b>January 20</b>	Disciples Bells (Late Worship) Chancel Choir and Disciples Bells (Ordination Service)
<b>January 27</b>	Prime Time Bells

### *FCC Book Club*

**Tuesday, January 22, at 10:-00 am** in the Parlor will be the next FCC Book Club Meeting. We will discuss the book, *Brain on Fire*, by Susannah Cahalan.

### *Bill & Jette Lindsay Scholarship*

The trustees will offer scholarship money to any student that will be enrolled in college this coming spring semester. Contact the church office for a form or print the scholarship form attached to this email and return it to the church as soon as possible.

### *Revised Church Growth Seminar Schedule*

#### Saturday, January 19, 3:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, the Regional Minister for the Great River Region, will lead a seminar to help us assess our spiritual gifts as a congregation. This will help us discover ways we can use our God-given gifts to meet the current needs of the River Valley.

#### Sunday, January 20, 9:30 am

Dr. Banks will use the Sunday School hour to follow-up Dr. Burton's work with us on Saturday.

#### Wednesday, January 23, and Wednesday, January 30, 5:30 pm

Following a church-wide supper from **5:30-6:15 pm**, we will explore ways we can grow our congregation together in this New Year.

**Please RSVP the church office if you plan to attend the Wednesday night supper.**

## *Fellowship and Service Opportunities*

### **Church Women United**

Church Women United meets **Friday, January 18, at 9:30 am** at Mission United Church, 721 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Drop off any donations of soda pull tabs, cancelled "Forever" stamps or newspapers to be collected for the meeting.

### **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 next opportunity for service will be **Monday, January 28**. 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 12:30 pm. This time includes: doing the preparation, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. For more information or to sign up, call/text **Ginger Jefferies at 414-2466**.

### **Youth News**

Snoasis is **February 22-24, 2019**. This camp is located at Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs for grades 6 through 12. If you wish to attend, please let John Mundy know. This year's theme: Identity Crisis; Who are you? We will have registration forms at the church office.

### ***Thanking our FCC Church Family!!***

The contributions to our last service project keep rolling on in! We were able to extend help with children's undies and feminine hygiene products to Carnell and Fairview schools.

Please remember to turn in anything "gleaned" from holiday motel/hotel stays. We donate these individual personal cleaning supplies to the area homeless shelters.

**The office will be closed  
Monday, January 21, in  
observance of Martin  
Luther King Jr. Day.**

**Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, January 17,  
at 11:30 pm at Firehouse Subs on Zero Street.**

# Announcements

## Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ **Betty Cole**, Mercy Hospital, Room 5530
- ◆ **Brooxine Kidder**, Baptist Health, Room 550
- ◆ **Allen Hales, Sr.** outpatient surgery on Wednesday

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

## For the Record – January 13

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 3,129.75
To Date .....	15,258.81
Endowment .....	538.00
To Date .....	1,033.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs .....	31,413.55

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, January 20

- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Church Growth Seminar
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 3:00 pm Sonna’s Ordination Service
- 6:00 pm Ecumenical MLK Jr. Service  
St. James Missionary Baptist

### Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 22

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am Book Club

### Wednesday, January 23

- 10:00 am Prime Time Bells
- 3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
- 4:15 pm Children’s Music
- 5:30 pm Supper
- 6:15 pm Church Growth Seminar
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**MEMORIALS:** We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...

- In Memory of **Harold Stewart** by Mae Harris, Gwen Long, Tije & Glenda Musset, Steve & Rebecca Parke
- In Memory of **Maxie Walker** by Nina Abernathy, Carolyn Haley, Mae Harris, Hardie & Ginger Jefferies, Gwen Long, Steve & Rebecca Parke, Cherry Rains
- In Memory of **Billy Patton** by Nina Abernathy
- In Memory of **Naomi Hatley** by Mae Harris

## 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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