



Fort Smith Disciple

February 27, 2019
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First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Office: (479) 783-1139

Office Hours:
8:30am –4:30pm
Monday-Thursday

Church Staff

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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.

“Church or Club”

One day, a long-time, very wealthy church member approached a new pastor and asked: “Pastor, we are not going to be the kind of church that welcomes and accepts *those* people, are we?”

By “those” people, I am sure he was referring to people of color, people who do not speak English, people from other faiths, poor people, people covered with tattoos, undocumented people, mentally-ill people, LGBTQIA people, people with police records or anyone who does not look like or think like him.

The new pastor answered, “Of course we are going to be that kind of church.”

The wealthy man replied, “I suggest that you do everything in your power to prevent that from happening, or I am going to take my family and my money and find another church!”

The new pastor responded: “Well, you are in luck. Because you will not have to search very long to find another church where you will be more comfortable.”

The sad truth is that there are more churches that practice an exclusivity that is anti-Christ than there are churches that practice an inclusivity that is Christ-like.

Which begs the question: “Can a church practice exclusivity and continue to be a church?”

Of course, the answer is “no.” Churches that do not love and welcome all people in the name of Christ are not churches at all, but are only the worst kind of club.

I am grateful to serve with a church that “welcomes all the Lord’s table as God has welcomed us.”

Jarrett

Ash Wednesday Service - March 6

Begin the holy season of Lent by joining us for an Ash Wednesday Service on **March 6 at 6:00 pm** in our sanctuary. Lent can be a wonderful time of spiritual re-focusing. It is a time when we reflect on what it means to follow Christ as a disciple. Lent is a time to reflect on our own mortality and sin and to draw near to God through the spiritual disciplines of worship, Bible study, acts of service, sacrifice and prayer.

Worship and Education Opportunities

March 3

8:30 am:
“A Trip to Jericho”
Robbie Wilson
Luke 10:25 -37

10:45 am:
“Bright-Eyed and Bushy-Tailed”
Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks
Luke 9:28-36

Elders

Jack Jackson II and Danny Lynch

Deacons

Brad Kidder (Foreman), Darlene Brees, Kim Kidder, Janet LaForce, Barbara Lynch, Nick Oliver, Tim Randolph, David Williamson

Prepare Communion

Kim Kidder

Greeters

Janet LaForce; Rebecca Parke

Homebound Communion

1. Dan Marshall, Darlene Brees
2. Zena Marshall, David Williamson

Worship Leader

Jack Jackson II

Dianna's Notes

Music Schedule

- March 10** Prime Time Bells
March 17 Solo, Carl Warrington
March 24 Disciples Bells
March 31 Children's Choir
 Jubilation Bells

Prime Time Bells ring at Brookdale Senior Living on **Wednesday, March 13**. Set up at **9:15 am** and perform at 10:00 am. Lunch after.

Revelation as Drama Weekly Bible Study

Bring some take-out and sit around tables for an eight-week Bible study on the dramatic and hopeful book of Revelation on **Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm**. The fresh, exciting and relevant interpretation of Revelation will be explored by reading the book as a Dramatic Play with seven acts with seven scenes per act; based on the book *Revelation as Drama* by Dr. James Blevins.

If you missed the first study, handouts are available to catch you up.

Nursery is available.

New Sunday School Class Young Adults

Dr. Banks began teaching a new Sunday School class for college-aged and 20-something young adults **Sunday, February 24**. The class will examine the scripture lesson on which the sermon is based.

Stewardship

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Sid Donaldson and originally published in a Lenten Devotional booklet in April of 1992. It was republished in 2010.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or tinkling cymbal.” I Corinthians 13:1

We have matured when we come to a time in life when we find more joy from giving than receiving. Providing service and sharing one's wealth with those who are in need can provide an inner warmth and glow that comes in no other way. We may feel we have it made and drive a big car, live in a fine house and adorn ourselves with the latest fashion, but all this is meaningless in the eyes of the Lord. We have been put here on Earth to be of service to others and if we follow this we will be blessed with God's LOVE and CHARITY.

Mission Opportunities



Blanket the World with God's Love!

Our Disciple Women's groups are again sponsoring a **Blankets of Love** Offering. There will be a table in the narthex after early worship and after late worship on **Sunday, March 3 and 10** to receive your donations.

A donation of \$5 will provide a blanket for someone desperately in need of comfort and warmth. Why not honor a loved one by donating one or more blankets in their name? For each \$5 donation, you will get one (1) gift card to send to the person you honor.

Thank you for your generous support of **Blankets of Love**.

Partnering with Earthbound Angels

There is still much work to do at the house on N. 14th Street. If you would like to volunteer, contact Jarrett or the church office to find out when Shelly Pollock needs help.

Group 3 Mission Projects

Group 3's many mission projects for March will be to fill some of the Red Blessing boxes around town. All are invited to join us in donating to the monthly mission projects. Items can be placed in the box outside the church office. These items will be delivered on **Tuesday, March 12**, after our meeting at **6:00 pm**.

Elizabeth Vaughn

Aunt Reba's Palm Sunday Celebration

On **April 14**, we will host a Spring Festival with games, an Easter egg hunt, a sensory Easter egg hunt, hot dogs, pop corn, and live music. We are inviting the Children's Emergency Shelter, the Boys Home and children from foster homes. We are excited that Central Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal and maybe a few other churches are helping us this year. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact the church office or email Jarrett at jarrett@fccdoc.org.

VBS Reimagined- Kid's Week – June 3-7

There is a one-week gap between the time the children get out of school and the summer feeding programs begin here in Fort Smith. Therefore, we are partnering with Central Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal, St. Luke Lutheran and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal to host a Kid's Week **June 3-7** at Central Presbyterian for Kindergarten through 6th grades. We will feed the children breakfast at 8:30 am and lunch at Noon. In between, we will have offer various VBS-like classes. Each church will be responsible for one day. If you are interested in helping, please email Jarrett or contact the church office and let us know which day is best for you. This will help us determine which day First Christian Church will lead the Bible Study, music, and crafts. We have cooks. But we will also need volunteers to clean up.

Announcements

Church Women United

Friday, March 1, 9:00 am
World Day of Prayer
Ninth St. Baptist Church

Cabinet Meeting – March 3

Because of Lori’s surgery on March 7, Jarrett would like for the Church Cabinet and Ministry Teams to meet on **Sunday evening, March 3, at 6:00 pm.**

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ **Hrege Mussett** knee replacement

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

For the Record – February 24

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 4,604.75
To date	22,762.27
Endowment.....	10.00
To date	689.00
Week of Compassion Off	1,122.15
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	31,413.55

Church Calendar

Sunday, March 3

Homebound Communion
9:00 am Mission Café
10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
3:30 pm Disciples Bells
5:00 pm Jubilation Bells
5:45 pm Youth Snack/Meeting
6:00 pm Cabinet
6:45 pm Ministry Teams Meeting

Tuesday, March 5

9:00 am Staff Meeting
10:00 am DWF Board (Barton Stone Room)
(Administrative Building)
11:30 am Lunch Bunch
El Lorito, 3105 S. 70th

Wednesday, March 6

10:00 am Prime Time Bells
4:15 pm Children’s Music
6:00 pm Revelation Bible Study
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Beer and Hymns

Thanks to all who came out to support Beer and Hymns at Fort Smith Brewing Company. Our next event is scheduled for **Sunday, March 31.**

Van Drivers Needed

If you are between the ages of 25 and 70 and are interested in driving the van on Sunday morning to pick up riders for church, please call the office.

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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