



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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Director of Music Ministry

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.

He Is Not Here

As I was drinking coffee on Easter Sunday morning, I took the common risk of picking up my phone to scroll through my Facebook newsfeed. One of the first posts that I read was from a friend making the assertion that there was no way one could be a Christian if one did not hold a certain position on the reproductive rights of women. Of course, this person is not the only friend of mine who has made such statements on social media. I have read countless posts from others asserting that one cannot be a Christian unless they believe “this” or “that.”

Then, I went to church and heard the good news:

“But the angel said to the women: ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here!’” (Matthew 28:5-6 NRSV).

The good news is: “He is not here!”

We cannot keep Jesus sealed in a tomb or behind four walls. We cannot keep Jesus in any little box we construct. We cannot keep Jesus confined to our limited and shallow understanding of the world and this mystery we call “life.”

“He is not here.” He is not in any enclosed tomb we devise. He cannot be locked up in any particular doctrine, creed or confession. He cannot be limited to any political ideology nor constrained to any religious belief.

Yes, perhaps the best news of all is: “He is not here.”

His love is bigger than we can imagine, and his grace is beyond anything we can create. His peace is beyond all understanding. With Jesus, there are no limits, no restrictions, no boundaries. The stone has been rolled away, and “he is not here.”

Then, where is Jesus? From what Matthew has taught us, I believe we know where.

Jesus is with the stranger, the sick, the hungry, the thirsty, the naked and the imprisoned. He is always with the least of these among us.

Jesus is with those who have been ostracized from community. He is with the outsider, the left out and the shut out. He is especially with those the self-righteous have labeled “not Christian” because of certain political or religious beliefs.

The good news is, that no matter what you may read on Facebook, Jesus is always with all of us, “to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20 NRSV).

Jarrett

Commitment Sunday Potluck Luncheon

We will be celebrating the end of our Stewardship campaign by having a potluck luncheon on **Sunday, May 5, after late worship.** Details will follow in next week’s newsletter.

Expanding our Mission at Hope Campus

We will be preparing and serving lunch at Hope Campus, a local homeless shelter, two Mondays each month starting in May. Since last October, we have been working there only one Monday a month. Next month, **Monday, May 6 and May 13,** will be the two Mondays that we will work. The menu and food will be provided by the Campus Kitchen. The Hope Campus Chef will be there to lead us. Work will be from 9:30-12:30. 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 or call the church office.**

Worship and Education Opportunities

April 28

“Unlocking Doors”
Rev. Dr. Banks
John 20:19-31

Elders
 Jack Jackson II and Jim Creekmore

Deacons
 Farreol Hansen (foreman), Diane Fagan, Tim Fleming, Jimmy Hudlow, Margot Mundy, LaBeth Riggs, Steve Riggs, Elizabeth Vaughn

Prepare Communion
 Patience Hudlow

Greeters
 LaBeth Riggs; Steve Riggs

Worship Leader
 Jack Jackson II

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 28

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)
 3:30 pm: Disciples Bells
 5:00 pm: Jubilation Bells
 5:45 pm: Youth Snack/Meeting
 6:00 pm: Gather for Beer & Hymns
 7:00 pm: Sing

Tuesday, April 30

9:00 am: Staff Meeting
 11:30 am: Lunch Bunch Jeff’s Club House, Old Greenwood Rd.

Wednesday, May 1

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

Dianna’s Notes

Music Schedule

- May 5** Jubilation Bells
- May 12** Children’s Chimes

Thanks

A special thanks to **Dan Marshall** and **John Warren** for replacing the doors on the dumpster in the south parking lot. It looks great.

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Brooxine Kidder**, 1501 South 36th St., 72903
- **Ashley Maxey**, surgery today at Children’s Hospital in Missouri.

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

Graduate Recognition

Sunday, May 12, we will recognize our graduates in morning worship. If you know of any graduates, please call or email the office by **Monday, April 29**, to let us know so that we may properly recognize and honor them.

Volunteers Needed

The **Community Service Clearinghouse** needs volunteers to help with the **True Grit Ride** on **June 22** from **8:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Help with drinks at pit stops and to serve food. If you can volunteer, call **Tammy at 479-782-5074**.

For the Record – April 14 & 21

Operating Receipts	\$ 18,383.18
To Date	24,911.18
Endowment	164.00
To Date	364.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	31,413.55

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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