



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

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.

Why Does God Allow Tornadoes?

Whenever there is an outbreak of strong storms, especially strong storms with tornadoes, I have heard Christians say: "God must be trying to get our attention!" For whatever reason, whenever suffering occurs, some like to believe that God must have had some pretty good reasons to have allowed it.

When I hear reports of tornadoes touching down, I often think about the worshippers of the Goshen United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Alabama.

It was Palm Sunday in 1994.

About midway through the worship service at 11:35 am, as the choir began to sing, a tornado ripped through the church building destroying it completely.

Eighty-three out of the 140 worshippers who attended the service that day were seriously injured. Twenty-one worshippers were killed. Eight of the dead were little children—children who had just walked down the aisle waving their palm branches.

I do not believe there was any driving purpose or theological explanation for that tragedy, except for the fact that we live in a fragmented, unfair and sometimes senseless world where tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, heart disease, dementia, and cancer can develop and arbitrarily destroy.

Thankfully, Christians from all over the world didn't just talk about that tragedy in their Sunday School classes, trying to figure out if there was some reason God allowed it. They responded to that great tragedy by emulating the God revealed to us in Christ, by bending themselves to the ground, getting their hands dirty, to raise that church out of the rubble. Christians everywhere imitated their Savior by suffering with and being with the grieving. Doing whatever they could do to bring hope, wholeness, and restoration.

On the church's website today, you will find these words. "After the tornado, we received many gifts from all over the world. They lifted us up and helped us to know that we are not alone. Among those gifts were a banner and a painting of Jesus walking on turbulent waters. These and other gifts are reminders that God is with us through our storms, and with His help we will rise above them and be stronger because of them. We can now affirm the truth of the message that is contained on a plaque and in the words of a song: 'Sometimes God calms the storm. Sometimes, ...the storms rage, and God calms the child.'"

And in the end, isn't that much better than any theological explanation?

Jarrett

Green Chalice Program

The "Green Chalice" program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a tool to help congregations who would like to become better stewards of God's creation. To become recognized as a "Green Chalice Church" we must meet certain criteria. As you may have noticed, our church is currently making several changes that protect the earth with the goal of being recognized as a "Green Chalice Church" at the General Assembly in Des Moines, IA this summer.

- ✓ Instead of using paper and Styrofoam products, we have been eating on real plates and drinking out of real glasses.
- ✓ We have started a community garden on the Free Ferry side of the campus.
- ✓ We have asked for an assessment to determine what else can be done. How about LED light bulbs and maybe some solar panels?
- ✓ Let's recycle more.

The truth is there is much we can do to become better stewards of the planet. If you would like to be a part of the GREEN TEAM, let Barbara Brown in the office or Steve Parke, our board chairperson, know, and we will put our heads together to move forward toward a greener future.

Danny Lynch, Stewardship Chair

Worship and Education Opportunities

May 26

“God Never Discriminates”
Rev. Dr. Banks
John 5:1-9

Elders

David Pulliam and Regina Respass

Deacons

Stephanie Bailey (foreman), Jesse Bailey
 Darlene Brees, Barbara Lynch, Tim Randolph,
 John Warren, Vicki Warren, David Williamson

Prepare Communion

Darlene Brees

Greeters

John & Vicki Warren

Worship Leader

David Pulliam

Dianna’s Notes

Disciples Bells Quintet meets at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse “Be Thou My Vision”.

Music Schedule

May 26 Disciples Bell Quintet

VBS Reimagined Kid’s Week—June 3-7

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 offer various VBS-like classes. Each church will be responsible for one day. **Our day is Wednesday, June 5.** If you are interested in helping, please email Jarrett or contact the church office. We have cooks, but we will also need volunteers to clean up.

For the Record –May 19

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 2,218.00
To Date	15,543.00
Endowment	10.00
To Date	319.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs.....	31,413.55

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 26

- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Gather for Beer & Hymns
- 7:00 pm Sing

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day
Office Closed

Tuesday, May 28

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
 Joe’s Cantina, 74th Street

Beans and Bingo Wednesday Night

Membership will be hosting **Beans and Bingo** on **Wednesday, May 22.**

We will start serving about 5:15 pm, with bingo beginning at 6:00 pm. Start gathering up prizes as we have in the past. We will be having beans and cornbread and all the fixins. Banana pudding is on the menu for dessert. Come one and all for a fantastic night of family fun. **Linda Creekmore, Membership Chair**



Fort Smith Beer and Hymns This Sunday!

FSBH is an outgrowth of the Wild Goose Festival of North Carolina and has spread nationwide. FSBH plans to meet the last Sunday of every month at the Fort Smith Brewing Company. We invite people to gather at 6:00 pm, and we start singing at 7:00 pm. We conclude at 8:00 pm.

FSBH, while rooted in the Christian tradition, does not belong to any particular person, church or denomination. FSBH is kid-friendly, so bring the kids along! Soft drinks are available.

FOOD: BBQ sandwiches, pretzels with beer cheese, chips and salsa and cheese platters can be purchased or you can bring your own food.

JOIN US TO SING!

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.

Fort Smith Disciple (USPS 206-080) published weekly by First Christian Church, 3501 Rogers Ave. Fort Smith AR 72903-2961.
 Periodical postage paid at Fort Smith, AR.
 POSTMASTER: Please submit address changes to FORT SMITH DISCIPLE, 3501 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2961