



Remember Your Baptism

First Christian Church
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Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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

Church Staff

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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.

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.

I will never forget the Sunday after Hurricane Floyd flooded the first house Lori and I ever purchased in eastern North Carolina.

I had been wading in waist deep water that Thursday and all day Friday trying to save whatever we could from our house. And then that Sunday morning, one of the first things that I did was to climb down the steps of our baptistery into waist deep water.

I'll never forget the first words I spoke. I looked out into the congregation from that baptistery, and I said: "You know, standing here this morning in waist deep water is the last place I wanted to be this morning."

But I then said, "But it may also be the first place I need to be this morning."

Before that Sunday, the water of baptism had always represented purity and refreshment. It was water which cleansed one's spirit and refreshed one's soul. It was a renewing, invigorating water, life-giving water. Baptismal water was to me like the water from a spring welling up into eternal life from which we could drink and never thirst again.

However, on that particular Sunday, that water came to represent to me something more, something dreadful, something heinous, something sinister. That water came to symbolize destruction, despair; it came to symbolize death.

To the church in Rome, the Apostle Paul said: "Remember that you have been buried with Christ by baptism into death."

You know what this means don't you? It means Paul's house must have flooded too!

Well, probably not. But it does mean that Paul understood the destructive forces of sin and evil in our world. It means the apostle Paul understood water to be symbolic of those chaotic forces, evil forces in our world that seek to drain the very life out of us.

This is why the picture of Jesus walking on water is so inspiring. Jesus was doing much more than walking on water. Jesus was walking all over the forces of evil like they did not even exist.

This is why when John gives a list of things which we are not going to find in heaven in the 21st chapter of Revelation, "no more sea," is the first thing on his list. Before no more crying, no more pain, and no more mourning, John says there will be no more sea. One day there will be no more of anything more to fear or dread.

May each of us remember our baptisms. May we remember that we went under the water, but may we especially remember that we also came up out of that water.

We came out of the water symbolizing that while we live in a world of evil and sin, with Christ we can be more than conquerors.

We came up out of the water symbolizing that in spite of everything that drains the very life of us, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

We came up out of the water symbolizing that in spite of the many storms of life that come our way, death, divorce, disease, there is nothing in all of creation: no rulers, no powers, no things present, no things to come, no height, no depth and not even death, that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

We came up out of the water symbolizing that in all things, God works for the good for those who love God and are called according to God's purpose.

We came up out of the water symbolizing that when we face uncertain days, even death, we will possess the grace to always remember our baptisms and the glorious message of hope that our baptisms Proclaim.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

June 2

“Jesus’ Prayer for Unity”

Rev. Dr. Banks
John 17:20-26

Elders

Kristi Williamson and Steve Parke

Deacons

Janet LaForce (foreman), Tim Fleming, Jimmy Hudlow, Brad Kidder, Kim Kidder, Margot Mundy, Elizabeth Vaughn

Prepare Communion

Patience Hudlow

Greeters

Jimmy Hudlow and Elizabeth Vaughn

Homebound Communion

1. Kristi Williamson, Tim Fleming
2. David Pulliam, Margot Mundy

Worship Leader

Kristi Williamson

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, June 2

- Homebound Communion
- Pentecost Offering
- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 3

- 9:30-12:30 pm Hope Campus

Monday, June 3-Friday, June 7

- 8:30am: VBS, Central Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, June 4

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am DWF Board and Planning Meeting
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- Schlotsky’s on Rogers Ave

Wednesday, June 5

- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

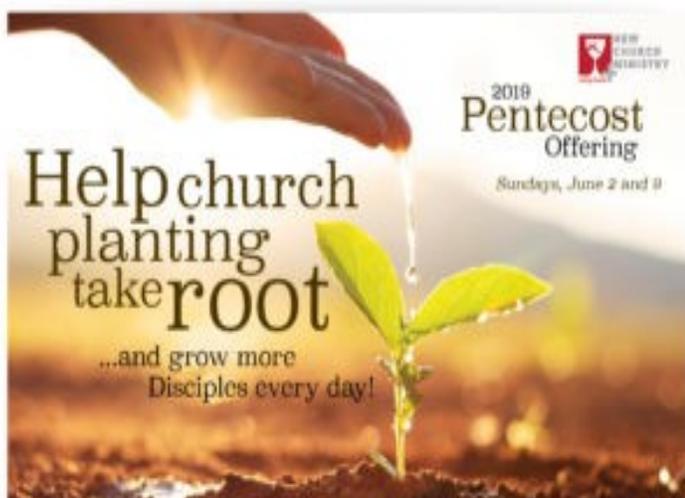
Green Chalice Program

GO GREEN!

In keeping with the commitment to being better stewards of our planet, Membership is phasing out Styrofoam plates. We have begun using regular mugs for coffee, glasses and dishes. This is a challenge, but doable. We want to continue to help save God’s creation.



Linda Creekmore, Membership Chair



How Is the Pentecost Offering Used?

To help our new church movement continue to take root! Each year, half of this offering stays in the local Region or Area where it’s collected to start and uphold new churches. The other half is used across the United States and Canada by New Church Ministry to support the recruiting, assessing, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy. Our church planters remain committed to answering God’s call...to serve their neighbors, spread the gospel, and make more Disciples. But they need the nurturing and generous support of people like you through the 2019 Pentecost Offering, **June 2 and 9**. Please help our new church movement continue to take root, bear fruit...and grow more Disciples every day!

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Tim and Susan Randolph** have lost their home due to flooding.

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

Please contact us if you know of anyone who needs assistance due to flooding.

Follow this link for Flood Recovery 2019 volunteer needs:
<https://unitedwayfortsmith.org/flood-recovery-and-relief-2019/>

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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