



Fort Smith Disciple

September 18, 2019
Volume 57, Number 12

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

Mary Beth Oliver

Organist

Barbara Brown

Secretary

Pam Shelby

Financial Secretary

Randy Alexander

Custodian

Patience Hudlow

Nursery Coordinator

Lesley Fleming

Nursery Attendant

Rev. Howard Marshall

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Randy Jay

Pastor Emeritus

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.

Hope for Tomorrow

Christians should point to their God in a very different manner than many people point to God. When asked: “Where is your God?” Christians should never say: “Back there,” or “in here,” or even “up there.” Rather we should point straight into the future and say: “My God is out there, pulling me into a better tomorrow.”

This is the teaching that Jesus put into action and the teaching that he calls all of us to put into action. Our God is a God of promise—A God of hope who is to be found much more in what is coming than in what was going.

I believe this explains why a woman who was dying said what she said to me during our very last conversation. She talked about her wonderful life. She talked about her service through the church. Then, she began to talk about her cancer. She talked about how it had returned and had spread throughout her body. She said she knew that she had days and not weeks left on this earth. She talked about how difficult it was going to be for her family. Then, she said to me with this special smile that I will never forget: “But I’m fine. I’m going to be fine.”

She was fine because her God, whom she knew through her teacher, Jesus Christ, had never approached her from behind. But always from out ahead, out in the future, always promising, always beckoning, always acting, transforming, renewing, restoring, resurrecting. Her God was never back there, somewhere in the distant past, but her God was out there, always assuring her that her best days of living, her best days of life, were ahead of her.

And in what she knew to be her last few days on this earth, she miraculously said, “I’m fine. I’m going to be fine.”

Aren’t we all?

Join us this Wednesday night to continue our discussion on this unique hope that Christians possess.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

September 22

“Come on Jesus, Really?”

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

Luke 16:1-13

Elders

Linda Creekmore and Jack Jackson II

Deacon

Barbara Lynch

Prepare Communion

Ginger Hamm

Greeters

Floyd Hamm, Ginger Hamm, Stacey Riggs

Worship Leader

Linda Creekmore

Elder on Call

Nina Abernathy—479-650-9114

Wednesday Night Study

Bring some takeout to Disciples Hall at **5:30 pm**, and join us for the study from **6:00 pm to 6:50 pm** on Wednesday nights.

First, we will study the subject of *hope* itself by looking at an article by Walter Bruggemann entitled: *The Company of the Unafraid*. This article is attached to the newsletter, and printed copies will be available Wednesday night.

Then, we will study a book called *Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church* by Mark Tidsworth. The book can be ordered here: <https://www.amazon.com/Shift-Three-Moves-Century-Church/dp/1517694337>. There is a small group curriculum that accompanies this book that we will be using. There's at least one copy in our church's Library.

Dianna's Notes

Prime Time Bells will meet at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

Music Schedule

September 22	Prime Time Bells
October 5	Children's Chimes and Jubilation Bells

DWF Hosts Church Women United

Disciples Women's Fellowship will host Church Women United this **Friday, September 20**, in Disciples Hall. Please join with the women from area churches for the Human Rights Celebration program. Guest speakers are Sister Rosalie and Kathy Jarvis.

Refreshments will be served at 9:30 am. The program starts at 10:00 am.

Light a Candle for Children

The annual Light a Candle for Children prayer vigil begins **September 23 and runs through October 20**, which is Children's Sabbath. This year's theme is "Light a Candle WITH Children: The Hearts and Voices of our Young People". Our youth invites all members of the congregation to mark your calendars and during your daily prayers include praying for children who suffer from hunger, homelessness, abuse and neglect.

This Sunday, the youth begins our prayer vigil during the children's moment.

Fall Fandago Camp

Fall Fandago Camp this year will be **November 15-17** at Camp Couchdale, Hot Springs, AR. This camp is open to grades 6-12. Please inform the church office or John Mundy if you plan on attending.

Lectionary Readings

For the week of September 22

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Psalm 79:1-9
I Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship resumed their weekly meetings this past Sunday. We have music from 5:00-5:45 pm, then a snack meal. This past week we enjoyed hotdogs, beans, potato salad, chips and dessert provided by David & Kristy Williamson. We thank you for the meal.

Our plans for this year are to increase our service projects within our community. We always welcome help, so feel free to join us.

John Mundy

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group will meet this **Thursday at 11:00 am** in the Barton Stone room. Please join us. **Connie and Rebecca**

Property Ministry Needs Your Help.

We have a lot of items on our plate and need your help. Anytime over the next couple of weeks if you have some spare time, please consider going by the church and do a **walk about** and pick up trash on the grounds. Thank you.

Hardie Jefferies, Property Ministry Chair

Donations Needed for Lincoln Childcare

LINCOLN CHILDCARE was impacted by flooding on August 24. Walls and flooring had to be torn out. Treatment for mold is also being done before reopening. Teachers lost school supplies that had been recently purchased for the new year. They are in need of monetary donations, school supplies, area rugs and nursery supplies. Boxes will be placed in the narthex and fellowship hall for the next 2-3 weeks for collection. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check to LINCOLN CHILDCARE. Lesley Fleming will see that the money is delivered directly to Lincoln.

Thank you.

Linda Creekmore and Lesley Fleming



ITEMS NEEDED:

- Large rags
- Big Chart Paper
- Drawing Paper
- Construction Paper

Kleenex

- Wipes
- Pull-ups (4T-5T)
- Stuffed Animals
- Water Color Palette

CRAFT ITEMS:

- Foam Shapes
- Pom-poms
- Yarn
- Craft Sticks

DO NOT NEED:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors

CHICKEN & SAUSAGE GUMBO DINNER



Please join us **October 6** for an authentic "Cajun" gumbo dinner following worship! Not only will the food be wonderful, but we will welcome Dr. Komi S. Folly, Executive President of Light of the World Development Foundation, who will speak and show slides from his recent trip to Togo, Africa. Our own John Mundy accompanied Dr. Folly and will share with us as well. The gumbo is free, but a special offering will be taken to assist Dr. Folly in his efforts to raise the standards of healthcare in the hospital in Togo. Please come to eat and give generously!

Membership Ministry

Announcements

Operation Green Office

The Green Chalice committee is happy to announce that our church community has been recognized nationally by the Green Chalice Ministries (Disciples of Christ) as a Green Chalice Congregation. As part of our Green Chalice Ministry and our ongoing mission to walk more gently and humbly with each other, and to tread with care in God's creation, we now have large bins and small receptacles to collect clean recyclable items, including unsoiled paper, rinsed plastic bottles, and unsoiled cardboard and other plastics. There will be small receptacles in the sanctuary narthex and on the tabled located near the elevator. Please keep in mind that recyclables must be clean to avoid cross-contamination with food or other contaminants, which will ensure that our recyclables make it through the entire recycling process successfully.

Peace and blessings,

Robbie Wilson, Green Chalice Committee Chair

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 22

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
 5:00—7:00 pm
 Youth Fellowship

Monday, September 23

9:30 am-12:30 pm
 Hope Campus

Tuesday, September 24

9:00 am Staff Meeting
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
 Sam's Southern Eatery
 1823 Grand Avenue

Wednesday, September 25

10:00 am Prime Time Bells
 3:30 pm Butterfield
 4:15 pm Children's Chimes
 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Study
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's

The 2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held **Saturday, September 21, at UAFS**. Registration is at 9:00 am, ceremony at 10:00 am, and walk beginning at 10:30 am. Anyone wanting to walk in support of Tije Musset can sign up under the team name "Team for Tije". For more information, call 479-273-5559, extension 8355 or email cdethlefs@alz.org.

For the Record – September 15

Operating Receipts	\$ 4,384.55
To Date	18,289.18
Endowment	150.00
To Date	524.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	29,118.21

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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