



Fort Smith Disciple

October 16, 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

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

Senior Minister
252-414-9229
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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.

The Same Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

I hear many people say that the Bible paints two very different portraits of God. They say that the God of the Old Testament was a God of wrath, judgment and vengeance, a God of Hell, fire and brimstone; whereas, the God of the New Testament was a God of love, grace and mercy. I suspect this may be part of the reason that, while some say they believe in love and grace, they make it very clear with their words and deeds that they also believe in judgment and condemnation.

However, I believe God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and I believe God is love. Therefore, God will always be love, and God has always been love. Many point to the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 and talk about God punishing the first two humans by kicking them out of the garden; however, it is more accurate to say that the story is about the human consequences of knowing good and evil, and consequently, our shame. And it is a story about a God who providentially deals with our shame by clothing us with grace, as God made garments of skin to cover Adam and Eve's shame.

Furthermore, in the next chapter, when Cain, who deserves to die for killing his brother Abel, fears that his life is over, God emphatically says, "Not so!" God then reaches down and puts a mark of grace on Cain. Moreover, God's grace followed Cain, even in that place east of Eden called Nod, even in that place that Cain believed was outside of God's presence.

Thus, proving in the very beginning of all that is, that there is not, has never been, and will never be, anything in all of creation that can separate us from the love of God.

During our "Making the Shift" experience, as we talk about the many changes that are occurring in the world, the good news is knowing that the love of God never changes.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

October 20

“Faith of Our Mothers and Fathers”

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks

2 Timothy 1:3-10

Elders

Danny Lynch and Robbie Wilson

Deacon

Vicki Warren

Prepare Communion

Janice Wade

Greeters

Connie Alexander, Terry Hales,

John Warren

Worship Leader

Danny Lynch

Elder on Call

Kristi Williamson—479-459-3446

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.

We began the study on the book *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.

It is ten small group sessions with six daily “engagements” between each small group which are like little daily devotions. Please plan to be a part of this exciting study!

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.

Dianna's Notes

Disciples Bells will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am to rehearse “The Old Rugged Cross”.

Youth Choir will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:20 am to rehearse “Blowing in the Wind”.

October 20 Disciples Bells

October 27 Disciples Bells Quintet

Lectionary Readings

For the week of October 20

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Light a Candle for Children

The annual Light a Candle for Children prayer vigil began **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.

John Mundy

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Helping Hands Ministry

Quite often people passing through town stop at the church office asking for help with food. Membership Ministry is starting a program called "Helping Hands" to assist our staff to meet those needs. We need your help! "Helping Hands" boxes have been placed around the church to collect food items which are non-perishable, easy open and single serve. Any food item that is non-perishable and easy to prepare on the road would be appreciated. Thank you.

Membership Ministry

Items needed include:

<p>Peanut butter crackers Small jars peanut butter Crackers Beef jerky Instant oatmeal</p>	<p>Pull-top vegetables Pull-top fruit Cookies Pudding cups Individual cereals</p>
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Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group will meet this **Thursday at 11:00 am** in the Barton Stone Room. Please join us!

Connie & Rebecca

AR DW Service Project

Earthbound Angels has requested donations of Diapers size 5, Pull-ups sizes 2-3T and 4-5T, and finally flushable wipes. Please put your donations in the box in Disciples Hall or call **Margot Mundy (353-4174)** for pick up and delivery.

Youth Bake Sale

The youth group of our church is having a bake sale fundraiser to raise money to help pay for our trips, activities, and food for our Sunday afternoon meetings. As you all know, November 15-17, our youth group is going to Fall Fandango in Camp Couchdale, Hot Springs, AR. The bake sale will be held on **Sunday, November 6**, on the sidewalk next to the parking lot by the Children's Building. Donations will be accepted. Thank you.

Connor Allen

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, October 20

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, October 21

6:30 pm Men’s Supper

Tuesday, October 22

9:00 am Staff Meeting
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
 Pink Flamingo
 Old Greenwood and Country Club

Wednesday, October 23

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

Thank You

I would like to thank you for your hospitality during our visit to Arkansas. May God bless the members at your church.

Dr. Komi S. Folly
Executive President of Light of the
World Development Foundation

A Special Thanks

I am pleased to announce my back surgery went well with no complications and I am on track for recovery. The most surprising thing about this is experience was the outpouring of well wishes and prayers from the members of First Christian Church. This has given me a new realization of what it means to be part of a church family.

David Trent

For the Record – October 13

Operating Receipts	\$ 5,161.65
To Date	13,528.45
Endowment	164.00
To Date	204.00
Reconciliation Offering	
To Date	612.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	29,118.21

Concern of the Community

- **Anthony Truong** is in Mercy Hospital.

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

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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