



Fort Smith Disciple

November 27, 2019
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First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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

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Mary Beth Oliver

Organist

Barbara Brown

Secretary

Pam Shelby

Financial Secretary

Randy Alexander

Custodian

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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.

"Thanksgiving"

The Latin word for grace is *gratia*. It means thanks. The word "gratitude" comes from the same Latin root. That is why we ask someone at the dinner table to say "grace." We are asking them to say some words of thanksgiving for the meal. The Greek word for grace is *charis*, which means both "grace" and "thanks." The two words are intermingled and tied together. The two words are inseparable. Grace does not exist and cannot work without gratitude. I am giving you this word study, because I believe this word, *gratia* or *charis* is not only the key to Thanksgiving, but is perhaps the most important word in our language. It is an amazing word with the sweet sound which saves wretches everywhere like me and like you.

It is the word that we use to describe the Lord's Supper: "Eucharist." The prefix "Eu" means: "Good, Noble, Magnificent, Great." So, the Lord's Supper is literally a "Great Grace" or "Great Thanks." It is a Supper of Great Thanksgiving!

The basic meaning of grace is that God has done something for us that God did not have to do. God has given us something that we did not have coming to us, something completely unearned, undeserved and unmerited.

Being grateful means living our lives continually acknowledging that God has showered us with grace—free, unmerited, undeserved, unearned, amazing grace. Think of what our world would be like, if all of us made this simple acknowledgment. Think of the difference it would make if no one believed God and the world owes them something. Kindness would be commonplace. Unconditional love would be the norm. Justice would be for all. And everywhere, there would be peace.

Thanksgiving is not something that we should do one time a year. We should wake up every morning of our lives with these words on our lips: "Today, God has given me something that God did not have to give me, something that I did not have coming to me—something completely unearned, undeserved, unmerited. Thus, I am grateful."

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

December 1

“Hope on the Mountain”
Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks
Isaiah 2:1-5

Elders

Robbie Wilson and Regina Respes

Deacon

Jimmy Hudlow (Foreman), Jesse Bailey,
 Terry Hales, Barbara Lynch, Nick Oliver,
 Greta Pryor, LaBeth Riggs, Steve Riggs

Prepare Communion

Greta Pryor

Greeters

Jesse Bailey, LaBeth Riggs, Steve Riggs

Homebound Communion

1. Robbie Wilson and Diane Fagan
2. Kaycee Young and Greta Pryor

Worship Leader

Robbie Wilson

Elder on Call
Dan Marshall—479-806-3073

Dianna’s Notes

Music Schedule

December 1	Becki Struble, Bell Matrix
December 6	11:30 am Prime Time Bells play at Bank of the Ozarks
December 8	Disciples Bells
December 11	Children’s Choir at Creekmore Park
December 15	Children’s Chimes, Jubilations Bells Randy Alexander and Jack Jackson II, Bell Duet
December 22	Prime Time Bells
December 24	Disciples Bells Becki Struble and Lula Hanson, Bell Duet
December 29	Bruce Birkhead, Solo

Wednesday Night Study

***Wednesday Night Study will not
 meet Wednesday, November 27.***

Lectionary Readings

For the week of December 1

Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Mission Opportunity

We have the opportunity to begin work on the Lecta House that is used for foster children. The chores we have permission to undergo are general cleaning, organizing drawers and closets, sorting and organizing games and toys, and compiling a needs list for the house as a whole. If this is a church-wide mission in which you would like to participate, mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 24, at 2:00 pm.** If you have questions, contact **Regina Respes or Connie Alexander.**

Community Outreach

Group 3 December Meeting

Group 3 will meet in the parlor at 6:00 pm on **Tuesday, December 11**. Please bring substantial finger foods and enjoy the fellowship. Our mini-mission project for December will be to support the community outreach ministry by choosing an angel from the angel tree and or bringing gloves for the same ministry.

Elizabeth Vaughn

Volunteers Needed for Toy Giveaway

Volunteers are needed to help at the Earth-bound Angels Christmas Toy Giveaway that will be held in Disciples Hall on **December 7 and 14** from 8:00 am. to 12:30 pm. Call or text **Ginger Jefferies at 479-414-2466** or **Regina Respass at 479-651-1566** if you can help.

Christmas in the Park

It's that time of year for 'Christmas in the Park'. We will provide hot chocolate and cookies **Wednesday, December 11**. Our own Tim and Lesley Fleming will be Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus! Santa will be handing out gloves and candy canes to the children. We are asking for donations of children's gloves and cookies. There will be a designated box in the hall outside the chapel for early worship and in the narthex for the 10:45 am worship. We will need the gloves by **Tuesday, December 10**. Also, if you could bake cookies, please contact Regina Respass or Connie Alexander. Thank you for your help!

Community Outreach

Friendship Class Party

Friendship Class Christmas party will be **Saturday December 14**, at 6:25 pm at the home of David & Judy Trent. All former, present and future class members are invited. Please bring finger food and a gift for "Dirty Santa".

Judy

Angel Tree

This year the Community Outreach committee will put up an Angel Tree. Our church has been so generous in giving and service to others. Please consider taking an Angel from the tree and giving a child a Merry Christmas. Last day to bring your presents to put under the tree will be **Sunday, December 16**. More information will be coming!

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent
 Homebound Communion
 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
 9:00 am Mission Café
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 2

9:30am-12:30 pm
 Hope Campus

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 am Staff Meeting
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
 (Firehouse Subs, 2307 Zero St.)

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 am Prime Time Bells
 4:15 pm Children’s Chimes
 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Study

Friday, December 6

10:00 am Prime Times Bells
 Bank of the Ozarks

Saturday, December 7

8:00 am Cut and gather greenery
 at Birkhead Mountain
 1:00 pm Prepare Greenery

Poinsettias

On Sunday, **December 15**, we will have poinsettias adorning our sanctuary. You can reserve one *“In Honor of...”* or *“In Memory of...”* with your payment of \$10. You can also give \$10 in lieu of a flower.

Your cash / check reserves your poinsettia. Use the small brown envelopes in the pew pockets, or drop your check off in the church office. Please be sure to write out **for whom** and **from whom** the poinsettia is ordered. **December 9** is the last day to order.

Order forms will be in the bulletins on December 1.

Thank You

We wish to thank our church family for your kind words, prayers, cards, and memorial gifts acknowledging the passing of my brother, Terry Oliver. **Nick and Mary Beth Oliver**

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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