



**First Christian Church**  
3501 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Office: (479) 783-1139

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

## Church Staff

**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.

Click [here](#) to see last Sunday's sermon.

## “Living Beyond Fear” Mark 4:35-41

Our text for this Sunday is one of the most familiar stories in the Gospels: Jesus' stilling the storm on the Sea of Galilee. When the storm arose, it tossed the boat in such a way that it terrified the disciples. When we read this story, it resonates in our individual lives as well as our life in congregations and civic communities. When the “wind and waves” assail our fragile vessels (i.e. our lives, our quality of living, our possessions, etc.), we become afraid. Fear is rampant in our nation and in our world - the Coronavirus, the biggest drop in the stock market since 1987, the uncertainty of what lies ahead, and these are a just a few of the issues that confront us daily. There is debilitating anxiety all around us, just as with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

Read the text. Fear is confronted in this story, but not by a sudden burst of courage or resolve on the part of the disciples. Rather, it is Jesus who calms both them and the storm with the power of his presence. Hopefully, a reengagement with this text will challenge us to turn again to the Lord of wind and wave, the one we can always trust to overturn our fear and right the ship of our faith. Like the disciples, we are challenged in the midst of storms to rediscover our faith in the promise of God's powerful presence. I look forward to exploring this theme with you this Sunday.

**Blessings,**  
**Jim Johnson**

## School's Out and So Are We

Last Sunday evening the elders, personnel committee, and trustees met and decided to follow the lead of the Fort Smith schools and take the next two weeks off to lessen the chance of coronavirus transmission. At the end of the two-week period those same people will meet again and decide the next step, if any, we may need to take. The office will remain open and maintain its regular hours. But this does not mean that we cannot keep in touch with each other. We are working to establish an opportunity to deliver a worship service experience to you at home. We are in the process of contacting the ministers scheduled to preach on the upcoming Sundays and create a video of them presenting a condensed version of the message they intended to deliver to the congregation had we worshiped together as usual. If we are successful in this, their messages will then be posted to the church's website and may be viewed at

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg9HSmKC7yCudvHwzRGt0oS_HAojlWgp)

[list=PLg9HSmKC7yCudvHwzRGt0oS\\_HAojlWgp](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg9HSmKC7yCudvHwzRGt0oS_HAojlWgp) . It might not be possible to have their message available in time for Sunday mornings. If not, it should appear a day or two later. We also now have communion supplies in the office which you may pick up (or request to be delivered to you) so that you may partake of communion as you watch the minister's message. And what do you do about your offering? You may either place it in the mail or bring it to the office and deliver it to Barbara or Pam.

Now, don't like being away from the church too much. We want very much to be back together and will do everything we can to do so. It might mean just a worship service and no Sunday school, but seeing you sitting in the church pews is what we want-and what God wants.

**Danny Lynch, Board Chair**

**Interim Pastor Called**

We have called Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson to be our interim minister, and he has accepted. He will assume the interim position effective **April 19**.

Dr. Robinson, who is a chaplain at Mercy and a retired parish minister, has preached at FCC DOC, Fort Smith a number times.

**Danny Lynch, Board Chair**



**MEMORIALS:** We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...

- In Memory of **Gwen Long** by Steve & LaBeth Riggs
- In Memory of **Marlene Rhodes** by Steve & LaBeth Riggs
- In Memory of **Dean Randolph, Jr.** by Steve & LaBeth Riggs

**March 22**

**Rev. Dr. Jim Johnson**

**Elder of the Month**  
**Danny Lynch-479-719-8759**

**Lunch Bunch will not meet for the next two weeks. Watch the newsletter for the next meeting date.**

**For the Record – March 15**

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 2,133.35
To Date.....	26,970.75
Endowment.....	25.00
To Date.....	615.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	29,118.21

**Mission Express O Café**

The café opens at **8:30 am each Sunday** morning. All the proceeds support the Mission trips. Come join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee and doughnuts.