



# Fort Smith Disciple

September 2, 2020  
Volume 58, Number 10

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

**Office:** (479) 783-1139

**Office Hours:**  
9:00am-3:00pm  
Monday-Thursday

## Church Staff

**Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson**

Interim Pastor

**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.

## “By God’s Design”

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>37</sup>No, in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8:28, 37-39 NRSV**

**Sermon Focus:** From the day we are conceived to the day we depart this earth, every detail of our lives has been planned and ordained by God. Nothing happens by chance but everything we experience is a detail in God’s design for each of his children.

How cool is it that the same God who created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too?

**Ellis Robinson**

## Last Week’s Answer and this Week’s Bible Question

Seeking refuge from the conflicts in their country the Israelites went to Egypt to seek a safe haven. When a great famine hit Egypt they sold everything they had and lived in servitude to the pharaoh. They multiplied greatly and the pharaoh was concerned that they would eventually outnumber them. He ordered the killing of all the male children born there. One mother built a basket, made it waterproof, put her child in it, and hid it in the reeds of the Nile river. The child was discovered by the pharaoh's daughter and taken into her care after being old enough for her to do so. That child was Moses. And you know the rest of the story.

**Next week:** Where was Solomon's fifth administrative district located and of what importance is the name of that district? Good luck. **Danny Lynch**

## Regional Assembly

The Regional Assembly is **November 6-8**. Five of our church members are allowed to act in a formal capacity as representatives of our church. If you would like to be one of those representatives, call Barbara at the church office and get on the list. Be one of the first five. **Danny Lynch**

## Elder's Meeting Determinations In-Person Worship Service on September 20

The Elders met last Sunday evening, August 30, to discuss our area's latest trends in new Covid-19 infections along with draft planning developed to maximize the health safety of our members to allow return of in-person worship services in the Sanctuary. The Elders adopted a set of guidelines along with a sanctuary seating distancing plan which, if closely followed, would meet the medical and scientific best practices to prevent community spread for in-person gathering.

Based upon the adoption of these two policies and that our area does not experience a significant change in its infection rates, the Elders have agreed that we can resume in-person worship services on Sunday, September 20. The Covid-19 Guidelines for Worship Services adopted by the Elders is presented in a companion article elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read and consider the guidelines carefully with the understanding that full adherence with them is expected of those who attend the in-person services and that they are needed to maximize the health safety of everyone present.

Although we hope that these guidelines are adequate, they are not one-size-fits-all. We realize that some of our members have higher risk conditions making them more vulnerable to infection by this virus. We encourage everyone to evaluate their individual circumstances in order to safeguard their health before returning to in-person worship services. This virus is serious and can produce life-changing circumstances. We understand and will fully support your decision to not attend if you feel it is unsafe for your personal health safety. We will continue to provide each Sunday's worship service on-line for you. The link to the worship service playlist is . <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg9HSmKC7yCsVx5D6B6yNvWX24RnO9Irl>

The Elders will meet again on **September 13** to complete the final preparations for the September 20 service. If you have any questions related to the guidelines, please provide them to the church office by the end of office hours on Thursday, September 10 so that they may be considered at the Elders meeting. The health of our congregation is important to us all. Stay safe, continue to check on each other, and remember that we are connected by our love for each other and our Savior Jesus Christ. Danny Lynch and Steve Parke

### Covid-19 Guidelines for Worship Services

#### ENTRY

- One Narthex entry door is to be kept in an open position on both east and west sides.
- Face masks must be on and properly worn before entry. Church will provide face mask if needed. **Masks which have an air release valve are not acceptable.**
- Temperature check will be taken for each individual upon arrival.
- Use the 6-foot distance floor markers as guides to maintain the appropriate separation from others.
- All attendees are encouraged to minimize gathering and to proceed into the Sanctuary.
- Hand sanitizer must be used by all individuals before entering Sanctuary.

#### SANCTUARY

- Face masks must be worn properly at all times.
- No nursery will be provided. Children must sit with parents or guardians.
- No seating allowed in pews, or portions of pews, identified as "restricted."
- A 6-foot social distance seating separation is expected to be honored by attendees from those with which they do not share a household setting or those with which they do not normally have daily contact or interaction. Any other seating arrangement requires the expressed mutual consent between all of the individuals comprising the group.
- No congregational singing.

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- Individuals must sign in with their name and contact number on pad provided for that purpose at their individual seating location. Sign-in pad to be left on pew for after-service collection by church staff. This information is necessary for contact tracing in the event an individual in attendance is later known to be positive for Covid-19, or determined to have been potentially been exposed to a positive Covid-19 setting.

**EXITING**

- One Narthex exit door is to be kept in an open position on both the east and west sides.
- No “gathering” at distances of less than 6-feet in Narthex following services. All attendees are encouraged to proceed to an outdoor location when weather allows.
- Place worn disposable masks in trash receptacles located by the exit doors. Do not leave worn reusable masks at the church for return usage.

**Hope Campus Homeless Shelter**

Thirty Stouffer's Lasagna Casseroles were purchased and delivered to Hope Campus Homeless Shelter with the money donated from church members for the Casserole Program.

Thank you to all who donated to this cause.

**Ginger Jefferies**

**Shower for Buffy Trent**

Buffy Trent is getting married! Buffy is the daughter of Judy and David Trent. Buffy grew up in this church, and she was involved in the youth and music groups here at FCC. So, in honor of Buffy and Jesse, we will be hosting a Virtual Zoom Bridal Shower on **Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 pm.**

Buffy and Jesse are registered at Zola.com. If you click on this link below you can order and they will ship it for you:

<https://www.zola.com/registry/buffyandjesse>

Rather than a gift, if you would like to send a card/gift card her address is:

Buffy Trent  
325 Cherry Street, Apt. 204  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

The idea is to try to have the gifts sent **before September 18**, so she can have them to open at the shower. Zola will send them to her when you order from the registry. Please RSVP to Dianna Jackson (host) by text, Facebook Event, or by email [jacksondianna919@gmail.com](mailto:jacksondianna919@gmail.com). We will send instructions on Zoom Link to those who indicate that they want to participate in the shower. Let's celebrate!!



### Walk to End Alzheimer’s

Dear Church Family,

The **Walk to End Alzheimer’s** will be virtual this year and we will be hosting a walk for Tije Musset from our home. When first diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s in March 2017, Tije was stage 2-3 of 7. In the 3½ years since his diagnosis, he has progressed to 5½. Early onset Alzheimer’s progresses much quicker than regular Alzheimer’s, which is often found in older patients. If you would like to walk with us and show your support:

**When:** Saturday, September 19, 2020  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** 2915 South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fort Smith  
**Length:** 2 miles

If you would like to make a donation (100% tax deductible): Make check payable to **River Valley Alzheimer’s Association**, write “**Team for Tije**” on the memo line. You can drop off the check at our home. (Donor forms are available in the church office.) Or go online to “**2020 Walk to End Alzheimer’s – Arkansas River Valley**. Scroll down for the option of donating to a team (our team name is “**Team for Tije**”).

We would love for you to join us for the walk and please **wear purple for Alzheimer’s awareness**. We thank you all for your support!  
**Glenda Musset, Abby Musset and Katie Musset Whittaker**

### What’s Been Going On

Thanks to all of you who have sent cards and made phone calls, checking on each other during the time off from church. Let’s see what’s been going on lately with some of our fellow disciples.

**Katy Featherston:** Quite an opportunity and adventure is awaiting this young lady. Katy has a new job at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in Cambridge in the office for the vice-president of finance, AND she will be attending Boston University to obtain her master’s degree in arts administration. Katy has been exploring this job change for a while but one day decided to just put it on hold for a year. And then what happened? The very next day she received a call from her (now) boss, who performed a phone screen interview and prepared Katy for the corporate-type interview process. Katy said, “I was just myself” during the next interview with three MIT personnel and after a very short interval was called with the good news that she was hired. Labor Day weekend Dan and Zena will drive Katy to Boston. Katy says she is appreciative of all the prayers that will be said for her, by her FCC family. Blessings, best wishes and all our FCC love to you, Katy.

**Mae Harris:** Mae spends much of her time in Chesapeake, Virginia, with her son Greg, his wife and their two children. Her other son, Mark, lives in Dallas. Mae just celebrated her birthday August 16 with festivities including both sons, daughter-in-law Lindsay and grandkids Owen, 11 and Emmy, 9. As the “grands” are being educated online, they are fortunate to have Mae helping them with their fall semester of virtual learning. Mae, it is always good to see you and we look forward to seeing you in October.

**Elder for September**  
**Regina Respass—479-651-1566**

**For the Record – August 30**

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 2,735.00
To Date .....	21,224.00
Endowment to Date .....	920.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	\$25,268.75

- Prayer Concerns**
- **Bill Crowder** is recuperating from a fall that resulted in a broken shoulder and ankle and is in rehab at The Maples, 6456 Lynchs Prairie Cove, **Springdale, AR 72762**.
  - **Gerhard Mensch** is convalescing at Subiaco for a few days.

**Fort Smith Disciple** (USPS 206-080) published weekly by First Christian Church, 3501 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith AR 72903-2961.  
**Periodical postage paid at Fort Smith, AR.**  
 POSTMASTER: Please submit address changes to FORT SMITH DISCIPLE, 3501 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2961-2961