



# Fort Smith Disciple

September 16, 2020  
Volume 58, Number 12

**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.

## “God Is in the House”

<sup>11</sup>Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon,  
<sup>12</sup>“Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes, obey my ordinances, and keep all my commandments by walking in them, then I will establish my promise with you, which I made to your father David. <sup>13</sup>I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel.” <sup>14</sup>So Solomon built the house and finished it.

Kings 6:11-14 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>When Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord and the king’s house and all that Solomon desired to build, <sup>2</sup>the Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. <sup>3</sup>The Lord said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you made before me; I have consecrated this house that you have built, and put my name there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

I Kings 9:1-3 NRSV

**Sermon Focus:** As we reassemble and make our way back into the Holy Sanctuary of God to worship and fellowship, let us do so with awe and wonder and aware of the blessing of being allowed to come before God’s holy presence again. May we never forget that this is God’s House and we are his people, and he has promised that where two or more are gathered in his name, he will meet us there.

See you Sunday.

**Ellis Robinson**

## 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 again on September 13 to review implementation measures for the adopted guidelines and 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 below. We encourage everyone to 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 online for you. The link to the worship service playlist is <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg9HSmKC7yCsVx5D6B6yNvWX24RnO9Irl>

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 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.

**Shower for Buffy Trent**

In honor of Buffy Trent (daughter of David & Judy Trent, 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!!

**Casseroles for Hope Campus Homeless Shelter**

If you would like to help provide a casserole for Hope Campus, make a 9x13 inch pan of your favorite casserole or purchase a casserole at SAM'S Club or other source. It needs to be in a disposable foil pan. On **Thursday, October 8**, bring the **BAKED** casserole to Disciples Hall between the hours of 2:00 and 3 :00 pm to be put in the freezer. I will be there to put them in the freezer. You can also donate money, and I will buy casseroles at SAM'S Club with that donation. If you want to donate money, send a check to the church made payable to First Christian Church and designated for Hope Campus. Hardie and I will deliver the casseroles to Hope Campus.

For more information, call or text **Ginger Jefferies at 479-414-2466.**

### 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 two-mile walk for Tije Musset from our home, **2915 South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fort Smith, on Saturday, September 19, at 10:30 am.**

If you would like to make a donation (100% tax deductible), make check payable to **River Valley Alzheimer’s Association** and 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.) You may also 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**

### Prayer Concerns

- **Gerhard Mensch** is in room 3301 at Mercy.

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

### Sunday School Opportunity

During the time that we are not meeting in-person, our online Sunday School will start at 8:300 am. All are invited! Please join us!!

For your smart phone or computer with a camera:  
Meeting ID – click here  
[meet.google.com/ypt-anjt-fka](https://meet.google.com/ypt-anjt-fka)

or call in here:  
Phone Numbers (US)  
+1 617-675-4444  
PIN: 237 646 939 5657#

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

- **Marc Kendall** by Nina Abernathy; Jim & Linda Creekmore
- **Bruce Birkhead** by Jim & Linda Creekmore; Hardie & Ginger Jefferies; Nick & Mary Beth Oliver; Dewayne & Greta Pryor; Connie Slater; John & Vicki Warren; Carl & Evelyn Warrington; David & Kristi Williamson

### For the Record – September 6 and 13

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 8,764.00
Endowment.....	740.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	\$25,268.75

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