



**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

### When Jesus Sees Our Faith

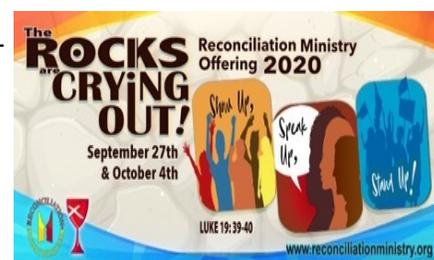
<sup>17</sup> One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. <sup>18</sup> Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; <sup>19</sup> but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." <sup>21</sup> Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup> When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." <sup>25</sup> Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. <sup>26</sup> Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."  
**Luke 5:17-26 NRSV**

**Sermon Focus:** The Bible tells us that faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. As Christians, faith is sometimes an untapped power given to us by God to change the lives of others. Luke 5:17-26 is a story of the paralytic man who is healed by Jesus as a result of the faith of others.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a history dating from the 1960's of sharing our resources to address the racism of our society and the racism within our own church. We have called this process the Reconciliation Ministry.

We receive this offering in the fall and use the funds throughout the year to give grants to the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism initiative to organize to dismantle systems and structures that perpetuate this sin of division within the Church.

The 2020 Vision adopted by our church names this work as one of the four priorities of our mission together as a whole church. This voluntary annual offering is the only source of funding for this ministry. Recent events serve to emphasize the need for this funding. The offering will be received on **October 4**. Please give generously.



### Light a Candle for Children

Light a Candle for Children Prayer Vigil began on **September 18** and will end on Children's Sabbath **October 16**. In a normal world I would bring in guest speakers to provide information on children's service organizations in our community. However, due to Covid pandemic, we will not for health safety reasons.

This year I wish to invite the members of the congregation to submit a prayer that may be published in the weekly newsletter. The prayer should focus on not only the youth of our church but children who have to deal with hunger, abuse, homeless, those children living in war torn countries, and those who have been forcibly separated from their families.

### In-Person Worship Service on October 4 10:00 AM

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>

### Covid-19 Guidelines for Worship Services

Although we are not reprinting the sanctuary seating restriction guidelines in this week's newsletter, they are still in force. If you have misplaced the copy of the guidelines which were mailed to you they can be found online on the church website homepage or under the News tab by selecting Newsletters and clicking on 09-16-2020 or 09-23-2020. If you are unable to find the guidelines online, please contact the church office to obtain another copy. Please stay safe and wear your mask as recommended by the CDC.

### 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**.

### Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

- **Ashely Taylor's son, Justin**, is at home recovering from a car accident. While at the hospital, they discovered he has a tumor between his eyes.
- **John & Margot Mundy** celebrate the birth of a new great granddaughter, Lilith, born Sunday, September 27. She weighed 6 lb. 4 oz.

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

- **Bruce Birkhead** by Floyd & Ginger Hamm, John & Margot Mundy

### Thank You

Thank you to each and everyone of you who participated in and/or donated to the Alzheimer's Walk/Team for Tije. We had a great walk and a great day for it. We definitely feel all the love there is for Tije and are continually blessed by it.

### For the Record – September 27

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 5,625.00
To Date.....	18,822.00
Endowment.....	335.00
To Date.....	1,740.00
Reconciliation Offering .....	220.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	\$25,268.75

### Elder for October

**Hardie Jefferies—479-650-1755**

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