



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.

We Want to See Jesus

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus

John 12:20-22 NRSV

Sermon Focus: We are living in a time of great fear, confusion, frustration and bewilderment. Our country is undergoing the greatest test she has ever experienced. There are those who claim to have the solution to the crisis we find ourselves in. As simple as it may sound, Jesus is the answer to every challenge we face. The message this week is intended to move us back to the one who proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth and the light."

Rev. Ellis

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

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.

Mother Teresa wrote: "You will teach them to fly, but they will not fly your flight. You will teach them to dream, but they will not dream your dream. You will teach them to live, but they will not live your life. Nevertheless, in every flight in every life, in every dream, the print of the way you taught them will remain."

Dear Lord,

We lift up the children today and we ask for your guidance in setting a good example and teaching them in the way they should go. Help us to see the beauty and talent in each child and help them to see their own beauty and abilities. Encourage them to follow their dreams. Give us courage and patience Lord when it is time to allow them to fly on their own. May they always know that we are there for them, and if they stumble let them know that we are there to help them up. It takes a village; help us to find opportunities in helping our youth in our community. Lord, these children are our blessings. Watch over them, protect them, and help them feel love and your presence we pray. In Christ's Name Amen.

Dianna Jackson

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**.

Our Confession of Faith as Disciples of Christ

As members of the Christian Church, We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in God's covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another. Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ.

At the Table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory, and honor be to God forever. Amen.

In-Person Worship Service on October 11 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.

Prayer Concern

- **Gerhard Mensch** is in Mercy Hospital.

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

- **Bruce Birkhead** by Jesse & Stephanie Bailey; Allen & Mary Nelle Hales, Mae Harris

Elder for October

Hardie Jefferies—479-650-1755

For the Record – October 4

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 9,917.00
Endowment.....	320.00
Reconciliation Offering.....	230.00
To Date	450.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs.....	\$25,268.75

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