



**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.

## “A Few Things to Be Thankful For”

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, <sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. <sup>20</sup>Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word. <sup>21</sup>Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will. <sup>22</sup>Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

**Sermon Focus:** As we enter the holiday season, let us pause to reflect on all the things God has done for us in spite of coming through a year of great change and disruption. May we never forget to take time to say, “Thank You.” There are so many things we take for granted that money cannot buy; health and strength, friends and loved ones and a God who loves us and meets all our needs.

**Ellis**

## 2020 Thanksgiving Offering

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. On **November 15 22**, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty and staff. This November, please give generously to this year’s Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.

## Letters of Thanks and Gratitude

Many of us are familiar with the United Way. But, how many are aware of The Call, Sack Lunch Program, CURE or PACE? Do you know people in our congregation serve as volunteers in these organizations? Is there an organization that you are familiar with their work and would like to thank them? How about the Boys or Girls Shelter, Women’s Crisis Center, or Reynolds Cancer Support House? Maybe there is a member in our congregation or community that has a special place in your heart. If so, please pick up some cards and envelopes in our church office this week, write your note of thanks, address and stamp the card and put it in the basket on the communion table this Sunday, **November 22**. Dr. Robinson will bless our letters during the service. The letters will be mailed the following day.

This has been a year of challenges but, let us not forget the blessings God has given us also during this season of thanksgiving.

Hope to see you Sunday! Don’t forget your letters!

Blessings,  
**Outreach Committee**

### In-Person Worship Service Attendance

As a reminder to that which everyone has already heard through the media, we are now experiencing significant increases in Covid-19 infections, and as fall and winter seasons approach we are entering a time when the risk of Covid infections will be even higher. The potential for the introduction of a vaccine is improving, but the best outlook for the vaccine by trustworthy sources indicates that Covid-19 will continue within the general population throughout 2021, and possibly beyond.

General observation of our following the Covid-19 Guidelines for Worship Services shows that we do well maintaining social distancing once we are in the Sanctuary, but we are not fully adhering to them during our arrival and departure from worship services. Adherence to our Covid-19 guidelines is necessary to maximize the health safety of everyone present, especially those members who have higher risk conditions making them more vulnerable to infection by this virus. We can do that if we “tune-up” our before and after worship service practices. The following are the essential elements from our guidelines addressing those two areas:

**ENTRY**

- Maintain a minimum of 6-foot distance between others when arriving and waiting to enter the Sanctuary
- Use the 6-foot distance sidewalk and floor markers as guides to maintain the appropriate separation from others.
- Face masks must be on and properly worn before entry. Church will provide face mask if needed.
- All attendees are encouraged to minimize gathering in the narthex and to proceed into the Sanctuary. If possible, do not stand in areas which will impede others from entering.
- Hand sanitizer must be used by all individuals before entering Sanctuary.

**EXITING**

- 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. If possible, do not stand in areas which will impede others from proceeding to their vehicles.
- Use the 6-foot distance sidewalk and floor markers as guides to maintain the appropriate separation from others.

### SUMMER REWIND

During the previous summer months when Fort Smith FCCDOC only held on-line services, some of our members (both past and present) stepped up to provide worship music virtually. Upon request, we are adding some of the musical performances as separate videos.

This week, you can view Disciples Bells Quintet rendition of “The River is Wide” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siEP0yMZWt4>

As always, you can get to full services at [fccdoc.org](http://fccdoc.org) or directly at our YOUTUBE CHANNEL <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdYhuAKJlrFUhE9rVSOaUrQ>

### Hope Campus News

Hope Campus Homeless Shelter was pleased to receive 24 Casseroles on November 12 from money that was donated by First Christian Church members. Chris Joannides, the Director of Hope Campus, shared that they are keeping residents safe from COVID. Temperatures are checked twice daily. All residents are required to wear a mask and surfaces are sanitized several times daily. There have been only two cases of COVID since March at Hope Campus. That is amazing since there are around 100 residents.

We also wanted to share that Chris and Betsey Joannides are the proud parents of a new son who was born on October 26. His name is Elijah John Joannides. Betsey is the Chef at Hope Campus and does a wonderful job. She will be on Maternity Leave for several months. The Casseroles that we provide have been such a help to Hope Campus.

We do not plan to organize a December date for church members to bring casseroles. However, if anyone wants to donate money for casseroles, we will buy more after there are sufficient funds.

Thank you so much for helping Hope Campus.

**Hardie and Ginger Jefferies**

**For the Record – November 15**

Operating Receipts.....	\$ 2,237.00
To Date .....	14,819.00
Endowment.....	50.00
To Date .....	215.00
Thanksgiving Offering.....	135.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	25,268.75

**Elder for November**  
**Steve Parke—479-783-1892**

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