



# FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

November 26, 2024

Volume 62

Number 22

## Making Room for Jesus

Every Christian should be familiar with the Christmas story. We are told by Luke that the young parents of Jesus, who were expecting their firstborn child, were required to travel to Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph, for Jesus' dad to enroll in a nationwide census. In ancient times, it was impossible to make prior lodging arrangements or even to inform relatives you were coming. As a result, when Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, they found that there were no rooms available to accommodate them. Even though there was no room for them at the inn, they were allowed to stay in a small corner of what is described as a stable. We are not told if it was due to the kindness of the innkeeper or the person who owned the stable; however, someone felt that it was necessary to make room for the Baby Jesus. Making room for Jesus is still a challenge in the lives of many believers. Making room for Jesus begins with making room for Him in our hearts! If we make room for Him, He will make room for us in every area of our lives!

*Ellis*

## Advent Special Events

- Christmas in the Park - **Tuesday, December 3, at 5:30 pm** (Creekmore Park). Join us for caroling and bring some cookies to share with folks in the park.
- Gathering of the Greens - **Saturday, December 7**. All are welcome to meet at the church at **8:00 am** to caravan to Birkhead's cabin on Mt. Magazine. Please bring gloves and loppers if you have them. Coffee, hot chocolate, and doughnuts will be provided. Please remember, the temperature can be up to ten degrees cooler up there, so dress accordingly. Please text Terry Hales at 479-459-1236 if you plan to go.  
**That afternoon** all are welcome to join us in the Narthex to make wreaths and begin decorating. Our hanging of the greens service is **Sunday, December 8**.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - **Tuesday December 24, at 6:00 pm**

## Friendship Class Christmas Party

Friendship Class Christmas party will be **Friday, December 6, at 6:00 pm** at the home of Ginger and Hardie Jefferies. Please bring a "dirty Santa" gift and finger food. All present, past and future members are welcome.

## Angel Tree

Community Outreach is sponsoring the Angel Tree to benefit preschool children and their siblings from Ballman Elementary School. Please sign your name by the appropriate number on the sheet in the Narthex. Angel gifts need to be placed in a gift bag and returned no later than **Sunday, December 15**.

## In the Life of the Church

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| • <b>Sunday, December 1, 8:30 am</b>     | Membership Class                                      |
| • <b>Sunday, December 1, 11:30 am</b>    | Disciples Bells Rehearsal                             |
| • <b>Sunday, December 1, 5:00 pm</b>     | Youth Group   |
| • <b>Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 am</b>   | DWF Board   |
| • <b>Tuesday, December 3, 11:30 am</b>   | Lunch Bunch at Sam's Southern Eatery, 1813 Grand Ave. |
| • <b>Tuesday, December 3, 4:15 pm</b>    | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                               |
| • <b>Tuesday, December 3, 5:30 pm</b>    | Christmas in the Park                                 |
| • <b>Wednesday, December 4, 8:00 am</b>  | Ecumenical Men's Bible Study                          |
| • <b>Thursday, December 5, 10:00 am</b>  | Crazy Crafters  |
| • <b>Thursday, December 5, 1:00 pm</b>   | Disciples of Music                                    |
| • <b>Saturday, December 7, 8:00 am</b>   | Gather the Greens                                     |
| • <b>Saturday, December 7, afternoon</b> | Make wreaths  |

**Dianna's Notes**

**Special Music**

- December 1** Vocal Duet: Dianna Jackson & Mary Beth Oliver
- December 8** Disciples Bells  
Chancel Choir
- December 15** Bell Duet: Randy Alexander & Brad Kidder
- December 22** Chancel Choir and  
Bell Duet: Kim & Brad Kidder

**Elder for December**

Hardie Jefferies

**Deacons for December**

Nick Oliver (Foreman), Allen Hales, Jr., Terry Hales, Becki Hanson, Ginger Jefferies, Calvin Reed, Sabrina Robinson, David Williamson

**Greeters for December**

Ginger Jefferies, David Williamson  
Disciples Hall Entrance: Audrey Stewart

**Prepare Communion for December**

Calvin Reed

**Prayer Concerns**

- **Walter Ahart** had surgery on his finger and is in Baptist Hospital.
- **Mary Nelle Hales** and her ongoing illness.

**Hope Campus News**

We are collecting large boxes of breakfast cereal to take to Hope Campus.

**Membership Class**

Membership Class is **Sunday, December 1, at 8:30 am** in the Chapel. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex.

**DWF Group 3 Meeting**

We are hosting the DWF Group 3 December meeting on **Tuesday, December 10, at 6:00 pm** at **Las Americas Too, 7209 Chad Colley Blvd., Barling**. You can look forward to some holiday fun and fellowship! Also, for our service project, please bring adult size socks to be donated to Next Step Day Room. If you haven't already let us know that you plan to attend, please text or call Mary Beth Oliver at 479-414-4311 or Mickie Matthews at 479-461-3998. Thanks!

*Mary Beth and Mickie*

On **Sunday, December 15**, we will have poinsettias adorning our sanctuary. You can reserve one "In Honor of..." or "In Memory of..." with your payment of \$12.

Your cash/check reserves your poinsettia. Use the small brown envelopes in the pew pockets, or drop your check off in the church office. Please be sure to include **for whom** and **from whom** the poinsettia is ordered. **Sunday, December 8**, is the last day to order.

**Order forms will be in the bulletins on December 1 and December 8.**

**First Christian Church**

3501 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903  
Phone: 479.783.1139

FOR THE RECORD November 24, 2024	
Operating Receipts To Date	Not available this week
Endowment To Date	
Thanksgiving Offering	
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$27,571.00

**OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 am-3:00 pm - Monday-Thursday

**SERVICE TIMES**

Sunday School at 9:00 am; Worship at 10:00 am

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson**, Senior Pastor, 479-651-0456  
**Dianna Jackson**, Director of Music Ministry  
**Mary Beth Oliver**, Organist  
**Barbara Brown**, Office Administrator  
**Pam Shelby**, Financial Administrator  
**Lesley Fleming**, Nursery Attendant  
**Rev. Howard Marshall**, Pastor Emeritus (1990-2022)  
**Rev. Randy Jay**, Pastor Emeritus