



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

December 3, 2024

Volume 62

Number 23

The God Who Cares

There was a very popular R&B song written in 1973 and recorded by a female group called the Emotions. The title of the song was "What do the Lonely do at Christmas?" The words of this song point to the reality that the holidays do not hold the same meaning for everyone. The holidays should be a time of joy to the world, peace on earth, good will toward men and women. The holidays should be a time to be happy; unfortunately, there are too many people for whom Christmas is the loneliest time of the year. The holidays, especially Christmas, are a reminder that they are all alone, particularly those who have lost loved ones in the last year. This is the time of year when everyone should feel they matter and believe that they are important to someone; family, friends, or loved ones. Jesus came to earth born as one of us bringing the message that we all count, and we all matter to God. We are not alone. Emmanuel means God is with us. God is a God who cares for all people whether they acknowledge him as their father or not, we are all his children. God cares for each one of us and the birth of Jesus is a demonstration of that love. He loved us from the manger to the cross and beyond the grave!

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.

Pastor's Bible Class

Pastor's Bible Class will meet **Wednesday, December 4**, at **12:00 pm** in the Chapel, and at **6:00 pm** in Disciples Hall. Class will not meet again until **January 8**.

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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| • Sunday, December 8, 11:30 am | Disciples Bells Rehearsal |
| • Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm | Cabinet Meeting |
| • Sunday, December 8, 6:45 pm | Ministry Meetings |
| • Monday, December 9, 9:30 am | Serve at Hope Campus |
| • Tuesday, December 10, 11:00 am | DWF Group 4 (Parlor) |
| • Tuesday, December 10, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch will NOT meet until January 7. |
| • Tuesday, December 10, 4:15 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| • Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 pm | DWF Group 3 (Las Americas Too, Barling) |
| • Wednesday, December 11, 8:00 am | Ecumenical Men's Bible Study |
| • Thursday, December 12, 10:00 am | Crazy Crafters |
| • Thursday, December 12, 1:00 pm | Disciples of Music |
| • Saturday, December 14, 1:00 pm | Youth bake cookies |

Dianna's Notes

Special Music

- December 8** Disciples Bells
Chancel Choir
- December 15** Bell Duet: Randy Alexander &
Brad Kidder
- December 22** Chancel Choir and
Bell Duet: Kim & Brad Kidder

Disciples Bells will meet at 8:30 am to rehearse.
Chancel Choir will meet at 9:20 am to rehearse.

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

Hope Campus News

We will prepare and serve lunch at Hope Campus Homeless Shelter on **Monday, December 9, from 9:30-12:30**. To sign up, contact Ginger Jefferies at 414-2466 or the church office.

We are collecting ground coffee to take to Hope Campus.

Prayer Concerns

- **Walter Ahart** is at UAMS in Little Rock.
- **Mary Nelle Hales** has health issues.
- **Richard Lewis** is struggling with back pain.

Group 4 Meeting

Group 4 will meet on **Tuesday, December 10**, in the Parlor starting at **11:00 am**. After a devotion and short meeting, we will eat lunch. Please bring to share either sandwiches, chips, deviled eggs, or dessert. Iced tea will be provided.

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 December 8 bulletin.

First Christian Church

3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903
Phone: 479.783.1139

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

FOR THE RECORD	
November 24 and December 1, 2024	
Operating Receipts 11/24	\$ 3,466.00
November Total	20,487.00
Operating Receipts 12/1	8,987.00
Endowment 11/24, 12/1	240.00
November—12/1	1,055.00
Thanksgiving Offering	665.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$27,571.00

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