



# FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

March 11, 2025

Volume 62

Number 37

## Our Crosses Keep Coming

What does it mean to take up your cross? To understand that, we need to understand the meaning of the cross in the time and culture of Jesus. The cross has lost most of its original meaning today. It is shrouded in religiousness and mystery. It has become many things—from a religious icon to a fashion element. When we see the cross today, it is a symbol of faith, particularly the Christian faith. But in the time when Jesus made that statement, He had not yet died on the cross. So, in its original context, the cross was a symbol of death. In fact, it was the symbol of a very cruel death. The Romans reserved it for the worst criminals. It was a form of torture and humiliation, ultimately leading to a long and painful death. Commitment to Christ means taking up your cross daily, giving up everything for the cause of Christ.

*Ellis*

## Board Meeting

There will be a church board meeting on **Sunday, March 16, at 6:00 pm** in Disciples Hall. All Elders, Deacons, and Trustees are required to attend. If you cannot attend, you are required to have a proxy designated. A written or electronic designation must be presented to the Secretary, Terry Hales, prior to the roll call.

## Volunteers Needed

The Fort Smith Women's Shelter is recruiting volunteers to mentor and provide spiritual support to the women and children at the shelter. If you are interested in helping out for one day a month or just a few hours, please contact **Darlene Brees at 479-739-8245**.

## Ordination Service for Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson

The ordination service for Pastor Ellis Robinson will be on **Sunday, March 23**, during the morning service. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Alison Robuck, Interim Minister for the Great River Region. There will be a meal in Disciples Hall immediately following the service.

*Hardie Jefferies, Board Chairman*

Pastor's Bible Class **will not meet on Wednesday, March 19.**

A potluck luncheon will be held immediately following the ordination service on **Sunday, March 23**. Membership Ministry will be providing rolls and salad. We are asking the congregation to bring meat or vegetable dishes.

Suggested:

**A-L vegetable dish**

**M-Z meat dish**

(A special request for 3 punch bowl cakes. Please call or text LaBeth at 479-285-3041, if you feel creative and wish to make one).

Let's bring our favorite dishes and give thanks and rejoice as a congregation for Pastor Ellis Robinson.

*Membership Ministry*

## In the Life of the Church

- **Sunday, March 16, 11:15 am** Disciples Bells Rehearsal
- **Sunday, March 16, 5:00 pm** Youth Group
- **Sunday, March 16, 6:00 pm** Board Meeting
- **Monday, March 17, 10:30 am** Community Outreach Fill the Backpack
- **Monday, March 17** Disciples Men's Fellowship **will not meet.**
- **Tuesday, March 18, 11:30 am** Lunch Bunch at Larry's Pizza, 6400 Highway 71 South
- **Tuesday, March 18, 4:00 pm** Serve at Hope Campus
- **Tuesday, March 18, 5:15 pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, March 19, 8:00 am** Ecumenical Men's Bible Study
- **Wednesday, March 19** Pastor's Bible Classes **will not meet.**
- **Thursday, March 20, 10:00 am** Crazy Crafters
- **Thursday, March 20, 1:00 pm** Disciples of Music
- **Thursday, March 20, 6:00 pm** Book Club

**Dianna's Notes**

**Special Music**

- March 16** Disciples Bells; Chancel Choir with Carl Warrington, Soloist
- March 23** Bell Duet: Kim & Brad Kidder
- March 30** Bell Solo: Brad Kidder
- April 6** Disciples Bells; Chancel Choir

Disciples Bells will meet Sunday at 8:30 am to rehearse.

Chancel Choir will meet Sunday at 9:20 am to rehearse.

**Elder for March**

Brad Kidder

**Deacons for March**

Stephanie Bailey (Foreman), Jimmy Hudlow, Ginger Jefferies, Barbara Lynch, Margot Mundy, Glenda Musset, Dewayne Pryor, Calvin Reed

**Greeters for March**

Glenda Musset, Sabrina Robinson  
Disciples Hall Entrance: Margot Mundy

**Prepare Communion for March**

Sabrina Robinson

**Community Outreach Project**

Please join us at the Community Services Clearinghouse, 4420 Wheeler Avenue, on **Monday, March 17, at 10:30 am**. We will fill bags for the Backpack Program, which benefits school children with food insecurities. Thank you.

**Community Outreach**

**DWF Group 3 Meeting**

Group 3 meeting is **March 11 at 6:00 pm** in Disciples Hall. Bring a brown bag meal for yourself. The speaker for the evening will be from the Women's Shelter. Here is a list of needs if you would like to bring a donation:

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Kitchen trash bags
- Bleach
- Multi-purpose spray cleaner
- Baby wipes
- Bottles
- Baby/toddler snacks

**Book Club**

Book Club meets **Thursday, March 20, at 2:00 pm**. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. All are welcome. Any questions, contact Julie Jay.

March *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz  
April *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henriquez

**Prayer Concerns**

- Carolyn Heyroth's family
- Abby Musset
- Clayton Carson
- Clyde Gudermuth
- Konrad Bales
- Allen Hales, Jr.
- Suzanne Karr
- Keith Oglesby

**MEMORIALS:** We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts:

• In Memory of **Carolyn Heyroth** by Nina Abernathy, Hardie & Ginger Jefferies, John & Margot Mundy, Dewayne & Greta Pryor, Connie Slater

**First Christian Church**

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Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903  
Phone: 479.783.1139

<b>FOR THE RECORD</b> March 2 and 9, 2025	
<b>Operating Receipts To Date</b>	<b>\$12,685.00</b> 12,685.00
<b>Endowment To Date</b>	<b>365.00</b> 365.00
<b>Monthly Budgeted Needs</b>	<b>\$27,571.00</b>

**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