



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

July 3, 2022

Volume 60

Number 1

Psalm for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love— they are forever!

But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, Lord.

The Lord is good and does the right thing; he teaches sinners which way they should go.

God guides the weak to justice, teaching them his way.

All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful for those who keep his covenant and laws. Psalm 25:6-10

Church, the lectionary has handed to us what reads to me as a great new sermon series. We can call this one "The Basics of our Faith." It begins this week with how we make moral choices through following the pattern in the Good Samaritan. Next week, we look at one of the biggest and most encapsulating statements on Jesus that we have in the Bible. Then, the third week will be Jesus' instructions on prayer. So, good choices, Jesus, and prayer will be the name of the game for us. I am especially excited to look to the Good Samaritan - this story challenges much of what we assume is Christian and moral, giving us Jesus' lens of looking at the world. Our scripture reading is Luke 10:25-37. Nick

A Call for Neighbor Love Following the Supreme Court's Ruling

Church, after much thought, I still do not have any overarching statement on the Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v Wade. This is not in hopes of avoiding the endless pro-life / pro-choice debate! Nor is implicitly siding with any arguments on when a life begins or what to do given the facts on the ground that abortions occur regardless of legality. Instead, my hesitation comes from the simple truth that it is not and will not ever be the Church's role to mandate our faith or morals onto the State. It was not the Church's role before the ruling and is not the Church's role after the ruling. That culture war / Christian nationalism mentality is instead a stain on Christianity; our faith models Jesus Christ and uplifts one on one transformation for the sake of the Kingdom that is not of this world.

However, to that end, I do believe the story of the Good Samaritan which we'll be looking at this Sunday gives us an insight into how to faithfully approach this issue. We should all be disturbed as Christians that women who are going through such a weighty and existential issue as this are often reduced to a talking point rather than treated as a neighbor who is in crisis. So, while the need to respond as a part of our civic duty remains (and each of us is, of course, encouraged to respond civically as we see fit), I want to be clear that our Christian witness continues to be found in being a Good Samaritan -- the one on one giving of grace, understanding, and aid to our neighbors who are already facing a terrifying circumstance. Regardless of where you may land on the civic issue of the legality of abortions, I hope we can all see that these women do not need more scorn or brazen opinions; they need faithful people in their corner who primarily support them and do not seek to control them. Let us be intentionally gracious with them and with one another. I believe that is our Christian witness with regards to this issue. Below is a link to the General minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s statement, echoing our need for strong neighbor love: <https://disciples.org/general-assembly/statement-on-the-supreme-court-dobbs-decision/> Nick

Youth Christian Education

This Sunday, we are relaunching our Sunday School program for youth! At 9:00 am in the youth room, all are invited as they embark on "Re:form." This new curriculum tackles a lot of the meaty questions of our faith and is great for our youth. This first Sunday looks at "Who wrote the Bible? God or humans?" Also, note that with the youth Sunday school back up and running, we now have all our age groups covered. So, no matter how old or young you are, Sunday school has a place for you.

T-Shirt Orders

If you would like to order one of the new t-shirts that the youth have designed, please add your name to the order sheet in the narthex or send an email to Kira Moore at orbitalgyri@yahoo.com. The shirts will cost \$20.00. Please make checks payable to the church.

In the Life of the Church

- **Sunday, July 10, 5:00 pm:** Board Meeting
- **Sunday, July 10, 6:00 pm:** Cabinet Meeting
- **Tuesday, July 12, 10:00 am:** DWF Group 1 (Admin Building)
- **Tuesday, July 12, 11:30 am:** Lunch Bunch at Larry’s Pizza, 6400 Highway 71 South
- **Tuesday, July 12, 1:00 pm:** DWF Group 2 (Parlor)
- **Wednesday, July 13, 12:00 & 6:00 pm:** Small Groups
- **Friday, July 15, 11:00 am:** Howard Marshall’s Memorial Service

Dianna’s Notes

Special Music

- **July 10** Janice Barker and Cavan Moore, Piano Duet
- **July 17** Jack Jackson, Horn Solo
- **July 24** Betsy Kirby and Margot Mundy, Bell Duet
- **July 31** Carl Warrington, Vocal Solo
- **August 7** Randy Alexander and Brad Kidder, Jr., Bell Duet
- **August 14** John Foster, Mandolin

Prayer Concerns

- ◆ **Tije Mussett**
- ◆ **Bill Crowder**

Hope Campus News

We will continue to collect the glasses and plastic -ware eating utensils.

Home Campus is suspending all volunteer activities until further notice due to increased COVID restrictions. FCC will **NOT** work at Hope Campus on Monday, July 11. We hope to be able to volunteer in August.

DWF White Elephant Sale

Disciples Women’s Fellowship is having a White Elephant sale on **Saturday, October 8**, at 8:00 am. Bring donations (no clothes) to the Friendship Classroom in the east hallway of Disciples Hall before **September 1**. Call Becki Struble at 883-3874 for more information.

For the Record
July 3, 2022

First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903
Office: (479) 783-1139

Operating Receipts	Not available this week
Endowment	
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$25,487.98

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. Nick Koontz**, Senior Minister
- Dianna Jackson**, Director of Music Ministry
- Barbara Brown**, Secretary
- Pam Shelby**, Financial Secretary
- Randy Alexander**, Custodian
- Lesley Fleming**, Nursery Attendant
- Rev. Howard Marshall**, Pastor Emeritus (1990-2022)
- Rev. Randy Jay**, Pastor Emeritus

Elder for July

Ruth Carson—479-629-3029

Greeters for July

Cliff Carson and Stacey Riggs

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.