



# FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

September 23, 2025

Volume 63

Number 13

## When You Don't Know What to Do

"Letting go is one of the hardest things to do. We want control, we want answers, and we want to fix things ourselves. But God calls us to "be still" and trust Him. This is not a call to passivity, but an invitation to surrender. It is a reminder that He is God, and we are not. He will be glorified, and His plans will prevail.

Trusting God means releasing our worries into His hands. It requires faith to stop striving and rest in His power. When we let go, we make room for Him to work. He promises that He is with us, our refuge in every season. As we learn to trust Him more, we experience the deep peace that comes from knowing He is in control."

*Devotionals for Today*

2025 Reconciliation Ministry - Special Offering



Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community  
Sunday, September 28th - Sunday, October 5th

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the **last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October** (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's

Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthen our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

## FCC's Fourth Annual Day of Giving for the Artemis Project Animal Rescue

On **October 5, from 11:00 am-3:00 pm**, FCC will host a fall festival/adoption event in our parking lot. The Artemis Project plans to have a number of vendors, as well as some dogs and cats available for adoption. We will offer grilled hotdogs, chips, lemonade, and cookies to the congregation for lunch after worship service. The public is invited to stop by at 12 noon.

In preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup>, we are collecting new and gently used pet supplies, such as kennels, towels, and blankets. We are also encouraging donations of dog and cat food, cat litter, and puppy pads as part of an Artemis "Stuff the Van" donation drive. Monetary donations can be made directly to the Artemis Project the day of the event.

We will offer homemade baked goods for donations, which will go to the Artemis Project. Please bring your favorite homemade baked items to the kitchen before worship on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

We will have some silent auction items this year, with the money raised split between FCC and the Artemis Project.

*Community Outreach Ministry*

## In the Life of the Church

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|--|---|
| • <b>Sunday, September 28, 11:00 am</b>  | Elders' Meeting                                     |
| • <b>Sunday, September 28, 4:00 pm</b>   | Disciples Bells Rehearsal                           |
| • <b>Sunday, September 28, 5:00 pm</b>   | Youth Group   |
| • <b>Tuesday, September 30, 11:30 am</b> | Lunch Bunch at Taste & See Café, 1401 South Waldron |
| • <b>Tuesday, September 30, 5:15 pm</b>  | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                             |
| • <b>Wednesday, October 1, 8:00 am</b>   | Ecumenical Men's Bible Study                        |
| • <b>Wednesday, October 1</b>            | Pastor's Bible Classes (12:00 & 6:00 pm)            |
| • <b>Thursday, October 2, 10:00 am</b>   | Crazy Crafters                                      |
| • <b>Thursday, October 2, 1:00 pm</b>    | Disciples of Music                                  |

Dianna's Notes

Special Music

September 28 Disciples Bells Quintet  
October 12 Solo: DeJon Jordan  
Chancel Choir, Disciples Bells

Prayer Concerns

- Mike Cowne
- Clyde Gudermuth family
- Ginger Jefferies in the passing of her brother, Digby Brooke West
- Ben Maxey

MEMORIAL: We gratefully acknowledge the following gift:

- In memory of Clyde Gudermuth by Carl & Evelyn Warrington

Hope Campus News

We are collecting sacks or boxes of penne pasta. There are containers in the Administration Building marked Hope Campus.

Elder for September

John Mundy

Deacons for September

Ginger Jefferies (Foreman), Walter Ahart, Tim Fleming, Max File, Terry Hales, Floyd Hamm, Barbara Lynch, Sabrina Robinson

Greeters for September

Walter Ahart, Barbara Lynch  
Disciples Hall Entrance: Floyd Hamm

Prepare Communion for September

Terry Hales

Welcome New Member

We are thrilled to welcome Michael Choate into our congregation. Michael lives at 1601 North 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fort Smith, 72904, telephone 479-782-9848. Michael has already been participating in our service by singing with the choir. Michael, your brothers and sisters in Christ welcome you with wide open arms and hearts!

Thank You

The Gudermuth Family sends our gratitude to all the congregation for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, and support throughout Clyde's months of illness, physical struggles, and passing.

Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson for his faithful, constant visits, support and prayers over Clyde's last months.

Special thanks to Mary Beth Oliver, Walter Ahart, and Dianna Jackson for sharing their musical talent at Clyde's Memorial service. Last, but not least, Terry Hales, Elizabeth Vaughn, and all those who provided the delicious luncheon. Thanks, too, to Randy Alexander and David Trent for their special help with the memorial photo table, the service video, and the photo montage on screen.

Clyde and I (& Ted) were so happy to return home to FCCDOC, and Clyde never forgot how the congregation welcomed us back with open arms. We were spiritually at home again. We can never thank you all enough.

First Christian Church

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Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903  
Phone: 479.783.1139

FOR THE RECORD September 21, 2025	
Operating Receipts To date	\$ 5,376.75 16,660.93
Endowment To date	170.00 735.00
Children's Building Offerings Balance Due	42,610.48 51,389.52
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$30,065.30

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