



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

November 11, 2025

Volume 63

Number 20

What Does Psalm 103 Mean?

“David begins Psalm 103 by calling upon his soul and his whole being to bless the Lord and to remember all His benefits. These are blessings David has experienced within his own life. He lists some of those benefits: forgiveness, restored health, deliverance, love, satisfaction, and renewed energy (Psalm 103:1-5).

David recalls the Lord's righteous deeds and justice. He showed Moses His ways and performed mighty acts on behalf of Israel. David assures his readers that the Lord is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, loving, and ready to forgive. The Lord's love is higher than the heavens, David affirms, and He removes transgressions as far as the east is from the west. This is an especially interesting analogy, since north and south are defined points, but east and west are infinite directions. One can only travel north so far, until they find themselves travelling south. This is not true of moving east or west. Furthermore, like a father, the Lord has compassion on His children and remembers that they are finite.” (Psalm 103:6-14) *BibleRef*

Thanksgiving Special Offering, November 16 and 23



The Disciples of Christ Thanksgiving Offering 2025 is a special offering that supports the denomination's affiliated colleges, universities, and seminaries. It provides scholarships, supports theological education, and helps develop leaders for the Church. The offering's primary purpose is to support the fifteen colleges and universities and seven seminaries and theological institutions affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gifts also help fund scholarships, religious life offices, faculty growth, and other programs that develop leaders to serve the Church and the wider community.

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a short congregational meeting following worship service on **Sunday, November 16**. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider approval of recent bylaws changes. Aside from some word clarification, there are two changes that affect board structure and meetings. The current voting board members are all elders, deacons, trustees, and chairs of the men's and women's groups. With 50% representing a quorum, the board is requesting to remove the option for a proxy.

The other change is regarding qualifications for leadership as follows. The bylaws, both current and proposed, are available online at <https://www.fccdoc.org/resources/>.

| Leadership Role | Minimum Consecutive Membership | Minimum Total Membership |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Officers | 2 years | 5 years |
| Trustees | 2 years | 5 years |
| Elders | 2 years | 3 years |
| Deacons | 1 year | N/A |

- **Active membership** includes all years a person has participated, even if non-consecutive.
- Both consecutive and total years are counted separately.

In the Life of the Church

- **Sunday, November 16, 11:00 am** Congregational Meeting
- **Sunday, November 16, 11:15 am** Disciples Bells Rehearsal
- **Sunday, November 16, 6:00 pm** Cabinet Meeting
- **Sunday, November 16, 6:45 pm** Ministries Meetings
- **Tuesday, November 18, 11:30 am** Lunch Bunch at Western Sizzlin', 5200 Towson
- **Tuesday, November 18, 4:00 pm** Serve at Hope Campus
- **Tuesday, November 18, 5:15 pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, November 19, 8:00 am** Ecumenical Men's Bible Study
- **Wednesday, November 19** **NO** Pastor's Bible Classes
- **Thursday, November 20** **Office closes at 12:00 pm**
- **Thursday, November 20, 10:00 am** Crazy Crafters
- **Thursday, November 20, 1:00 pm** Disciples of Music
- **Thursday, November 20, 2:00 pm** Book Club

Dianna's Notes

Special Music

- November 16** Chancel Choir; Disciple Bells
- November 23** Disciples Bells Quintet
- November 30** Mary Beth Oliver, Solo

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

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

DWF Group 3

Group 3 will meet **Tuesday, November 11**, in Disciples Hall at **6:00 pm**. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. We will make card for our "special friends," and we will do a small craft project for them. Bring your creative juices and your favorite drawing pens (if you have some). We hope to see you there.

Terry and Michelle

Book Club News

Book club will meet **Thursday, November 20**, to discuss *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Maggach and *The Last of the Mohicans* by James F. Cooper (optional read).

We will not meet in December but will resume January 15 to discuss *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Everyone welcome!

Prayer Concerns

- **Bill Acord** is in Methodist Village, room 127.
- The family of **Carol Fleming, Tim Fleming's aunt**, in her passing
- **Richard Lewis**
- **Ben Maxey**

Hope Campus News

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

Elder for November

Danny Lynch

Deacons for November

Floyd Hamm (Foreman), Walter Ahart, Tim Fleming, Paula Friday, Becki Hanson, Barbara Lynch, Calvin Reed, David Williamson

Greeters for November

Becki Hanson, David Williamson
Disciples Hall Entrance: Barbara Lynch

Prepare Communion for November

Sabrina Robinson

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Rev. Alison Robuck** who is the newly elected Executive Regional Minister for the Great River Region.

Community Outreach Project

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

The Christmas Story Is Coming

Mark your calendars for **December 14, at 5:00 pm**. Your fellow congregation members in conjunction with the Membership Department will provide a dinner theater for you to enjoy.

Under the leadership of John Mundy, sets are being constructed, costumes are being created, the sound system is being checked, the choir has been practicing, and actors have been given their orders.

It is all coming together for the production of *The Christmas Story*.

Watch for more information in the newsletter.

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 9, 2025 | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Operating Receipts To Date | \$ 4,587.00 11,278.00 |
| Endowment To Date | 810.00 |
| Children's Building Offerings Balance Due | 44,005.48 49,994.52 |
| Monthly Budgeted Needs | \$30,065.30 |