



# FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

November 18, 2025

Volume 63

Number 21

## Being Grateful

“When Paul instructs the Thessalonians to give thanks in everything, it’s important to note that he is not suggesting that all things are good. Life is full of difficulties and challenges, and it can be hard to see the silver lining. However, he points out that God is working in every situation, turning trials into opportunities for growth and hope. By adopting an attitude of gratitude, we can better align ourselves with God’s purpose, recognizing the blessings and lessons in every experience.

This verse also encourages us to remember that our gratitude should be towards God. It reminds us of our dependence on Him and our recognition of His sovereignty. By thanking God, we acknowledge that He is in control and has a plan even when we don’t see it. Gratitude opens our hearts and minds to receive His guidance and blessings, enabling us to walk joyfully in faith.” *Christianity Path*

## Thanksgiving Special Offering, November 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.

## Modeling Good Stewardship

Bill & Jette Lindsay were elderly church members in the 1980’s and graciously left their house to the church in their estate planning. Upon their deaths, the church received their house and, as per their wishes, established a permanent scholarship fund in their names to benefit high school graduates who were members (or extended family members) of First Christian Church. Over the past 35 plus years, the corpus (principal) has remained intact and thousands of dollars have benefited qualified candidates.

Twice each year these scholarship applications are sought and granted because of the Lindsay’s beneficence to First Christian Church. The trustees of First Christian Church encourage this example of good stewardship practice. It is because of many faithful members in our past and present that these permanent funds are available “to ensure the future ministries of First Christian Church”.

Scholarship applications for the Spring semester 2026 are available in the office or the church website. Deadline is **Sunday, December 7**.

*Trustees: Randy Jay, Dewayne Pryor, John Warren*

## In the Life of the Church

- **Sunday, November 23, 11:15 am** Disciples Bells Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, November 26** **NO** Pastor’s Bible Classes
- **Thursday, November 27** Thanksgiving Day (office closed)

**Dianna's Notes**

**Special Music**

- November 23** Disciples Bells Quintet
- November 30** Mary Beth Oliver, Solo
- December 7** Chancel Choir, Disciples Bells

*There will be no Chancel Choir rehearsal on Tuesday, November 25.*

**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

**Prayer Concerns**

- **Bill Acord** is in Methodist Village, room 127.
- **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.

**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!

**The Christmas Story Is Coming**

Mark your calendars for **December 14, at 5:00 pm**. Your fellow congregation members in conjunction with the Membership Ministry 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*.

Again, mark your calendars and 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 16, 2025	
Operating Receipts To Date	Not available this week
Endowment To Date	
Children's Building Offerings Balance Due	44,005.48 49,994.52
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$30,065.30