



The Mystery of Christmas

“It is a glorious revelation, and it’s also a great mystery. This is the greatest mystery in all of history, how God Himself became fully human without ceasing to be fully divine — that God, in all His God-ness, united Himself with all man-ness. Church history has coined it “the hypostatic union,” the joining of two distinct natures in one undivided person (“hypostatic” is just a fancy word for “personal”). Jesus is fully God and fully man in one spectacular person.

And this union of God and man in Jesus is what makes possible our own union with the Godhead through him. But the greatest mystery is not how we are united to God by faith (through sheer grace and the work of the Spirit), but how God united Himself to us in the one person of Christ. ‘The union is so perfect,’ says D.A. Carson, ‘that even though he has two natures, he is only one person.’ It is almost too good to be true.”

DesiringGod.org

Advent Special Events

- **Saturday, December 6, 1:00 pm:** Prepare the greens.
- **Sunday, December 7:** Hanging of the greens and Chrismon tree
- **Tuesday, December 9, 5:30 pm:** Christmas in the Park (Creekmore Park). Join us for caroling and bring some cookies to share with folks in the park.
- **Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 pm:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Bereavement Class

There will be a bereavement class **Wednesday, December 3, 6:00 pm in the Chapel**. The class will be on getting through the holiday season for those who have lost loved ones. The facilitator is Mike Jones, Bereavement Specialist. All are invited.

Prayer Concerns

- **Bill Acord** is in Methodist Village.
- **Norene Bellah**
- **Cliff Carson**
- **Mike Cowne**
- **Ben Maxey**
- **Keith & Carrie Oglesby**
- **Carl Warrington**

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 30, 11:00 am | Elders’ Meeting |
| • Sunday, November 30, 5:00 pm | Youth Group |
| • Tuesday, December 2, 10:00 am | DWF Board |
| • Tuesday, December 2, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch at Pad Thai |
| | 7805 Rogers Avenue |
| • Tuesday, December 2, 5:15 pm | Chancel Choir |
| • Wednesday, December 3, 8:00 am | Ecumenical Men’s Bible Study |
| • Wednesday, December 3 | Pastor’s Bible Classes (12:00 and 6:00 pm) |
| • Thursday, December 4, 10:00 am | Crazy Crafters |
| • Thursday, December 4, 1:00 pm | Disciples of Music |

Office News

The office will close Wednesday at noon and will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Dianna’s Notes

Special Music

November 30 Mary Beth Oliver, Piano Solo
December 7 Chancel Choir, Disciples Bells

Elder for December

David Pulliam

Deacons for December

Max File (Foreman), Walter Ahart, Tim Fleming, Paula Friday, Floyd Hamm, Ginger Jefferies, Calvin Reed, Sabrina Robinson

Greeters for December

Paula Friday, Calvin Reed
Disciples Hall Entrance: Ginger Jefferies

Prepare Communion for December

Floyd Hamm

DWF Group 3 Christmas Party

The Disciples Women’s Fellowship (DWF) Group 3 Christmas Party is scheduled for **Thursday, December 11, 6:00 pm**, at Las Americas, 7209 Chad Colley Blvd., Chaffee Crossing. Please remember to bring personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, and body wash) for the Women’s Shelter. Please RSVP by text or phone call to Mary Beth at 479-414-4311 or Mickie at 479-461-3998 so we can get an approximate head count. Thank you!

Hope Campus News

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

Advent Sermon Series 2025

November 30	The Mystery of Christmas	1Timothy 3:16
December 7	The Mystery Surrounding His Birth	1Timothy 3:16
December 14	The Mystery Surrounding His Life	1Timothy 3:16
December 21	The Mystery Surrounding His Glory	1Timothy 3:16
December 24	What is Christmas? Christmas Eve Reflection	Luke 2:7
December 28	The Mystery Surrounding His Impact	John 3:16

The Christmas Story Is Coming

There is excitement in the congregation with *The Christmas Story* coming. Hope you have marked your calendars for **December 14, at 5:00 pm**. Your fellow congregation members, in conjunction with Membership Ministry, will provide a dinner theater for everyone to enjoy.

Please note that David & Kristi Williamson have graciously offered to transport anyone that does not want to drive in the dark. Please contact the office if you would like to be transported to this event. If there is anyone else who can provide transportation, please contact the office.

Hope to see everyone there.

First Christian Church

3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903
Phone: 479.783.1139

FOR THE RECORD November 16 and 23, 2025	
Operating Receipts To Date	\$ 9,426.00 20,704.00
Endowment To Date	335.52 1,145.52
Children’s Building Offerings Balance Due	44,306.00 49,694.00
Thanksgiving Offering	622.00
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