



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

February 3, 2026

Volume 63

Number 32

Meaning and Significance of Jesus' Baptism

"The story of Jesus' baptism appears in the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. John the Baptist had been preaching repentance, calling people to turn from sin and prepare their hearts for the coming Messiah. Crowds came to him at the Jordan River to confess their sins and be baptized. Jesus' baptism carried deep spiritual meaning. Though He had no sin to confess, His baptism symbolized His willing submission to the Father's will, His identification with humanity, and the start of His mission to bring salvation to the world.

This event also revealed the Trinity clearly, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in perfect unity. The Spirit's descent symbolized divine empowerment for Jesus' ministry, while the Father's voice affirmed Jesus' identity and mission. Additionally, Jesus' baptism served as a sign to John the Baptist and to future generations that He was truly the Messiah. With this confirmation, John's role of preparing the way for Christ was complete."

Crosswalk

Valentine's Day Feast

On **Sunday, February 8**, after the worship service, Membership Ministry will have a Valentine's Day feast with the theme Made with Love (and Garlic) - Pasta with a Purpose to support our youth mission trips.

Prayer Concerns

- Ruth Carson
- The Creekmores
- Mickie Matthews
- The Maxeys

Blanket the World with God's Love!



Our Disciples Women groups are again sponsoring a **Blankets of Love** Offering. There will be a table in the narthex after worship on **Sunday, February 8**, to receive your donations.

A donation of \$5 will provide a blanket for someone desperately in need of comfort and warmth. Why not honor a loved one by donating one or more blankets in their name?

Thank you for your generous support of **Blankets of Love**.

Donation Bins

Donation bins for Hope Campus and Community Outreach will be located in the narthex only on Sundays and in the Administration Building the rest of the week.

Ellis

Thank you from the Hales

Allen and Mary Nelle would like to thank everyone who sent cards for their 68th anniversary. They spent an enjoyable afternoon going through all the cards family and friends sent. It is wonderful to have such a loving church family!

In the Life of the Church

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| • Sunday, February 8, 9:00 am | Intergenerational Sunday School Class |
| • Sunday, February 8, 11:00 am | Valentine's Day Lunch |
| • Monday, February 9, 9:30 am | Serve at Hope Campus |
| • Tuesday, February 10, 10:00 am | DWF Group 4 |
| • Tuesday, February 10, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch at Whippoorwill, 509 Garrison |
| • Tuesday, February 10, 5:15 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| • Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 pm | DWF Group 3, Whippoorwill, 509 Garrison |
| • Wednesday, February 11, 8:00 am | Ecumenical Men's Bible Study |
| • Wednesday, February 11 | Pastor's Bible Class (12:00 and 6:00 pm) |
| • Thursday, February 12, 10:00 am | Crazy Crafters |
| • Thursday, February 12, 1:00 pm | Disciples of Music |

Dianna's Notes
Special Music

February 8

Vocal Duet: Amber Kirkendoll and DeJon Jordan

February 15

Disciples Bells Quintet

February 22

Chancel Choir

No Disciples Bells rehearsal on Sunday, February 8.

Elder for February
Greta Pryor

Deacons for February
Terry Hales (Foreman), Walter Ahart, Tim Fleming, Floyd Hamm, Becki Hanson, Calvin Reed, Jennifer Sanchez, David Williamson

Greeters for February
Calvin Reed, Jennifer Sanchez
Disciples Hall Entrance: Floyd Hamm

Prepare Communion for February
Becki Hanson

Hope Campus News
We are collecting 12 oz styrofoam or paper bowls and plastic spoons. Unused plastic ware from takeout food is also appreciated.

Book Club News
Book Club meets **Thursday, February 19**, to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.
Our book for March is *Restored In Tuscany* by Angela Correll.
We meet at 2:00 pm in the admin building. All are welcome!

Disciples Men's Fellowship
Disciples Men's Fellowship will meet **Monday, February 16**, at 6:30 pm.

Group 3 News
Group 3 will meet **Tuesday, February 10**, at 6:00 pm at Whippoorwill, 509 Garrison Avenue. Please make your reservation by **February 8** to Linda Creekmore or the church office. Hope to see you there.

Lenten Sermon Series 2026 Journey to the Cross with Jesus			
February 15	Sunday before Ash Wednesday	<i>Behold the Dust and Ashes</i>	Genesis 18:27
February 22	First Sunday of Lent	<i>Victory in the Wilderness</i>	Luke 4:1-11
March 1	Second Sunday of Lent	<i>Jesus Is for Real</i>	Matthew 17:1-9
March 8	Third Sunday of Lent	<i>Quenching Spiritual Thirst</i>	John 4:5-42
March 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent	<i>20/20 Spiritual Vision</i>	John 9:1-41
March 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>When Jesus Delays</i>	John 11:1-45

First Christian Church
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FOR THE RECORD February 1, 2026	
Operating Receipts	\$ 6,267.00
Endowment	185.00
Children's Building Offerings	45,461.00
Balance Due	48,539.00
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