



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

March 17, 2026

Volume 63

Number 38

When God Is Silent

“The passage in John 11:1-16 recounts the poignant narrative of Lazarus’s illness, death, and miraculous resurrection, showcasing Jesus’s profound power and compassion. Upon hearing of Lazarus’s sickness, Jesus deliberately delays His visit, knowing that this illness will not lead to death but serve a higher purpose of glorifying God and revealing His divine authority. Jesus’s statement, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him,’ metaphorically alludes to death as a temporary slumber, foreshadowing the impending resurrection that will showcase Jesus’s power over mortality. In verse 16, Thomas’s declaration, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him,’ underscores the Disciples’ unwavering loyalty and willingness to face danger alongside Jesus, exemplifying the courage and commitment required in following Christ. This sentiment resonates with believers today, urging them to stand firm in their faith even amidst trials and uncertainties, trusting in God’s sovereignty and provision. The passage not only highlights Jesus’s authority over life and death but also emphasizes the Disciples’ readiness to accompany Him, regardless of the risks involved.”

God’s Blessing

Disciples Women Spring Event

Our in-person Spring Event is coming soon! We will meet at First Christian Church in Russellville on **Saturday, March 21**. The programming will begin at 10:15 am. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am. We will have a card-making craft following lunch. Rev. Zena Featherston-Marshall will be our keynote speaker. Divine Newness is the theme, and the Scripture is Isaiah 43:19.

On Sunday, **April 5**, we will have lilies adorning our sanctuary. You can reserve one “*In Honor of...*” or “*In Memory of...*” with your payment of \$12. Order forms will be in the bulletins on **Sunday, March 22 and March 29**.

Your cash / check reserves your lily. Use the brown envelopes in the pew pockets, or drop your check off in the church office. Please be sure to include **for whom** and **from whom** the lily is ordered. **Sunday, March 29**, is the last day to order.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We hope to see everyone at our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **April 4, at 11:00 am**. Bring your Easter baskets and a blanket or chairs for seating. Community Outreach will provide a light lunch, and Peter Rabbit will be there to help everyone hunt eggs and take pictures.

Three hunting areas will be provided: the toddler area, the special-needs area, and an area for the older children.

Bring family and friends. Hope to see everyone there for fun and fellowship.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the candy contributions. Eggs have been stuffed, and we are getting ready for the big event. Hope to see everyone there.

Your Youth Group

In the Life of the Church

- **Sunday, March 22, 9:00 am** Intergenerational Sunday School Class
- **Tuesday, March 24, 11:30 am** Lunch Bunch at Larry’s Pizza, 6400 Highway 71 South
- **Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 am** Ecumenical Men’s Bible Study
- **Wednesday, March 26** Pastor’s Bible Class (12:00 and 6:00 pm)
- **Thursday, March 26, 10:00 am** Crazy Crafters
- **Thursday, March 26, 1:00 pm** Disciples of Music

Dianna's Notes

Special Music

March 22 Vocal Duet: Amber Kirkendoll and DeJon Jordan
March 29 Chancel Choir

Spring Break

*No Disciples Bells rehearsal on March 22.
 No Chancel Choir rehearsal on March 24.*

Elder for March

David Trent

Deacons for March

Sabrina Robinson (Foreman), Walter Ahart, Max File, Tim Fleming, Paula Friday, Todd Friday, Ginger Jefferies, Barbara Lynch

Greeters for March

Walter Ahart and Paula Friday
 Disciples Hall Entrance: Max File

Prepare Communion for March

Ginger Jefferies

Crazy Crafters Project

All are welcome to assist Crazy Crafters in a fun project - making the palm leaf crosses for Palm Sunday. We'll be making these in the Craft Room (across the hall from the Mission Room) at 10:00 am on **Thursday, March 19 and Thursday, March 26**. If you wish, watch a YouTube video, "How to Make a Palm Leaf Cross (easy tutorial) by Susan Wright". Please bring a pair of scissors to cut the greenery. Hope to see you there!
Betty Cashin

Book Club News

Book Club meets **Thursday, March 19, at 2:00 pm in the Administration Building**, to discuss *Restored In Tuscany* by Angela Correll. All are welcome!

Hope Campus News

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

Prayer Concerns

- **Walter Ahart**
- **Norene Bellah**
- **Ruth Carson**
- **The Maxeys**
- **Tije Musset**
- **Marcus Robinson**
- **Jeanne Stebner**

Bryant Richmond spoke to DWF Group 3 in January. He helps the homeless downtown. He reports that they are in dire need of **men's tennis shoes**. If you have some, please bring to the narthex or the mission room.

**Lenten Sermon Series 2026
 Journey to the Cross with Jesus**

March 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>When God Is Silent</i>	John 11:1-45
-----------------	----------------------	---------------------------	--------------

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
 March 15, 2026**

Operating Receipts To date	\$ 3,057.00 13,498.00
Endowment To date	370.00
Children's Building Offerings Balance Due	46,182.00 47,818.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$30,065.30