



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

August 11, 2026

Volume 64

Number 6

The Prodigal Son

“The Parable of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32, is a poignant illustration of God’s boundless grace and forgiveness. It tells the story of repentance, forgiveness, and the unconditional love of a father for his son. In this narrative, the younger son’s request for his share of the estate symbolizes humanity’s desire for independence and tendency to stray from God’s guidance. His squandering of wealth in wild living reflects the consequences of living apart from God’s will. However, his moment of repentance and decision to return to his father symbolize the act of turning back to God.

The father’s reaction to his son’s return is a powerful depiction of God’s readiness to forgive and welcome us back, regardless of how far we’ve strayed. The phrase ‘For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found’ emphasizes the joy in heaven when a sinner repents. This parable resonates with people today, reminding us of God’s unconditional love and forgiveness. It offers hope and a path to reconciliation for those who feel lost, unworthy, or distant from God.”

God’s Blessing

Welcome New Members

Our congregation was doubly blessed this Sunday to welcome two new members!

- **Crystal (Chris) Emerson** is the caregiver of Calvin Reed. Her address is 3712 Heather Ridge Court, Fort Smith AR, 72903, phone 479-652-0331, cemerson1021@gmail.com.
- **Stephanie Guillory** comes to us by transfer of membership from Lake Charles, LA. Her address is 112 Oak St., Arkoma, OK, 74901, phone 225-767-5212, sguillo@cox.net.

Website Update

Our church website (<http://fccdoc.org>) has been updated with the new lists and schedules for the 2026-2027 year. This includes deacon and elder schedules as well as ministry and board information. You can find our Resources page on our website by a link just below the weekly service video or by clicking here <https://www.fccdoc.org/resources/>

Office News

Barbara will be out of the office **Thursday, August 13**. The office will close at noon.

Pam will be out of the office **Tuesday, August 18**. Please be mindful that offerings made on August 16 and August 23 **will not be deposited until August 25**.

The Parables of Jesus

August 16	The Prodigal Son, Life in the Pig Pen	Luke 15:11-24
August 23	The Good Samaritan, Looking the Other Way	Luke 10:25-37
August 30	The Tragedy of Being Unprepared	Matthew 25:1-13

In the Life of the Church

• Sunday, August 16, 9:00 am	Intergenerational Sunday School Class
• Sunday, August 16, 11:15 am	Disciples Bells Rehearsal
• Monday, August 17, 9:30 am	Disciples Men’s Fellowship
• Tuesday, August 18, 11:30 am	Lunch Bunch at Eunice’s Country Cookin’, 3325 S. 74 th St.
• Tuesday, August 18, 4:00 pm	Serve supper at Hope Campus
• Tuesday, August 18, 5:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
• Wednesday, August 19, 8:00 am	Ecumenical Men’s Bible Study
• Wednesday, August 19	NO Pastor’s Bible Study
• Thursday, August 20, 10:00 am	Crazy Crafters
• Thursday, August 20, 1:00 pm	Disciples of Music
• Thursday, August 20, 2:00 pm	Book Club
• Saturday, August 22, 11:00 am	Memorial Service for Bill Acord

Dianna's Notes

Special Music

August 16 Chancel Choir

Rehearsals Resume!

Chancel Choir

Tuesday, August 11, 5:15 pm
(Music Building)

Disciples Bells

Sunday, August 16, 11:15 am
(Music Building)

Elder for August

Joann Acord

Deacons for August

Jesse Bailey (Foreman),
Stephanie Bailey, Becky Eggers,
Patsy Hendrickson, Glenda Musset,
Audrey Stewart

Greeters for August

Stephanie Bailey, Patsy Hendrickson
Disciples Hall Entrance: Jesse Bailey

Prepare Communion for August

Glenda Musset

Christian Education Workshop

There will be a Christian Education Workshop on **Saturday, August 15, from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.**
Ann Jordan, Christian Education Chair

Prayer Concerns

- **Bill Acord family**
- **Walter Ahart**
- **Ruth Carson**
- **Betty Cashin**
- **Judy Duncan**, sister-in-law of Ginger Hamm
- **Joy Jackson**

Thank You

Thank you, congregation, for all the lifted thoughts and prayers, cards, memorial contributions, and the meal surrounding the recent passing of my brother, Michael Choate. I'm grateful to have such a caring church family.

Kim Kidder

Hope Campus News

We are collecting ground coffee. Unused plasticware from takeout food is also appreciated.

Book Club News

Book Club will meet **Thursday, August 20**, to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. We meet the third Thursday at **2:00 pm** in the Administration Building. All are welcome!

September 17 *The Friend of the Family* by Dean Koontz
October 15 *The Yellow Tail Moth* by Margot Shepherd

First Christian Church

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FOR THE RECORD
August 9, 2026

Operating Receipts To date	\$ 4,860.00 20,503.00
Endowment To date	120.00 540.00
Children's Building Offerings Balance Due	51,482.00 42,518.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs	\$ 29,990.00

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