



FORT SMITH DISCIPLE

August 18, 2026

Volume 64

Number 7

Looking the Other Way (Luke 10:25-37)

“Imagine a world where everyone reached out to help those in need, regardless of their background or beliefs. This parable challenges us to look beyond our differences and extend kindness and compassion to everyone we encounter, just as the Samaritan did for the injured man on the road. It prompts us to ask ourselves, ‘Am I willing to set aside my prejudices and preconceptions to help someone in need?’

The Good Samaritan exemplifies selfless love and caring for others, regardless of societal norms or expectations. It reminds us that true compassion knows no boundaries, and that we are called to show mercy and kindness to all our fellow human beings. Reflect on how you can embody the spirit of the Good Samaritan in your own life. How can you go out of your way to help those who may be different from you, showing them love and compassion without judgment or hesitation? Let this parable inspire you to be a beacon of kindness and empathy in a world that often feels divided and fractured.” *God’s Blessing*

Letter from Dianna

Rev. Dr. Ellis Robinson, First Christian Church Board, Personnel Committee, and Members,

It has been my honor and joy to serve you, my church family, for over 31 years. Jack and I are nearing the point where we need to retire soon to spend more time with family in Nashville and Phoenix. After prayerful consideration, I have decided to retire my position as Director of Music Ministry here at First Christian Church, with my final Sunday being May 2, 2027. I am giving such a long notice so that the congregation can take the adequate time to plan for and find a suitable replacement. Furthermore, if such a replacement is found before May 2, I am willing to step down earlier so that the new director can begin, and I can help with the transition.

I have been deeply grateful and blessed to have worked with so many beautiful, talented, and spiritual people in the music ministry over these more than three decades. From the special solos and ensembles, youth music, Chancel Choir, and Handbell Choirs, so many have given of themselves and their significant musical talents for this vital ministry of the church. It has been a pleasure to work with multiple ministers and organists over the years. It has been an honor contributing to the team with Ellis and Mary Beth who inspire us every week with the planning of our worship services. It has also been a pleasure to work with Barbara, Pam, and our many church leaders.

First Christian Church has been our home for over 31 years. You are all our family, and we thank you for all the love you have shown us. We love you all!! Thanks for your support and understanding in this new transition.

In Christ’s Service, Dianna Jackson

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

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**.

In the Life of the Church

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| • Sunday, August 23, 9:00 am | Intergenerational Sunday School Class |
| • Tuesday, August 25, 11:30 am | Lunch Bunch at Miss Anna’s, 5001 Towson Avenue |
| • Tuesday, August 25, 5:15 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| • Wednesday, August 26, 8:00 am | Ecumenical Men’s Bible Study |
| • Wednesday, August 26 | Pastor’s Bible Study (12:00 and 6:00 pm) |
| • Thursday, August 27, 10:00 am | Crazy Crafters |
| • Thursday, August 27, 1:00 pm | Disciples of Music |
| • Sunday, August 30, 11:00 am | Elders’ Meeting |

Dianna’s Notes

Special Music

August 23 Chancel Choir
August 30 Chancel Choir

Choir will meet at 9:20 Sunday to rehearse. No robes until September.

No Disciples Bells rehearsal on Sunday, September 6, (Labor Day weekend).

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

Prayer Concerns

- Bill Acord family
- Walter Ahart
- Ruth Carson
- Betty Cashin
- James Chinn
- Judy Duncan, sister-in-law of Ginger Hamm
- Joy Jackson
- Tia Thornton, Ann Jordan’s niece, is on a ship in Iran.

Hope Campus News

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

The Parables of Jesus

August 23	The Good Samaritan, Looking the Other Way	Luke 10:25-37
August 30	The Tragedy of Being Unprepared	Matthew 25:1-13

Book Club News

Book Club will meet **Thursday, August 20**, to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. We meet the third Thursday each month 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

3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903
Phone: 479.783.1139

FOR THE RECORD August 16, 2026	
Operating Receipts To date	Not available
Endowment To date	
Children’s Building Offerings Balance Due	
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