

## Area Pastor Arrested After Fatal Shooting in Downtown Ozark



*Matthew Dedmon, 47, faces a first-degree murder charge. (Christian County Jail)*

June 1, 2022  
By Ethan Swick

OZARK, Mo. – A man claiming to be a pastor is in custody for his connection to a fatal shooting that took place Saturday afternoon in downtown Ozark.

The shooting occurred around 1 p.m. in the 100 block of W. Church Street, north of the town's historic courthouse. Officers arrested Matthew Lynn Dedmon, 47, at the scene.

Police found the victim, 57-year-old Joe Newburn, lying in the street with multiple gunshot wounds. He was rushed to Cox South Hospital in Springfield, where he was pronounced dead.

Authorities said they initially brought Dedmon in for questioning as a person of interest. After uncovering the handgun used in the attack from his truck, police arrested him.

Investigators have released a motive. They stated that an affair between Dedmon's wife and Newburn prompted the shooting. Police said Dedmon drove to a restaurant downtown to contact his wife where he observed her eating lunch with Newburn. They left the restaurant and got into a vehicle together.

Dedmon got out of his truck with pistol in hand. Authorities alleged that he informed them of his knowledge of their affair before shooting Newburn three times in the chest. Investigators confirmed Newburn was still in his car when he was shot. Dedmon put the gun back in his truck before police arrived.

Dedmon later revealed to authorities he was a pastor at Heritage Baptist Church in nearby Rogersville. The church is a plant commissioned by United Baptist Church in Springfield, and they are a member of the Global Independent Baptist Fellowship. Their motto is "Church like it used to be, church like it ought to be."

Matthew Dedmon is charged with first-degree murder and armed criminal action, and he is being held without bond. He is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 5, 2022.