

FPC News

March / April 2020



Here's What's Happening

Adult Sunday School

9:00 am

Choir

9:00 am

Cornerstone Cafe

(Youth)

9:15 am

Sunday Worship

10:15 am

Phone 479.273.5450

Email

info@fpcbentonville.org

Website

www.fpcbentonville.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

For more information about upcoming events, please contact us, visit our website, or find us on Facebook.



March 1

First Sunday of Lent

March 1-6

My Friends and Me Scholastic Book Fair

March 8

Worship with Baptism and Welcoming New Members

March 15

Presbyterian Women Spring Event 11:30am

March 23-27

My Friends and Me closed for Spring Break

March 26

J.O.Y Group (Just Older Youth) 11am

March 29

Arkansas Music Works Brass Band concert 3pm

March 30

Session Meeting 6:15pm

April 5

Palm Sunday service at 10:15am

April 9

Maundy Thursday light supper and worship at 6pm

April 10

Good Friday Open Prayer Hour in the chapel 12pm-1pm

April 11

Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

April 12

Easter Sunday service at 10:15am

April 23

J.O.Y Group (Just Older Youth) 11am

April 27

Session Meeting

Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 5 at 10:15am

Worship with palm processional

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9 at 6pm

Light soup supper with the celebration of the Lord's Supper and worship in the Welcome Hall and sanctuary

Good Friday Prayer

Friday, April 10

Come anytime between 12pm - 1pm

Prayers and scripture in the chapel, with quiet space for reflection

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11 at 10am

Easter Egg Hunt at FPC, starting in the sanctuary with the Easter Story, for infant - 4th grade

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 12 at 10:15am

Worship with the celebration of the Lord's Supper and special music with brass, handbells and choir

My dear church family,

In the time of the prophet Jeremiah, the profession of potter was a highly skilled craft. It was an important industry. Most villages of his time would have had pottery workshops. And though there were many ways of working with clay, the wheel (potter's wheel) would have been the most common for producing useful vessels. And so Jeremiah uses this common site to talk with his people about God.

So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Jeremiah 18:3-6

Have you ever watched a potter at work? They are intensely focused, careful, particular. They work with gentle care and concentration. And Jeremiah says that God is like the potter.

In the same way that the potter folds in the flawed pot in order to start again, so God works with us, shaping and redeeming us. Jeremiah has challenging things to say about our failures, but more importantly, he proclaims God's ever-present willingness to work with us toward a new creation. Jeremiah preaches hope to his people – and really, therefore, Jeremiah preaches hope to us!

How is our lump of clay shaping up? The season of Lent is a great time to reflect on the ways in which God's hand is upon us, and the ways in which we are working cooperatively with God's guidance to be shaped into a useful vessel. Sometimes we might feel lop-sided and misshapen, but over time we are being molded with care, especially when we are responsive to the master artist.

May the loving hands of the potter always be upon us!

In the Peace of Christ,

Pastor Georgia

Music Minute with Brian Breeding, Director of Music Ministry



The Silver

As a child, I always knew when company was coming to visit. Usually this meant family that lived in another state as my folks were not the partying kind. Although my mother (and yes, pretty much just my mother) was very good about keeping the house clean and organized, there was still that little bit of extra needed to put the best hospitable face forward. Windows were cleaned, both inside and out. Extra dusting especially the baseboards. And then there was the silver.

The set was kept in a special flat box. Lined with soft velvet, it was clearly not to be used for daily purposes. No, the silver was brought out for those “special” occasions. The problem of course is that silver tarnishes. And that meant a particularly smelly, slick cream. Lightly scooped from a small container, it was rubbed over each individual piece, over every spoon, fork, and knife. Then each spoon, fork, and knife was rubbed with another soft cloth, removing the drying cream and the tarnish. Except of course for all those many little crevices that are found in ornate silver. Yeah, that took time. But it was for family, to show we cared and valued their time with us.

Likewise, we recognize the reflective season of Lent, which culminates with the arrival of Easter. Christians prepare special rituals to celebrate its message of hope over despair, light over dark, and life over death. In a few weeks, FPC Music Ministry will be “bringing out the good silver” as freshly polished horns, pipes and bells join the choir in unique settings of congregational hymns. Choir members’ voices are already waxing poetically as they prepare. Handbells will be adding that extra sparkle throughout; and Kristy is hard at work, dusting off some requested favorites that will let out an especially spectacular bellowing of the pipes that will deep clean everything within earshot!

Of course, these rituals we do in preparation for both our church family and for the many expected guests to hear the message of Easter. Guests that just perhaps will find that message of hope and life, with the Spirit’s guidance, in a particular musical phrase and reveal Easter’s brilliant message.

arkansas **MUSICWORKS**

Returning this spring in a free concert is the Bentonville Music Works Brass Band. A crowd favorite last fall, they will perform on Sunday, March 29, 3pm, in the FPC Sanctuary.

Deacons

The deacons meet every month to review the needs of our church members and to plan their many areas of ministry (meal deliveries, cards and visits, transportation assistance, benevolence, special services). The 2020 cohort took a picture during February's meeting both to commemorate the new term and to help the church learn their faces. They are happy for the opportunity to serve and look forward to helping grow and sustain our community. Thank you to all of our deacons!



Left to right: Mary Jo Thicksten, Mike Bender, Gail Rogers, Andy Martin, Annette Robek, John Whiting, Kathryn Andrew, Grace Blazer, Susannah Neville, Mavis Anderson

Not pictured: Dave Richards, Carson de la Rosa, Sheree Miller, Bob Beck, Rebecca Schneringer, Doug Witte

A Note of Thanks!

Gordon and Shirley Garlington (Gordon served previously as pastor at FPC) want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and well-wishes as they journeyed through Gordon's recent diagnosis of bladder cancer. He had surgery on January 29 at M.D. Anderson in Houston and was released from the hospital on February 4. They are now home in North Little Rock where he is doing well recovering from the cystectomy, getting stronger every day and learning his way into this "new normal" life he has with a urostomy. Gordon credits his wife, Shirley, his "Nurse" and faithful caregiver, with helping him through these days of transition!"

Thanks so much,
Gordon Garlington

See what's **NEW** at the

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Dates, Times, and Place

March 1- March 6

**Come out to the Jungle Scholastic Book Fair
in the Birds Eye Classroom.**

Kick off is Sunday March 1, 2020 at 11:15

**All proceeds benefit My Friends and Me and the FPC
Children's Library.**

Goal is to sell 285 Books!



All purchases benefit our school!



Save the date: Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 11 at 10am

In preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt at FPC, the youth will be stuffing hundreds of Easter eggs. From March 15-April 5, they are asking for non-nut candy donations to help fill the eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the church office. The youth will fill the eggs during youth group on April 5.

If any youth would like to help at the Egg Hunt, please come at 9:00am on Saturday, April 11 and they can help “hide” the eggs in the three egg hunting areas for different ages.

At 10:00am, we will begin with all ages in the sanctuary for the reading of the Easter Story with Pastor Georgia. Then children will be invited to hunt eggs outside in the areas prepared for three different age groups. Afterwards, there will be a cookie reception in the Welcome Hall. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors.



Photo by Ashley Edwards

Faith Building for Children

Sunday mornings: Children's Church (for age 4 – 1st grade) Meets after the children's message, during morning worship. Children will sing, learn a Bible lesson, and creatively explore scripture together led by a team of church volunteers. Pick-up is directly after worship.

Sunday evenings: J St. Kids (K-3rd grade) and Club 456 (4th-6th grade), 5-7pm meet in the education (Amazeum side) hallway.

Led by teams of church volunteers, children will enjoy a meal together, explore scripture PC(USA) curriculum, make crafts, serve others, go on field trips, and have music education with Brian!

Faith Building for Youth

Sunday mornings: Cornerstone Café (7th – 12th grade)

Meets at 9:15am in the youth rooms (off the Fellowship Hall)

Youth will have something to munch on, delve into scripture and discuss what it means to be faithful people in community together. Adult leaders guide the discussion with PC(USA) resources.

Sunday evenings Youth Group (7th - 12th grade) 5-7pm meets in the Youth Rooms.

Each week is different; youth will go on field trips, discuss the intersection of faith and our world, study scripture, play games, serve others, and enjoy a meal together.

Summer 2020 Offerings for Children

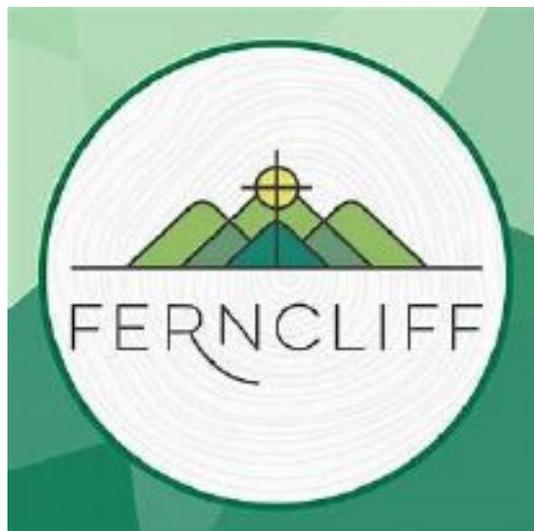
We have some important dates for families to include on their calendars!
Contact: Amanda Coleman, Children's Ministry Chair, jamanda1@cox.net

Vacation Bible School: June 1 - 4



This year, VBS will be four days, from Monday – Thursday, June 1-4 in the evening from 5-8pm. Children ages 4 yrs. – 6th grade are invited to participate. A dinner will be provided for all participants. And yes, we will have an adult class again this year! Our theme is : Rainforest Explorers- Jesus Leads the Way!

Ferncliff Day Camp: June 22 - 26



We are excited to host Ferncliff Day Camp for our 5th summer. This year, we are focusing all the fun in one week, June 22-26. We have opportunities for members to host our counselors in their homes (generally 3-4 young adults), as well as to provide dinners for them. This ministry is one of the highlights of our year, and we can't wait! Children who have completed grades K-6 may attend. Day Camp is Monday – Friday from 9am – 4pm. Registration and more information will be coming soon.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Many thanks to our youth for leading us in mission for the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 2. With generous response from our congregation, they raised \$1,375.68 for the NWA Food Bank.



Youth Sunday and Shrove Pancake Lunch

We are grateful to our youth for leading us in worship on February 26. They were creative, uplifting, and insightful. After worship, all enjoyed a "Shrove Sunday" pancake lunch that raised funds for youth summer trips and programming. Thank you to all who made it a special morning!



JOY Group

**"Just Older Youth" - a fellowship
group for people of any age!**

Will meet on Thursday, March 26, at 11 am in the library. Cindy Acree with Habitat for Humanity will be giving a presentation.

In April we will meet at 11am on Thursday the 23rd. Serena Barnett with the Rogers Historical Museum will be giving a presentation.

All are welcome! Bring a dish to share and even invite a friend for fun, food, and fellowship. You won't want to miss it.



Helping Hands Day is Saturday, March 7

Several times a year, FPC serves at Helping Hands Thrift Store – receiving and sorting donations, keeping the store neat, and working the check out. This supports the ministry of Helping Hands as they provide assistance with rent, utilities, and food for families in need in Benton County. Sign up to help any time between 8am – 4pm. Contact Phil Cummings at cummingsphil@msn.com, or sign up in the Welcome Hall at church.



Scrabble Wars Champions



For the 3rd year in a row, FPC member team, "Predestined to Win" is the Scrabble Wars Dubious category champions. They won with 29 million (they said they were dubious) points.

Team members Cathy Rogers, Caty Rogers Moore, Jessie Bruner, Amanda Ziervogel, Julie Loder, Renee Nestor, Roy Horan and Cindy Walters raised over \$2,000 for Benton County Literacy Guild's annual fundraiser.

Adult Faith Building

"Hallelujah - The Bible and Handel's Messiah" meets Sunday morning in the Library, 9am

On Sunday, March 1, the Library Class will resume the study of Hallelujah – The Bible and Handel’s Messiah, focusing on Parts II and III which are especially appropriate for the Lenten season. Discussions will emphasize the texts (taken directly from the Bible) and their historical context, providing new perspectives into the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Excerpts from the glorious music of Messiah will accent the lesson.

Everyone is invited and welcomed – you do not need to have participated in Part 1 or to be an informed musician in order to grow your faith through this opportunity.

"Faith and Science in Conversation" January 12 - March 8 meets Sunday evenings in the Library, 5-6pm

Open to all, no charge. Childcare available upon request (through the church office).

How do we navigate the intersection of faith and science in our lives and in society? Differing perspectives regarding these two arenas has led to major conflicts in Western society from ancient times to the present day. We will explore several ways of understanding the relationship between science and faith, and see how different approaches touch on contemporary issues. Led by Bill Rice and guests.

In this 8 week series of discussions, we will explore the many ways we can understand the relationship between science and faith, and how those perspectives touch on contemporary issues. Led by Bill Rice and guests. Sponsored by the Adult Christian Education Committee.

Reflections on the Journey: Aging, Death, and Final Preparations

Sunday Afternoons, 3:30 – 5:30 pm March 15- April 26, 2020

Aging is part of our human experience. We all have concerns for ourselves and our loved ones regarding the later years of life and the final journey home. This six-session seminar will be held at the church on *Sunday afternoons* in the Library, and is open to the congregation and community. People of all ages are invited to take advantage of the discussions, guest speakers, and resources.



Registration fee: \$15 per household (covers all sessions, notebook, refreshments)

Register with the church office by **Sunday, March 8**; checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

March 15 Spiritual and Emotional Realities of Death and Dying

The Rev. Georgia Senor, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

This session focuses on spiritual and emotional needs as we contemplate leaving this world. We will talk about issues of fear, assurance, reconciliation, and how Jesus prepared for his own death.

March 22 Service, Burial, Funeral Home and Columbarium Arrangements

Lisa Bacon, Director of Stockdale-Moody Funeral Services

We will briefly cover the decisions that one must make – from the type of farewell desired to cemetery choices and current laws. This will give families the knowledge to carefully consider their options without the pressure that occurs following a death when no prior arrangements have been made.

Denny Rogers, Chair, FPC Columbarium/Cemetery Committee

We will visit the Chapel and learn all about the Columbarium and church cemetery.

March 29 1. Aging and the Human Body 2. What is Hospice?

Dr. Stephen Carter Medical Director, Circle of Life Hospice

Dr. Carter will review the medical aspects of aging and its effect on the human body. He will also discuss the benefits of hospice care, both for the patient and for the family. Hospice care offers not only medical assistance to bring physical comfort, but also emotional and spiritual support for loved ones.

April 5 Spirituality of Aging

The Rev. Laura Fleetwood, Honorably Retired

Aging is a spiritual journey, and as we become older adults, each of us becomes more unique. Christian faith can transform the winter season of life. We will explore together how life experiences and passages have challenged and shaped our faith that promises hope for the future.

April 12 No Class (Easter Sunday)

April 19 Legal Issues in the Senior Years

Chris Rogers, Attorney (and church member)

We will learn a summary of current estate planning techniques for the 21st century, as well as the importance of having a plan for ourselves and our surviving loved ones.

April 26 Service of Witness to the Resurrection

The Rev. Katie Cummings, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

A Presbyterian memorial service is grounded in hope; it speaks to our union with Jesus Christ in life, in death, and in resurrection. We will discuss the content and flow of a memorial service, helping participants plan for their own service.

For questions, contact Pastor Georgia (gseonor@fpcbentonville.org, 479-273-5450) or Rev. Laura Fleetwood (fleetwoodlaura1@gmail.com, 479-855-7566)

Presbyterian Women

**“Birthdays, Bags, and Bagels”
Sunday, March 15 at 11:30am in the library**

All women are invited to come and celebrate another great year of Presbyterian Women while we enjoy great bagels and wonderful fellowship. We will also have a missional focus as we collect the annual PW “Birthday Offering”. This year, the selected recipients of funding from the Birthday Offering are:

1. An assisted living facility in Davydovo, Russia
2. GAP ministries of Augusta, GA
3. Childcare and Pre-K facility in Payson, AZ
4. Northside Healing Space in Minneapolis, MN

You can read more about the Birthday Offering and this year’s recipients at https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/

In addition to these national beneficiaries, we will also serve women right in our community. We will be packing personal care items into birthday gift bags for the 15 single moms living at Havenwood (<https://www.nwahavenwood.org/>). There is a collection box in the church office for anyone who would like to donate items for the birthday bags. Suggested items are: nail polish, perfume, scented soaps, hand lotions, non-burning candles.

**PW Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 18 at 10:00am
University of the Ozarks, in Clarksville**

Join us for the presbytery wide Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women on Saturday, April 18, at the University of the Ozarks. Our own Rev. Laura Fleetwood will be leading the worship service. We will car pool or drive the church van. To register, see the flier on the next page.

REGISTRATION FORM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN ARKANSAS PRESBYTERY

WHAT: 2020 SPRING GATHERING

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020 — 10:00 AM

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS

401 No. College Ave., Clarksville, Arkansas

The Gathering will begin at 10:00 am with light refreshments provided by PW of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksville.

Tours of the Food for Thought Garden will be conducted after lunch (weather permitting). Please indicate interest in a tour:

I will plan to tour the garden

I will not be touring the garden

Participant Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Church & City _____

Registration Fee: \$10.00 (includes lunch)

Due by Wed., April 1, 2020

Make check payable to PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN and send with this form to PWPCT Vice Moderator:

**Sharyl Ritschel
3 Lazonby Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72714**



Save the date:
Presbytery of Arkansas, Presbyterian Women's Retreat
Friday-Saturday, August 7-8
Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center, Fayetteville

Registration fee is \$75 (includes meals and workshops). Cottage style rooms (\$90 double occupancy) are available at Mt. Sequoyah. Highlights include "Te-Mi-Zhi-Ka" Quapaw Indian Pottery by Betty Gaedtke, Ozark Culinary History by Chef and Author Erin Rowe, an overview of the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study, and Rev. Becky Purcell as the worship leader.

For more information about Presbyterian Women, contact Linda Murphy at landdmurphy@gmail.com, or Krystle Foster at kkfoster85@gmail.com

Session Highlights

From the January 27, 2020 Stated meeting, at 6:15pm in the church library:

The meeting began with the lighting of the Christ candle, and reading Matthew 4:18-22 and prayer. Pastor Katie opened with prayer and all read the church's mission statement. The session reflected on what it means to "fish for people". Along with receiving reports from ministry teams, actions included:

- Approved dates for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for 2020 and January 2021
- Approved a transfer of membership for Murphy Steve and Carolyn Sheffy to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC.
- Elected Virginia Breshears as Clerk of Session for a one-year term ending January 2021.
- Elected Tom Butrynski as Treasurer for a one-year term ending January 2021.
- Updated signature authority on all FPC banking and investment accounts, and safe deposit box.
- Approved the following to serve as the search committee for the next Director of Children and Youth Ministry: David Hill (Chair), Amanda Coleman (Personnel liaison), Mary Jo Thicksten, Dan Demania, Cindy Bender, Zach Monroe.

The Session also received an update on the acoustic subcommittee project under the Capital Campaign Implementation Team, to replace the carpeting on the chancel and steps with a wood surface, and obtain choir risers, to improve sound quality in the sanctuary. The Session adjourned with prayer by Elder Roy Horan at 7:10pm

From the February 24, 2020 Stated meeting, at 6:15pm in the church library:

The meeting began with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer by Pastor Katie. All read the church's mission statement. Guest David Downing, chair of the Advisory Group on Ministry that works with Pastor Georgia throughout her Doctor of Ministry work at McCormick Theological Seminary, gave a report. In pairs, the Session reflected on the "memories of 2019" and "hopes for 2020" cards from the annual congregational lunch. Session actions included:

- Approved the 2019 Statistical Report
- Approved the baptism of Paul Sawyer during worship on March 8, along with a called meeting to receive new members at 9:15am on March 8.
- Elected Harry and Tina James to serve as Elder Commissioners for the 143rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, to be held at Lyon College in Batesville, March 6-7.
- Approved a transfer of membership for Glenn Mack to First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk, Virginia.
- Approved the job description for the Financial Manager position.
- Approved the job description for the Director of Children and Youth Ministry position.

The Session closed at 7:15pm with prayer by Pastor Katie. The next stated meeting of the Session will be Monday, March 30 at 6:15 pm in the church library.

A record of past Session meeting packets (session meeting agenda, session minutes, committee minutes, staff reports, and any supporting documents) is always available for review in the church office.

The Session of FPC and ministry areas:

Class of 2020

Amanda Coleman (Children)
Lance de la Rosa (Stew./Fin.)
Susan Fraser (Youth)
Roy Horan (Communication)
Tina James (Fellowship)
Jenna Solomon (Youth)

Class of 2021

Nathan Adams (Worship/Music)
Janet Atwood (Christian Ed
Brad Kingsley (Communication)
Pam Ramaker (Long Range Plan)
Clark Tedrick (Mission)

Class of 2022

Krystle Foster (Mission)
Linda Freeman (My Friends & Me)
Harry James (Property)
Sarah Semrow (Personnel)
Cheryl Wright (Worship/Music)

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

Pastors: Rev. Katie Cummings (Moderator), Rev. Georgia Senor

We thank you and appreciate the collaborative effort that goes into publishing our bimonthly newsletter. We could not do it without your contribution. If you have an article, announcement, or image you would like included in our next monthly newsletter, please send your submission to Amanda Hayes via email to: administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org. by April 20, 2020.

Again, we appreciate the support of all members of our congregation in every ministry.

Thank you,

FPC Staff

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

901 NE J Street – Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

Office: (479) 273-5450 Fax: (479) 273-5452

Website: www.fpcbentonville.org

E-mail: administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org

Pastor, Head of Staff: Rev. Katie Cummings; kcummings@fpcbentonville.org,

Associate Pastor: Rev. Georgia Senor; gsenor@fpcbentonville.org,

Director of Music Ministry: Brian Breeding; brian@fpcbentonville.org

Organist/accompanist: Kristy Olefsky

Director of Children and Youth Ministry: open

Financial Manager: Catherine Lazo; financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org

Facility Maintenance Manager : Larry Hall; facilities@fpcbentonville.org

Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes;

administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org

Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; zcooper@fpcbentonville.org

Custodians: Jorge Esparza and Chuck Hargus

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

OUR MISSION

Trusting, Growing, Caring and Serving Together In the Name of Jesus Christ

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to help people

- 1) Come to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives;
- 2) Grow and mature in their understanding and experience of that faith;
- 3) Care for one another, allowing Christ's love to live in them as we journey through the "mountains" and "valleys" of life; and
- 4) Serve the needs of "the least of these", our brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus Christ.