

FPC News

November 2021

Sunday Worship

10:15 am in person and
online

Phone 479.273.5450

(answered Monday - Friday
8am - 4pm)

Email

info@fpcbentonville.org

Website

www.fpcbentonville.org
(church calendar found
under My FPC)

Office Hours

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

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

Each week, the FPC Food
Pantry sets up Fridays at
9am, and is open Saturdays
from 9-11am



Here's What's Happening

November 7 - All Saints Sunday

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am in the Library

Worship at 10:15am with the Lord's Supper in the Sanctuary & online

November 11

Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30am

November 14 - Pledge Dedication Sunday

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am in the Library

Worship at 10:15am in person in the Sanctuary & online

J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am

Called Session Meeting with Officers-Elect, 11:30am in Fellowship Hall

Youth Group, 4:30pm

November 18

Presbyterian Women Mary and Martha Circle, 6:30pm

November 21 - The Reign of Christ Sunday

Note: No Adult Sunday School

Worship at 10:15am in person in the Sanctuary & online

J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am

Deacon Meeting, 11:30am

Youth Group, 4:30pm

November 22 - 26

My Friends and Me closed for Thanksgiving

November 25-26

Church Office closed for Thanksgiving

November 28 - First Sunday of Advent

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am in the Library

Worship at 10:15am in person in the Sanctuary & online

Dear church family,

When you were growing up, was there a prayer at bedtime? Maybe you said a prayer asking God to bless your family, your friends, your teachers, your pets. Maybe it was a prayer asking God for the desires of your heart, or to help you with something that was hard. Maybe it was a prayer that you had memorized, and repeated each night, perhaps with some variation but essentially the same.

When I was a child, our family's bedtime prayer was this: *Thank you, God, for the night and for the pleasant morning light. For rest and food and loving care, and all that makes the world so fair, Amen.* It is the first verse of a nineteenth century hymn that my mom liked for its simplicity and gratitude. Writer Anne Lamott has said that the two best prayers she knows are: *Help me, help me, help me!* and *Thank you, thank you, thank you!* (I think that she later amended this to also include *Wow, wow, wow!*)

Since it is November, the month of giving thanks, I find myself returning to my childhood prayer. It guides me into giving thanks for the people and things that sustain me and bring beauty and light into the world. I do this especially on days that are hard, or exhausting. Not because giving thanks makes hard and exhausting things go away; not because giving thanks makes injustice, loss and pain disappear. It doesn't. But giving thanks to God reminds me of the hope that we have, that we always have, because God is near to us with the full force of heaven's love and grace and might. Giving thanks to God helps remind me that the one who created the night and the pleasant morning light, and everything in between, also created me, and holds it all together in Jesus Christ. Giving thanks to God grounds me in God's loving care when the ground feels unsteady.

So, in whatever way you chose, I invite us all to give thanks to God. In words written or spoken or sung. In movement or stillness. With others or alone. At home, work, or school. For a moment or as many moments as the Spirit leads.

On Sunday, November 7, All Saints' Sunday, we will give thanks to God in worship for loved ones who have passed away since last year's All Saints' Sunday. We will also gather around the Lord's table to give thanks to God for the gifts of God's grace we find there, and that find us. This newsletter bears witness to many other things for which we give God thanks as a church family – serving, sharing, growing, giving, and so much more.

Give thanks to the Lord, bless God's name. For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:4b-5)

With gratitude,

Pastor Katie



It's Sharing and Caring time again!

Help make Christmas special for a child in need.



Sharing & Caring

OF BENTON COUNTY

Brightening Benton County One Child at a Time

Sharing and Caring of Benton County supports families in need during the holidays by providing gifts for children through sponsors. FPC has committed to sponsoring **50** Sharing and Caring children this year by providing gifts from their Christmas wish (and needs) list by December 1.

Here is how you can help support a family:

- **SPONSOR.** Sign up for a child or children to sponsor. To receive a child's "wish list" to shop from, you may contact Amanda Hayes (administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org, or 479-273-5450) or look for the sign up table in the Welcome Hall after worship on November 7, 14, and 21. (Sharing and Caring asks that spending be around \$100 per child.)
- **SHOP.** Volunteer to be a shopper. There will be some donated funds to cover several children's wish lists. Volunteer shoppers will be given a Walmart gift card and a child's wish list. Contact Amanda Hayes (administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org, or 479-273-5450) and let her know you would like to be a shopper.
- **DONATE.** If you are not really a shopper, but would like to help support a child, you may donate any amount through our website's online giving page at <https://abundant.co/fpcbentonville/give>. Under "Fund", look for the arrow on the right, click for the drop-down menu, and select "Sharing and Caring" (it is the last one).

Shoppers, please bring gifts to the church by Wednesday, December 1 at 5:30pm. Come and drop off your unwrapped gifts. There are clear plastic bags provided on the table in the Welcome Hall to put the gifts in. Please write the child's ID number clearly on the bag. You may drop off at the church Monday – Friday from 7:30am-5:30pm, or on Sunday mornings.

Thank you for supporting these families!



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. – Jeremiah 29:11

Dear church family,

Over the past few weeks, we have been thinking and praying about God's faithfulness in the past, present, and future. In this season of pandemic and disruption, God has been our comfort and strength. We have also experienced God's call to be adaptive, creative, and innovative as a church. Amidst challenges that were new and often daunting, we have continued to share God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. And even when the pandemic is behind us, there will still be neighbors near and far in need of healing and help, justice, and love. And our congregation will continue to respond to God's call to be vessels of God's grace in the world.

We invite you to rejoice with us as we trust God for "a future with hope." Our Session has approved a proposed 2022 operating budget for the financial support of our church's ministry in the coming year. A summary of that budget was included in your pledge packet. Also included was a prayer (reprinted below) to share as we discern how we will respond to the opportunity to make our pledges and gifts to support the budget. This year, there are both pledge cards as well as online giving through our website, <https://fpcbentonville.org/pledge>, or through the QR code.

How blessed we are to be a church family, and to offer to God all of our skills, our hopes, our time, our ideas, our gifts, and our hearts as we respond to God's call in Christ together.

As we look ahead, you are invited to Budget Q&A time via Zoom on Tuesday, November 2, at 6pm. Come and share your questions, and join in discussion about next year's proposed budget with members of the Finance and Stewardship Team. The link is provided in the Friday, October 29, eblast. Then, on November 14, Pledge Dedication Sunday, we will celebrate God's gifts of our connection and our calling in Christ.

We hope you will pray with us between now and November 14, as the Spirit leads and guides us. How grateful we are for God's faithfulness, and for a future with hope!

In Christ,
The 2022 Stewardship Team
Brian Edmundson, Tom Butrynski, and Hunter Breshears



Gracious God, over and over, we become scattered and separated. Over and over, like a good shepherd, you find us and bring us home. For all the connection you have granted us at First Presbyterian Church, thank you.

For the gift of faith that gets us through times of difficulty and separation, thank you. For worship that we share both online and in person, for the blessing of friendships among all generations, for the joy of serving others, for the celebrations that are multiplied and the burdens that are lightened as we share them together, thank you.

For [add your own], thank you.

In your generosity and grace, O Lord, grant us the wisdom to see what we can give to deepen our connection, and empower our calling.

Amen.

A decorative border of stylized leaves in shades of orange and yellow surrounds the text on a dark brown background.

Children's Ministry November

7TH- J ST. KIDS AND CLUB 456
14TH- SHARING AND CARING (TBA)
21ST- J ST. AND CLUB 456
28TH- THANKSGIVING BREAK

ALL ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE FROM
11:30-1PM AT THE CHURCH UNLESS
OTHERWISE NOTED.

Children and Youth Ministry

Children's Ornament Sale

The children are raising money to sponsor three Sharing and Caring children by selling ornaments from now until November 12th. If you would like to purchase an ornament, please email Katie Flood (kflood@fpcbentonville.org) by the 12th! We are suggesting a donation of \$3-\$5 per ornament. We will deliver the ornaments in early December. Thank you for helping our children help others!



Children and Youth Ministry

Trunk or Treat

Thanks so much to everyone who participated, donated, and helped with Trunk or Treat on October 31. We had a wonderful time!





Youth Group November Schedule

7th- Youth Group 4:30-6p
14th- Youth Group 4:30-6p
21st- Youth Group 4:30-6p
28th- Thanksgiving Break

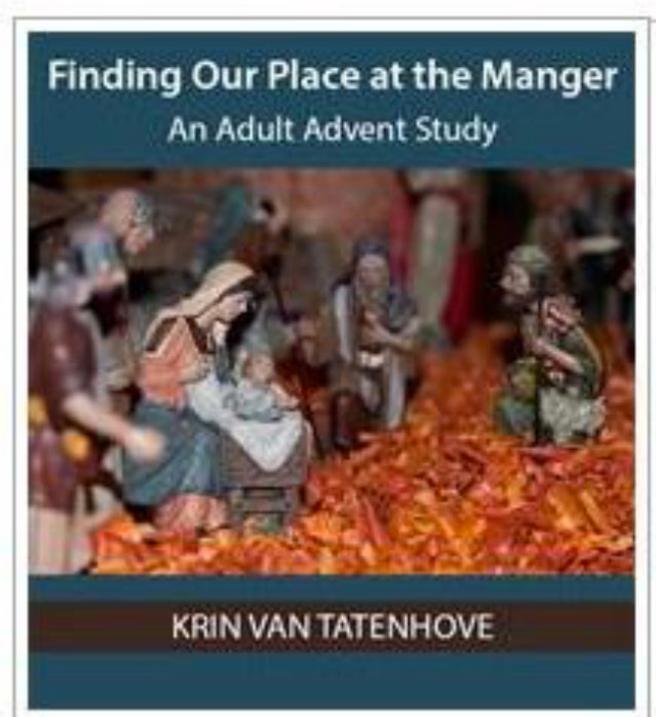
Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School

We gather weekly at 9:00am on Sundays, either in person in the church library, or via Zoom (let the church office know so we can send you the link).

On November 7th and 14th, we will have the last two lessons from the book by Brent A. Straw: *Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament*.

Note: Adult Sunday School will *not* meet on November 21st.



Our **Advent Adult Sunday School** study begins on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28. These lessons will follow the preaching pattern through the four Sundays of Advent. The curriculum consists of participant handouts that will be given out at class, with electronic copies available by email upon request.

administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org, 479-273-5450

Presbyterian Women

Renee Nestor and Celeste Taylor are happy to serve the women of our church as the co-coordinators this year for our PW (Presbyterian Women) Committee. Your feedback is welcome! Do not hesitate to give us some ideas for activities and fellowship, which would be convenient for you. Your feedback is wanted!

Bible Study

All are welcome to participate in the monthly Bible study that began in September. This year, we will dive into Horizon's curriculum entitled, "What my Grandmothers Taught me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy." We will discuss how it is that key women (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary) affect the genealogy of Jesus and why they were included.

We will meet in the church Library on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30am, if you are unable to make the morning study, Sue Ann Overstreet is leading the study at 6:30pm the 3rd Thursday in the church library. If you would like a copy of the study, please let the church office know (administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org , 479-273-5450). We will study scripture, share prayer concerns and joys, and enjoy fellowship with one another. The cost of the study book is \$10.

When: 9:30am, 2nd Thursday (October 14) led by Nettie Robek, or 6:30pm, 3rd Thursday (October 21) led by Sue Ann Overstreet

Where: Church Library

Who: All are welcome!

Expressing Thanks from the Deacons



The Deacons met in mid-October for a combined business meeting and training session. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and with it the fellowship and thanksgiving we have together in the presence of the Lord. We are thankful for our work, because in working together we grow closer to God. We are thankful for our community, for which the church has been channeling so many donations directed to the Emergency Response Fund. We are thankful for our visitors, guests, and new members, and for having received so much uplifting feedback about our services, both online and in-person. And we are especially grateful for the ministry of Home Communion which was dearly missed last year. It's amazing to look back through the past several months and see all of the progress with aiding, care, and love. Thank you, church family, for your commitment to our life of faith together, and your support of the Deacon ministry!

Photo credit: Pro Church Media, on Unsplash

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS:

Emergency Response Fund

The congregation here at FPC continues to make a tremendous impact in the lives of people suffering through the ongoing, pandemic-induced economic downturn. In the period from 9/8 to 10/11, we were able to help 5 families facing eviction with rental assistance and 3 families facing utility disconnects with utility assistance. That's eight families struggling in seemingly impossible situations where our congregation stepped forward to ease their burden! The relief and thanks expressed is often accompanied with tears of joy! The past 20 months have been hard on so many in our community. It is wonderful to be part of a loving congregation that doesn't just "talk the talk" but one that actually "walks the walk" in following Christ.



May God continue to bless our church and our outreach to neighbors in need. Amen.

Photo: Ante Gudelj on Unsplash

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE NOW](#)

If you are a church member in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Georgia on a confidential basis. gseonor@fpcbentonville.org. For other requests, please contact the church office, 479-273-5450, administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org.

My Friends and Me is Hiring!

Current openings include:

- Full-time 4- to 5-year-old Lead Teacher
- Substitute 4- to 5-year-old Lead Teacher

We seek positive and enthusiastic individuals with a passion for working with children. Our ideal candidates know classroom procedures and techniques to guide, manage, and instruct children in a childcare setting and is willing to learn and work as a team. Hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. Retired teachers are welcome!

Applications and/or resumes may be sent to MFM Director Z Cooper at zcooper@fpcbentonville.org. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. To learn more, go to the website <https://fpcbentonville.org/my-friends-me-learning-center/>

Happy New Year

Brian Breeding, Director of Music Ministry

Although November 28 marks the beginning of the Christian New Year and the First Sunday of Advent, by the time you read the December newsletter we will be well into Advent. So I offer this short article in preparation.

The name Advent comes from the Latin, "Adventus," meaning "a coming." The oldest records mentioning Advent celebrated is in the second book of "The History of the Franks" by St. Gregory of Tours. In it he claims that a predecessor, St. Perpetuus, in 480 ce decreed a fast three times a week from the feast of St. Martin until Christmas. This 40 days of preparation, not including Sundays, began on November 11. I suspect that our Roman Catholic friends seldom observe such a stringent practice in the face of the constant bombardment of pre-Christmas celebrations. We certainly don't. Yet I do wonder how much we have lost by not taking at least a little time to contemplate the incarnation once again in our world.

Included here are a collection of YouTube video links for Advent. Many are very familiar songs and carols. Others to. are perhaps less well known but still significant music. And a few are cultural expressions that most will recognize and remember fondly. So set aside a few minutes each day, uninterrupted by your daily demands. View and listen to no more than one a day, and exclude Sunday. Take a little time to not only intentionally listen but also look up the lyrics and history. Use this as a sacred practice in preparation for Christmas. Like Lent is to Easter, Advent is vital for the experience of the mystery of Christmas.

Advent videos

[O Come, O Come, Emmanuel](#)

[Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

[Comfort, Comfort, ye my people-Schutz](#)

[Magnificat-J.S. Bach](#)

[Comfort Ye My People-Handel](#)

[Magnificat-Arvo Part](#)

[Lo, How a Rose-Praetorius](#)

[People Look East](#)

[Lo, How a Rose-Sandstrom](#)

[Savior of the Nations, Come](#)

[Bach cantata 147 For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover/The People that Walked in Darkness](#)

[Bach cantata 61](#)

[Once in Royal David's City](#)

[O Radix; chant for Advent](#)

[Bach, Wachet auf, movt. 1](#)



From January 1 - September 30, 2021 the FPC Food Pantry has distributed **161,447** pounds food to **1,435** families consisting of **5,756** people in our community.

Join us Saturday mornings from 8:30-11:15. We use our signup genius site for scheduling jobs. Jobs available are: Meet and greet (greet clients, pass out and review clipboards, distribute personal care items), Loader (load food into the trunk of the client's car), Cart Filler (work in Fellowship Hall to fill carts with food and transport to south portico), Cooler filler (pull boxes from freezer and put in coolers), Data entry (for those previously trained in OASIS software), and Site manager .

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4FADA72CA57-loader>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4FADA72CA57-cart>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4fada72ca57-cooler>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4fada72ca57-site>

Those trained as site manager who can open and close the building and supervise.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4fada72ca57-data>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4fada72ca57-greeter>

TURKEY-DAY NEWS

The pantry has purchased 160 turkeys to be distributed on 11/20. Frz-n-Stor in Springdale has generously donated storage space. This is our biggest event of the year. We will need many volunteers. Check out the eblast for volunteering opportunities for that day and what we will need in donations.

Pantry needs:

plastic Walmart-type bags, dish soap (we will repackage, so you can buy the most economical size), toothpaste and deodorant

FPC Finance Fact\$

Financial Operating Report as of September 30, 2021

Current Month Income	Current Month Expense	Current Month Net
\$49,587	\$66,718	(\$17,131)
2021 YTD Income	2021 YTD Expenses	2021 YTD Net
\$557,276	\$579,831	(\$22,555)

Detailed Financial Statements are available in the Church Office.

Your giving options

Did you know we offer online giving through the church website and direct payments from your bank? If you want to automate your contributions, we're here to help! Please contact the Financial Manager (financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org), for more information about your giving options.

Want more info?

Detailed financial statements are always available to members - please contact financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org for more information.

We thank you and appreciate the collaborative effort that goes into publishing our monthly 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 November 22, 2021

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

Thank you,
FPC Staff

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Director of Music Ministry: Brian Breeding; brian@fpcbentonville.org
Organist/accompanist: Kristy Olefsky
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie Flood; kflood@fpcbentonville.org
Financial Manager: Kimberlyn Edmundson; financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org
Facility Maintenance Manager : Larry Hall; facilities@fpcbentonville.org
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes; administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org
AV Tech and Communications Support: Kacy Spears, kspears@fpcbentonville.org
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; zcooper@fpcbentonville.org
Custodian: Jorge Esparza
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.