

An Unexpected Journey

FPC News

December 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

December 5 - Second Sunday in Advent

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am in the Library
Worship at 10:15am with the Lord's Supper in the Sanctuary & online
J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am
MusicWorks Brass Band concert, 3:00pm in the Sanctuary
Youth Group, 4:30pm

December 6

Stated Session Meeting, 6pm

December 9

Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30am

December 12 - Third Sunday in Advent

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
Service of Solace, 4:00pm in the Sanctuary, with piano music starting at
3:30pm. Nursery care (infant - 5yrs) available.
Youth Group, 4:30pm

December 13

BHS Orchestra in concert, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

December 16

Presbyterian Women Mary and Martha Circle, 6:30pm

December 19 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

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
Youth Group, 4:30pm

December 20 - January 3

My Friends and Me closed for Christmas

December 24

Traditional Candlelight Service, 6:30pm. Nursery care (infant - 5yrs)
available.

December 25 - January 2

Church Office closed for Christmas

December 26 - First Sunday of Christmas

Worship at 10:15am in person in the Sanctuary & online with Lessons and
Carols.

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place."

Luke 2:16

Dear church family,

We have begun the Advent journey, moving toward the heart of our faith, "Emmanuel" – God with us. What a great joy it is to be travelling together! I think of the excitement among the shepherds in the field as the angel brought them unexpected good news, as the glory of the Lord shone around them and the heavenly multitude began singing. At first they were afraid, but they banded together and set off on the journey with joyful anticipation.

Last year in this time of Advent, we weren't able to be physically together in worship, mission, or in the celebrations of the season like band concerts and indoor Christmas parties. We weren't even able to offer Home Communion or hospital visits.

Thanks be to God, many of these things have opened up for us now, and our church calendar is once again bright with holiday fellowship. We have even re-started coffee service on Sunday mornings!

I encourage you to take note of the many activities highlighted in this newsletter as we all seek to engage more fully with our family of faith. Of course, we continue to offer online worship and remote giving opportunities as well.

Let us go now... to light candles and sing of our coming Savior.

Let us go now... to provide Christmas gifts for children through Sharing and Caring.

Let us go now... to rest in the stillness of the sanctuary as we offer our prayers to the Lord.

Let us go now... to appreciate the beauty of music on special occasions.

Let us go now... to share the warmth of Christ through the Emergency Response Fund.

Let us go now... to discover hope, joy, love, and peace as we travel toward the manger.

On the journey together,

Pastor Georgia



arkansas
MUSICWORKS
BRASS BAND



**RETURNING THIS SEASON, THE
MUSICWORKS BRASS BAND IN
CONCERT, DECEMBER 5, 3:00 PM,
FPC SANCTUARY. NO CHARGE.**

BHS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Holiday Concert Series

First Presbyterian Church
Bentonville

December 13th @7:00 pm

Enjoy the music of the Holidays performed by the Bentonville High School Chamber Orchestra! Performances are free. Donations are greatly appreciated! All proceeds help fund Chamber Orchestra's competition in the March 2022 National Orchestra Cup in NYC.

Service of Solace Sunday, December 12 at 4:00pm (music begins at 3:30pm)



All are welcome to gather in the sanctuary for this casual, quiet service of reflection, remembrance, and comfort during this season that can be stressful and difficult. You are invited to come any time after 3:30 and sit still in the sanctuary while Kristy plays the piano. When the service begins at 4:00pm, there will be scripture readings, prayers, candle-lighting, songs and quiet reflection. Feel free to invite anyone who might benefit from such a service. Deacons will be available for prayer or conversation if desired after the service. The service itself is approximately a half hour in length. Childcare provided for infant through five-years-old.

The Vinson Library

The Vinson Library committee is delighted to invite you to come by your newly refurbished library! Our vision going forward is a more comfortable and accessible gathering place for all sorts of activities. We hope you will come in with your family to browse and take a moment in comfort to read or just relax together. We look forward to serving families coming together for memorial services. We are already enjoying a more conversational Sunday School meeting room. We invite your suggestions for new ways to use this wonderful space. Come by and make yourselves at home!





Children's Ministry December



5th- J St. Kids and Club 456

*12th- J St. Kids and Club 456 Ornament
Making*

19th- Christmas Party!

26th- Christmas Break



ALL PROGRAMS HAPPEN FROM 11:30-1PM
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED AND INCLUDE
LUNCH.



Children's Ministry

Sharing and Caring

The kids loved shopping for Sharing and Caring! Thank you to those of you who have bought ornaments so far! We are still selling ornaments if you would like to contribute. You can purchase ornaments by sending Katie Flood an email and making a donation online by selecting the "Ornament Donation" option.



Children's Epiphany Program

The Children's Epiphany Program will take place on Sunday, January 9th. If your child is interested in participating, please let Katie Flood know by December 12th. We will determine a practice time once we know who is involved.

Youth Group December

5th- Youth Group

12th- Youth Group

19th- Christmas Party

26th- Christmas Break

All events happen
from 4:30-6pm and
include dinner.

Youth Ministry

Summer Trips

Summer trips are back and we're super excited about it!

FPC Bentonville will be offering an initial \$200 off the trips and will work with each family to figure out if any additional assistance is needed. Please do not let the price tag of the trips keep your youth from participating. We will figure it out!

To sign up please visit the Presbytery website:

<https://www.presbyark.org/ministries/youth-a-team/>

We encourage current 8th-12th graders to sign up for Triennium, as this only happens every few years!

Junior High Jubilee - July 2-7, 2022

- Youth Conference at Mo Ranch Camp in Southern Texas
- Estimated Cost: \$800
- All students currently in 6th-8th grade are invited
- The presbytery will need chaperones (one adult for every 5 students)

Montreat Youth Conference - July 16-23rd, 2022

- Youth Conference at Montreat in North Carolina
- Estimated Cost: \$1,200
- All students currently in 9th-12th grade are invited
- The presbytery has spots for 8 students and 2 chaperones

Triennium Youth Conference - July 24-28, 2022

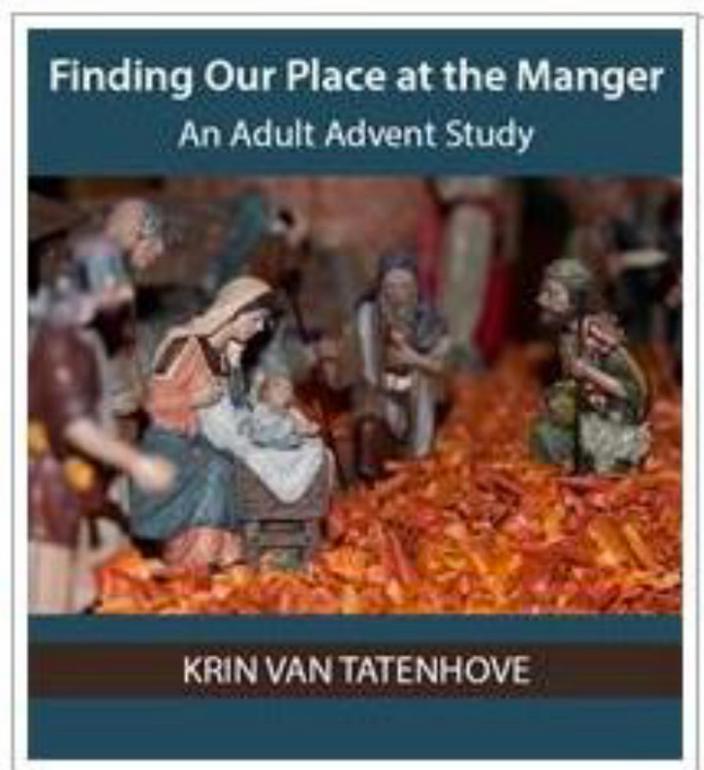
- PC(USA) National Youth Conference, happens every three years in Indianapolis, IN
- Estimated Cost: \$1,000
- All students currently in 8th-12th grade are invited
- The presbytery will need chaperones (one adult for every 10 students)

Registration and a \$100 deposit is due for all trips on January 15, 2022. If you register and submit deposits by December 20th, you will receive \$50 off your trip.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School

We gather weekly at 9:00am on Sundays in the church library.



Our **Advent Adult Sunday School** study began on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, and will continue December 5, 12, and 19. These lessons follow the preaching pattern through Advent. The curriculum consists of participant handouts that are given out at class.

Note: Adult Sunday School will *not* meet on December 26.

Presbyterian Women

This is a reminder that our bible study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me", will meet on December 9th, at 9:30 A.M. and will also meet in the evening on December 16, at 6:00 P.M. This is also a reminder that PW donated to Giving Tuesday, during the month of December.

What a fun time we had decorating the church for the holiday season, especially for Advent! A big thank you to all the men and women who helped and made trimming the trees a memorable day!



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, food, flowers and phone calls following the death of my brother. His passing was so unexpected and your kindnesses meant more than you could ever know. We know he is in the arms of Jesus and rejoicing to be with those who've gone before him. To God Be The Glory

With so much gratitude,
Susan Drummond and Family

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/>

CHRISTMAS WARMTH AND COMFORT

Emergency Response Fund



The generosity of this congregation is keeping families warm through the holiday season and on into the depths of winter. Thank you to all who support the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) above and beyond regular contributions to the church. The ERF is a non-budgeted fund, based solely on direction donations. All requests for assistance are screened by our committee. We have been able to avert utility shutoffs, help get electricity started, provide food or gas at a critical moment, and keep people in their homes when they are going through a tough time. This is a tangible way to share the warmth of Christ in our community.

Photo: Alex Padurariu 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.

Scholarships available for High School Seniors

Senior year of high school brings a lot of excitement as you celebrate the final months of your high school experience. Did you know there are several Church scholarships available for those who plan to continue to college or any specialty or technical school?

- **The Edna Putman Presbyterian Scholarship** was established in 1983. It was originally called the Presbyterian Memorial Scholarship and was created with monies given to the Laurene Compton Memorial Gift Fund. Mrs. Compton was Dr. Compton's wife and Edna Putman's daughter.
- **The John W. Vinson Jr. Scholarship Fund** was also established in 1983. John Vinson, affectionately called Jack, was a beloved minister of the church from 1958-1971. He was a dedicated scholar and was known to help students at church with their studies.
- **The Carl Otis Jett Scholarship** was established in 1986. This scholarship is named after Mrs. Jett's son, Carl Otis Jett.
- **The James and Frances Boyd Scholarship** was established in honor of James and Frances Boyd and their lifelong dedication to education and this congregation.

We invite all seniors to review the application and consider applying. The application process will only be available through the church and the FPC Scholarship Application applies to all 4 scholarships. Candidates will be evaluated in multiple areas. These include:

- Interview
- Essay
- Church Leadership (VBS, Deacon, Session, Food Pantry, Mission Trip, Trunk or Treat, Worship Leader, Music Leader, Choir member, Instrumentalist/Vocalist in worship, Helping Hands, and Children's Church, Presbytery Youth Advisory Team)
- Church Fellowship (youth group, Mo-Ranch, YouthQuake, Montreat)
- Academics (Honors/Awards, transcript, ACT/SAT Scores)
- Work Experience/School Activities
- Community Service
- Need

Listed on the next page are important dates to remember and contact information for the scholarship committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us for clarification.

First Presbyterian Church
Scholarship Committee Timeline for 2021-2022

- **December 6, 2021:** Applications are emailed to seniors. If you prefer a paper copy mailed to your home, please contact Ashley Clark.
- **Friday, February 18, 2022:** All applications and supporting documents are due via email to Ashley Clark at poptartacar@yahoo.com by 5pm. Completed applications include reference letters, essay, ACT scores, and transcript. When submitting your application, please create one PDF document that includes the completed application and all supporting documents except for the reference letters. Reference letters are to be emailed to Ashley Clark at poptartacar@yahoo.com by the person providing the reference.
- **February 27:** Individual interviews with the scholarship committee. Students will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision after all applicants have been interviewed.

P.S. For those who are considering attending a Presbyterian College, there are additional opportunities for active Presbyterian students. Please see Pastor Georgia for more information on those colleges and the available scholarships.

Why Sing (in choir)

Brian Breeding, Director of Music Ministry

I admit it. Making a case for singing in choir at church can be difficult. Sure, there's ample medical evidence that singing increases cardio capacity, raised oxygen levels throughout the body, increased blood flow, and higher cognitive stimulation. And yes, studies have proven that choir, like other social activities, contributes to measurably higher overall well being, including lower levels of depression. Extended singing can even diminish snoring!

Most here probably are well read, so it probably isn't a surprise that great, time proven music sets poetry and scripture from across centuries with a perfect mnemonic technique. And you thought you couldn't memorize poetry! Sure, we all want better focus, something singing can provide in abundance. And learn another language? Well, technically, music IS a language. The little secret is that many, many singers are only barely fluent and still not only enjoy the singing, but also share it with others. Try that after just a few weeks of studying Italian.

Tongue in cheek aside, (despite the validity of all of the above) singing is one of the very few real traditions in Christianity. Singing, praying, reading scripture, communion, all while gathered with someone else, are some of the oldest traditions of our faith. Hey, I love the organ, piano, stained glass windows, challenging sermons and a nuanced liturgy. All are good. But singing opens up for everyone in the room the opportunity to, as one voice, pray, preach, recite scripture, and even accompany communion.

We are still carefully finding our way again in the midst of this now endemic virus. Some still find safety at home, participating online. This is your place today. For others, you gather together, waving across empty pews, smiling through a multiplicity of masks. But we all can sing. And maybe, just maybe, some will find that a little extra singing beckons, this time with the Chancel Choir. Maybe you will sing with the choir for just a month or two. Or for years. Either way, this millennial old tradition just might give you a springier step, better focus, lines of scripture committed to memory, and a way of praying that transcends the text.

So what have you got to lose? (or gain?)



In 2021—as of 11/20/21: 1855 families, 7439 people served, 200,595 pounds distributed.

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>

We will be closed 12/25/21 and 1/1/22.

TURKEY DAY NEWS

We had a successful Turkey Day! We distributed 100 turkeys to families in need in Benton county. We also distributed stuffing, cranberry sauce and instant potatoes with the turkeys. We distributed 7483 pounds of food that day. Thank you to all that helped the pantry - what a great team!

Also thanks to those that donated food – cranberry sauce, stuffing, and United Healthcare who donated instant potatoes. Thanks to Frez-n-Stor in Springdale who donated frozen storage space for our turkeys for a month.



Session Highlights from October and November

Stated meeting on Monday, October 26, 2021, at 6pm via Zoom

The meeting was called to order with the lighting of the Christ candle, scripture reading and prayer. Along with regular ministry reports, the Session:

- Approved the Sacrament of Baptism for James Stephen Martin, son of Carin and Andy Martin, during worship on Sunday, February 13, 2022.
- Received information about an interest in our property.
- Received a report about the Presbytery of Arkansas meeting from our Elder Commissioners Harry James and Kim Dixon.

The meeting was closed with prayer. The next called Session meeting will be Sunday, November 14 at 11:30 to examine officers- elect. As always, copies of the session packet and minutes of meetings are available from the church office.

Called meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Pastor Katie. The Session, Elders-Elect and Deacons-Elect gathered at tables for their examination for church office. The conversational examination included responses to questions about 1/ their faith journey, 2/ their knowledge of the doctrine, government and discipline contained in the Constitution of the PC(USA) [comprised of *The Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*], and 3/ the duties of their office as Ruling Elder or Deacon.

The Session approved and celebrated the successful examination of the following Officers-Elect: Deacons – Jodi Schneider, Zachary Cade, Anne Dixon, Jayne Roth, Michael Zoller, and Colby Monroe; Ruling Elders – Mike Bender, Terrye Brosh, Nate Burdick, Josh Johnson, Tela Webb, and Arisson Fox.

The Session considered the interest in our property, and decided to retain our property.

The Session considered and approved the following recommendations from the Healthy Church Team:

- That masks be optional in the building for those who are fully vaccinated, with the exception of My Friends and Me, Children's ministry activities, and Food Pantry, in which case masks will be worn.
- That choir may return to rehearsal.
- That coffee and snacks after worship may resume.
- Approval for Youth ministry to promote Youth summer trips to Triennium, Montreat, and Mo-Ranch.
- Approval of Music event requests, in the FPC sanctuary: Concert with Kristy Olefsky and two other artists on Sunday, November 21, from 3-4pm. MusicWorks Brass Band on Sunday, December 5 from 3-4:30pm. BHS Orchestra, Holiday concert fundraiser, dates tbd in December.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Katie. As always, copies of the session packet and minutes of meetings are available from the church office.

The Session of FPC and ministry areas:

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

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

Class of 2023

Cynthia Cochran (Children)
Kim Dixon (Youth)
Brian Edmundson (Finance)
Melissa Monroe (Fellowship)
Ken Ziervogel (Personnel)

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

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

FPC Finance Fact\$

Financial Operating Report as of October 31, 2021

Current Month Income	Current Month Expense	Current Month Net
\$84,864	\$62,181	\$22,683
2021 YTD Income	2021 YTD Expenses	2021 YTD Net
\$642,140	\$642,012	\$128

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 December 17, 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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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. Dr. Georgia Senior; gsenor@fpcbentonville.org,
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: Ross Macartney (interim),
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.