

# FPC News

## February 2022

### Sunday Worship

10:15 am in person and  
online

### Phone 479.273.5450

(answered Monday - Friday  
8am - 4pm)

### Email

[info@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:info@fpcbentonville.org)

### Website

[www.fpcbentonville.org](http://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*

### February 6

Worship with The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper at 10:15am in the  
Sanctuary & online  
Annual Congregational Meeting in person and via Zoom, 11:30am  
J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am  
Youth Group, 4:30pm

### February 7

Newcomer Gathering, 6:30pm via Zoom

### February 13

Worship at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online  
Souper Bowl of Caring  
Deacons Meeting, 11:30am  
J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am  
Youth Group, 4:30pm

### February 20

Worship at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online - Rev. Dori Hjalmarson  
Lunch & Learn re. Honduran Ministry Part 1, 11:30am  
J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am  
Youth Group, 4:30pm

### February 21

Lunch & Learn re. Honduran Ministry Part 2, 11:30am

### February 27 - Youth Sunday

Worship at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online  
Moderator's Training, 11:30am  
J St. Kids and Club 456, 11:30am  
Youth Group, 4:30pm

### February 28

Stated Session meeting, 6:00pm

Dear church family,

On a very cold day last week an elderly man, bent low and using a cane, came to our church asking for gas money. He and his wife, both disabled, had encountered an unexpected family situation that took all of their resources. He was sweet and apologetic, showing us paperwork to verify his circumstances. It was clear from his clothes and car that they have very little to live on. After we provided him with gas cards, he held his head a little higher and left with a smile on his face. He had tried other churches, but ours was the first that provided help.



We could share many such stories. This is a generous congregation. While we do our best to vet the requests that come our way, we also try to lessen the burden that can come with extensive screening processes. Please know that all contributions to our Emergency Response Fund are channeled directly toward assistance for church families and others in our community. Congregational support of our Food Pantry is also greatly appreciated, whether that is through volunteering or contributing financially. Both of these ministries can be supported directly through the drop-down giving menu on our website, under MYFPC.

I know that I tend to get inwardly focused, and in doing so I exaggerate my own problems. The life and mission of the church helps to re-orient and ground me in so many ways. The Body of Christ at work is a blessed thing to witness and to participate in.

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On a personal note, I would like to thank the congregation for the many prayers, cards, and conversations at the time of my father's death. I have been uplifted by your tender love and care when I truly needed it. The photo below is from the church that I grew up in (where my siblings and I were all baptized, confirmed and married), taken on the day of my father's memorial service. Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, shaped me in more ways than I can say. My parents chose that church quite intentionally for our family almost 60 years ago, though neither of them had been Presbyterian. I am proud to say that First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville is very much like it in the ways that really matter.

Yours in Christ, yours in service,

*Pastor Georgia*



# **New to the church? Let's get together, February 7**

We will have a Newcomer Gathering on Monday evening, February 7, 2022, at 6:30pm. This will be via Zoom. Join us for a conversation to learn more about the mission and ministries of our growing church family, and to ask questions in a relaxed, informal context with pastors and church members. If you are able to join us, please reply to Amanda Hayes at [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonvile.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonvile.org) or (479) 273-5450.

# FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

6th- Service and Sharing

13th- J St. Kids and Club 456

20th- J St. Kids and Club 456

27th- J St. Kids and Club 456

All programming is on Sundays  
from 11:30am-1:00pm and  
includes lunch.

# Youth Group February

6th- Youth Group/ Youth  
Sunday Planning

13th-Youth Group/ Youth  
Sunday Planning

20th- Youth Sunday Dress  
Rehearsal

27th-Youth Sunday

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

# Children and Youth Ministry

## **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Save the date for Souper Bowl of Caring 2022! On Sunday, February 13th, the youth will be collecting funds after service for a local organization.

## **Youth Sunday**

The youth are excited to lead us in worship on Sunday, February 27th! This year's theme is, "You're Not Perfect!" Maddox Nosari, one of our graduating seniors, will be giving the sermon!

## **Service and Sharing - Children's Ministry Service Project**

K-6th graders are invited to make goody bags for the Food Pantry on Sunday, February 6th from 11:30-1pm. We will offer a light lunch! We hope to see you there!

## **J St. Kids and Club 456**

J St. Kids and Club 456 will be back starting February 13th! We meet on Sunday afternoons from 11:30-1pm with lunch provided. In February we will be talking about how we show compassion. We will also be honoring Black History month by reading a story each week and talking about how our denomination engages with social justice.

# Celebrating the Ordination and Installation of New Elders and Deacons

On January 23, we gathered via Zoom with our officers-elect and representatives of the Session, Deacons, and congregation for the ordination and installation liturgy. The Spirit was with us, and we are grateful for technology that allows us to proceed with the governing life of the congregation in spite of difficult pandemic conditions. We were connected through scripture, prayer, and the laying on of hands represented by red stoles with paper hands. The service was then shared during online worship the following Sunday, January 30. We lift up and celebrate these servant leaders of our church. Congratulations to all!

## Elders, class of 2024

Mike Bender; Terrye Brosh; Nate Burdick; Josh Johnson; Tela Webb

## Elder, class of 2022

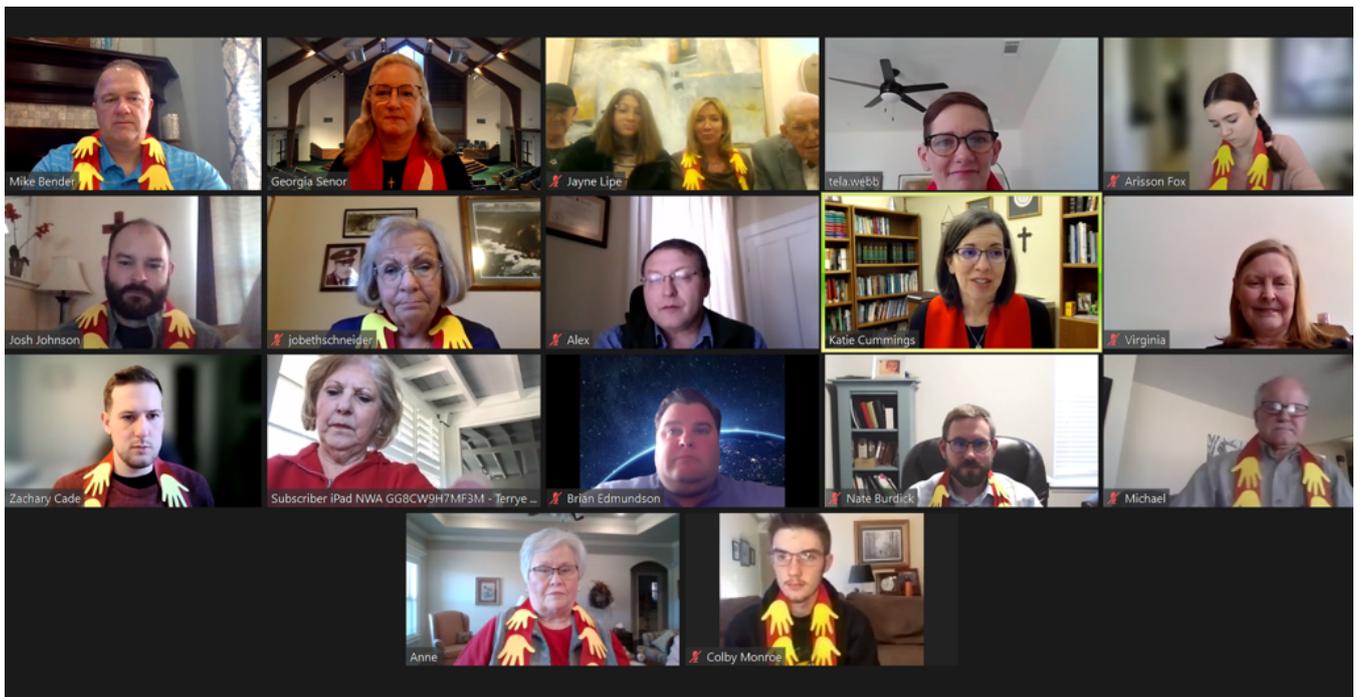
Arisson Fox

## Deacons, Class of 2024

Zachary Cade; Anne Dixon; Jayne Roth; Jodi Schneider; Michael Zoller

## Deacon, class of 2022

Colby Monroe



# Join us as we welcome our PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker in Honduras, The Rev. Dori Hjalmarson, to NWA!



First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville and First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville will be hosting Rev. Hjalmarson during her visit to NWA from February 18-21. The Presbytery of Arkansas has committed to a mission outreach partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras since 2014.

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Dori Hjalmarson as our preacher in worship on Sunday, February 20. We look forward to a “Lunch and Learn, Part 1” on Sunday at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a livestreamed presentation in the Sanctuary about the Honduran church and their ministry. “Lunch and Learn, Part 2” will follow on Monday, February 21 at 11:30am with the same format. Rev. Hjalmarson will also be spending time and teaching at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville during her visit.

## **Sunday, February 20**

- Rev. Hjalmarson will be our preacher in worship.
- “Lunch & Learn, Part 1” at 11:30am, with a boxed lunch provided in Fellowship Hall, followed by a presentation (livestream also available) in the Sanctuary. Please make your lunch reservation with Amanda in the church office by Thursday, February 17.

## **Monday, February 21**

- “Lunch & Learn, Part 2” at 11:30am, with a boxed lunch provided in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a presentation (livestream also available) in the sanctuary. Please make your lunch reservation with Amanda in the church office by Thursday, February 17.

## **More about Rev. Hjalmarson and ministry in Honduras**

Since 2017, Rev. Dori Hjalmarson has facilitated theological education and leadership development with the Presbyterian Church of Honduras. She recently signed up for a second four-year term accompanying Honduran Presbyterians in their partnerships with Arkansas Presbytery and others, and helping Honduran leaders, especially youth and women, develop and use their skills for the church. In 2018 Dori accompanied members of Arkansas Presbytery as they visited Honduran Presbyterian churches, accompanied church women in developing a newly acquired retreat and conference center, and learned about Honduran life and culture.

During the past two years of COVID-19 pandemic, Dori stayed in Honduras and helped church leaders reflect on their new realities and challenges in responding to intensifying economic and pastoral needs, as well as natural disasters and emergencies as back-to-back hurricanes struck Honduras in November 2020. Dori is originally from New Mexico and is a member of the Presbytery of Santa Fe. After working as a newspaper journalist in Kentucky, she graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2015 and worked as a chaplain in hospice and hospital settings before being ordained and accepting the call to serve in Honduras.

To learn more about Rev. Hjalmarson and the ministry of Presbyterians in Honduras, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/dori-hjalmarson/>



# 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

- **Friday, February 18, 2022:** All applications and supporting documents are due via email to Ashley Clark at [poptartacar@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# 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](mailto: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/>

# Session Highlights from January

## Called meeting on January 5 at 6:00pm via Zoom

The meeting was called to order with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer. The Session discussed and acted on the following:

- Approved a motion to wear surgical and N95 masks for gathering in the building for the month of January.
- Finance reported on year end financials and updated pledge responses. The 2022 Operating Budget was presented and discussed. The Session voted to approve the 2022 Operating Budget as updated with a shortfall not to exceed \$30,000.

## Electronic meeting on January 18 via email

There was an electronic vote approving a motion to change the date of the Annual Congregational meeting from January 23 to February 6.

## Called meeting on January 19 at 6:30pm via Zoom

The meeting opened with prayer at 6:35pm. The Session voted to approve the Healthy Church Team recommendation to move to online only worship for the next two Sundays, January 23 and 30.

## Stated meeting on January 31 at 6:00pm via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm with the lighting of the Christ candle. Pastor Katie shared a reading from Galatians 5:22-25 and invited the Session to reflect on where they have seen the fruit of the Spirit in and through our church family. Along with regular ministry reports, the Session:

- Welcome the new class of Elders to their first Session meeting
- Re-elected Virginia Breshears as Clerk of Session
- Received the resignation of Terrye Brosh, with regret and love, as she spends more time with family
- Discussed the interest in our property
- Updated signatures on bank accounts and Safe Deposit box
- Approved a Scholastic Book fair, March 28-April 1
- Approved participation in Souper Bowl of Caring, recipient to be the AR Foodbank
- Approved a motion to continue wearing surgical and N95 masks for gatherings in the building for the month of February
- Elected Kim Dixon and Nate Burdick as Elder Commissioners to the upcoming Presbytery meeting on March 4-5

The meeting was closed with prayer at 7:20pm. The next stated Session meeting will be Tuesday, October 26 at 6:00pm in the church library. As always, copies of the session packet and minutes of meetings are available from the church office.

## **The Session**

### **Class of 2022**

Krystle Sawyer (Mission)  
Linda Freeman (MFM)  
Harry James (Property)  
Sarah Semrow (Mission)  
Cheryl Wright (Fellowship)  
Arisson Fox (Youth)

### **Class of 2023**

Cie Cochran (Children)  
Kim Dixon (Youth)  
Brian Edmundson (Finance)  
Melissa Monroe (Worship)  
Ken Ziervogel (Personnel)

### **Class of 2024**

Mike Bender (Property)  
Nate Burdick (Finance & Stewardship)  
Josh Johnson (Healthy Church)  
Tela Webb (Long Range Plan/Adult Ed)  
Open

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

# Music Notes from Brian

*"History was made by the people, not simply or primarily by great men."*

Carter G. Wilson

Liturgically, the period between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday is often treated as a break from the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Although Lent can begin on February 4 (it won't again until 2285!), normally Ash Wednesday occurs somewhere between mid February to early March. The lectionary measures this time with events in Jesus' life, marking the journey from Palestine to Jerusalem. In our daily lives, we all take a collective sigh of relief after Christmas. January and February, at least in the northern hemisphere, provides a time for planning the new year.

Black History Month first began in February, 1915. Carter G. Wilson joined alumnus of the University of Chicago to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation. Thousands of African-Americans traveled across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress of African-Americans since the destruction of slavery. While at the convention, Wilson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history. Negro History Week was first established in February, 1926. The choice of February was not accidental. Both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass' birthdays were celebrated in February. Wilson, while acknowledging and admiring the achievements of both Lincoln and Douglas, despised "ignorant spellbinders" who addressed large, convivial gatherings and displayed their lack of knowledge about the men and their contributions to history." More importantly, Woodson believed that history was made by the people, not simply or primarily by great men." [1] Wilson believed they should focus on the contributions of all instead of select individuals. By 1976, Negro History Week, a time for remembering, evolved into today's Black History Month, embracing achievements of African-Americans, but also the cultural influences from across the world that have shaped our country.

American church historian Dr. Diana Butler-Bass, when referencing sociologist Robert Bellah "communities "have a history—in an important sense they are constituted by their past." He claims that "real community" is a "community of memory, one that does not forget its past." [2] The lectionary calls us to far more than to "hear the story" once again. It asks us to remember. To remember our story

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[1] <https://asalh.org/about-us/origins-of-black-history-month/>

[2] Butler Bass, Diana; A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story; Harper Collins ebooks, 2010

held up against the lens of God's story. Perhaps it is no surprise that we prefer looking forward, planning our next event, potluck, or worship service. Remembering is often painful, especially when placed against God's call.

Liberally sprinkled through the Presbyterian hymnal "Glory to God" are African-American spirituals. Crafted by the a multitude of hands instead of towering composers, these jewels of music squarely sit with one hand reaching for a better future and another, gently holding a past filled with pain and sorrow. "Let Us Break Bread Together" calls all together in communion, black and white, on our knees, looking toward the new day of the rising sun. The implication of a darker reality hovers in the memory, a past where all did not kneel together. "Were You There" demands we remember the pain of Jesus' torture and execution, placing us in the memory. The lyrics provide no escape or solace, "causing me to tremble." The memory of separation, implicit in "Let Us Break Bread Together," is clear when we sing "In Christ There Is No East or West."

Butler-Bass states again that "If Bellah is correct—and I believe that he is—then the primary calling of the faith community is to remember."<sup>[1]</sup> I can't say which, if any, of the many African-American spirituals in our hymnal we will sing this coming month. But if we do, remember. Remember that these stories, these messages, are from an oppressed community. We must treat them with humility. Remember our place in their story. But also remember the larger, expansive message each spiritual calls for. A world where there is no east or west, no north or south, where all colors of humanity kneel, and look forward, together.

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[1] Ibid

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](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org) by February 23, 2022.

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

Thank you,  
FPC Staff

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Pastor, Head of Staff: Rev. Katie Cummings; [kcummings@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:kcummings@fpcbentonville.org),  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Georgia Senor; [gseor@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:gseor@fpcbentonville.org),  
Director of Music Ministry: Brian Breeding; [brian@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:brian@fpcbentonville.org)  
Organist/accompanist: Kristy Olefsky  
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie Flood; [kflood@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:kflood@fpcbentonville.org)  
Financial Manager: Kimberlyn Edmundson; [financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org)  
Facility Maintenance Manager : Larry Hall; [facilities@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:facilities@fpcbentonville.org)  
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes; [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)  
AV Tech and Communications Support: Ross Macartney (interim),  
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; [zcooper@fpcbentonville.org](mailto: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.