

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH DURING WORSHIP!



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



FPC News

August 2022

Here's What's Happening

August 1 - 5

My Friends and Me Teacher in-service week

August 7

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship with the Lord's Supper at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online
Youth Group, End of Summer Celebration, 4:30pm - 6pm

August 12

J St. Kids and Club 456 Movie Night, 6pm - 8:30pm

August 14 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism and the Blessing of the
Backpacks at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online

August 21

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online
Deacon meeting, 11:30am in the Library
Usher Training, 11:30am

August 22

Stated Session Meeting, 6:00pm in the Library

August 26

Conversations that Matter, by reservation, 6:30pm

August 28

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship at 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online
Congregational Listening Session, following worship with lunch in
Fellowship Hall

August 29

Newcomer Gathering, 6:30pm in the Library

Join us! Your voice matters

**All are invited to participate in Listening Sessions,
hosted by the Church Forward Committee**



The Church Forward Committee (formerly Long Range Planning) is working to help discern what God has in store for our congregation and its ministries in the next few years. As we emerge from the pandemic, the timing is right to engage in prayerful discernment about the Spirit's movement among us. We want to envision God's future for us, and what next steps and priorities for our ministry together might look like.

The Church Forward Committee is comprised of Elder Krystle Sawyer, Elder Cie Cochran, Elder Denny Rogers, Elder Tela Webb, Elder Arisson Fox, Kim Whiting, Larissa Solomon, Cindy Bender, Jon Neville, Pastor Katie and Pastor Georgia.

As part of this discernment process, the Church Forward Committee invites the congregation to participate in Listening Sessions. At the in person Listening Sessions, facilitators will lead small groups of about 6 people in conversation at tables, using prepared questions to guide the discussion. At the Zoom Listening Session, facilitators will lead small break out groups.

There are several opportunities for the congregation to participate in a Listening Session. Please choose one that works best for you.

- **Sunday, August 28 at 11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall, lunch provided. All ages are encouraged to attend. There will be facilitators for children and youth conversations at tables as well. Childcare for birth – 5 years will be provided in the nursery until 1pm. There are no reservations required for lunch or childcare – just come!
- **Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall
- **Monday, September 19** at 6:30pm via Zoom

There will also be a Listening Session with currently serving Elders, Deacons, and committee Moderators/Chairs on Sunday, September 25th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall with lunch provided.

We hope that you will be able to participate in a Listening Session. The questions will be the same at each one. A notetaker at each table will capture the conversations.

After the sessions are complete, the Church Forward Committee will reflect on all of the conversations. They will share back with the congregation what was heard. Taking the things that the Spirit has lifted up through the Listening Sessions, the team will seek to synthesize and clarify toward concrete priorities and objectives. Church Forward will continue to engage the congregation and leaders in the process.

We are blessed in so many ways. Our congregation is growing, engaged, prayerful and creative. We have adapted and evolved in the ministries of the church during the past couple of pandemic years, and are now in an exciting and prayerful season of discerning God's guidance for the years ahead. We trust God to show us the way!

Update from the Property Interest Liaison Group

As we think about the coming years for our church, some have asked about the interest in our property. With change and growth in our community, and our location on the dynamic J Street corridor, it is not surprising that the Session has received expressions of interest in our property.

Last fall, the Session considered but declined to pursue further conversation about a potential purchase of our north field with shared use of our north parking lot. The Session determined that was not something that would further our church's ministry.

Earlier this year, the Session received an expression of interest in having conversation about purchasing our entire property, which would prompt a relocation. This was expressed as a long-term interest in our property because of our location. In February, the Session created a Property Interest Liaison Group to liaise with the interested party, and to consider various values and costs that would be associated with that sort of scenario.

The Property Interest Liaison Group soon came to realize that at this time, pursuing a conversation about our property is premature. At this time, our first and foremost priority is our Church Forward discernment process to clarify our ministry priorities in the coming years. This will be the focus for the Church Forward Committee's upcoming Listening Sessions – how do we envision all areas of our ministry as we move forward into God's future for us?

Once the Church Forward discernment process is complete (at the end of this year or early in 2023), then if the Session decides that further conversation about interest in our property is something we want to explore, we can then enter into that conversation with a clear vision of the ministry we feel called to pursue. Any potential development of that conversation we choose to have will be transparent and include the congregation.

We will keep you updated on any developments. In the meantime, we look forward to the Church Forward Listening Sessions, and the discernment process about how God is leading us in ministry.

The Property Interest Liaison Group: Trustees/Elders Harry James, Ken Ziervogel, and Denny Rogers, as well as Elder Mike Bender, Elder Tela Webb, and Myles Cochran. Staff resource: Pastor Katie.

We welcome Steve Miller, our new Financial Manager



Steve Miller started July 5 as our new Financial Manager. He is working hard to get to know our church family, our ministries, and our financial operations and procedures. Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Steve graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BSBA in Accounting and MBA in Finance. Steve has worked for Texas Instruments and Cummins Engine Company, and most recently served for 14 years as the Finance Director for the City of Pine Bluff. Steve lives in Bella Vista.

Steve's office hours are 8:00am – 2:00pm, Monday – Thursday. The Financial Manager email to reach Steve is the same, financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org. You can also reach Steve through the church office, 479-273-5450.

Feel free to drop by and say hello! Steve looks forward to getting to know everyone.

Cradle Roll

We celebrate the arrival of these babies in our church family born this summer!
Welcome, little ones!



Norah Jeanne Johnson,
daughter of Dacia and Josh Johnson



Eliza Reagan Sawyer,
daughter of Krystle and Paul Sawyer



Stella Jean Burdick,
daughter of Liz and Nate Burdick

Canopy NWA "Leaders of Tomorrow" program

We were glad for the opportunity to support our mission partner Canopy NWA in the "Leaders of Tomorrow" program by loaning them our church van for a week in June. Transportation is often a barrier to student participation, and the FPC van helped overcome this challenge. Blake Sherman of Canopy NWA coordinated the program, and described it this way:

Three organizations, the Institute of Educational Leadership, Media Sutra, and Canopy NWA joined forces for the Leaders of Tomorrow program, with the goal to support and mobilize immigrant and refugee youth living in northwest Arkansas.

Ten students with family origins from the Congo (DRC), Afghanistan, and Uganda spent the week exploring transformative storytelling and the power it has to shape individuals, communities, and beyond. The group traveled hundreds of miles together throughout northwest Arkansas, interacting with and prospecting the community, writing stories, and becoming amateur documentary filmmakers. One of the main goals of the project was for the students to share not just where they are from, but who they are now, and the goals they want to achieve next.

June 22, a graduation ceremony was held at Theater Squared in Fayetteville to hear the stories they wrote during the program and celebrate their accomplishments. As Joanna Krause, Executive Director of Canopy NWA put it, "I am so inspired by these high school students who are our future community leaders."

Shomari Ilembu Rimbo, of the Ilembu family that FPC helped to sponsor when they arrived in NWA in 2017, was one of the students that participated in the Leaders of Tomorrow program. Shomari and another student were interviewed on KUAF's Ozarks at Large; you can listen here <https://www.kuaf.com/podcast/ozarks-at-large-stories/2022-07-21/refugee-teenagers-are-the-leaders-of-tomorrow? amp=true>

To learn more about Canopy NWA, go to www.canopynwa.org



Children's Ministry



MOVIE NIGHT



FPC Bentonville
August 12th, 6-8:30pm
K-6th graders
Enter through front doors!



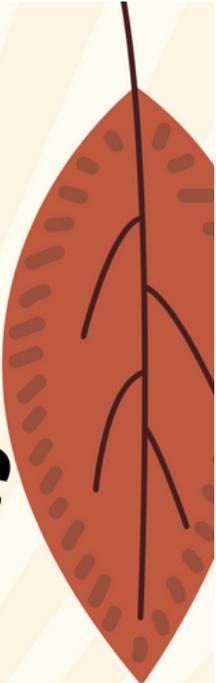
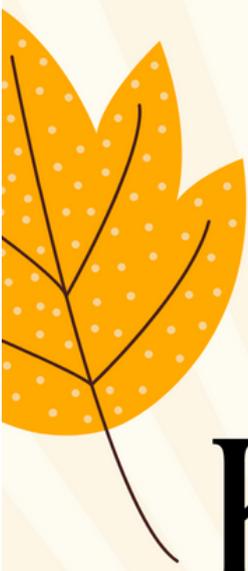
PIZZA AND MOVIE SNACKS PROVIDED
EMAIL KFLOOD@FPCBENTONVILLE.ORG
TO LET US KNOW YOU'LL BE THERE!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH DURING WORSHIP!





Fall Kick-Off

Sunday, September 11th 11:30-1pm



Children's Ministry

FPC Bentonville

K-6th Graders

Join us for lunch, fun, and learn
about our Fall faith development
opportunities!

Email kflood@fpcbentonville.org for
more information!



Youth Group End of Summer Celebration

Incoming 7-12th graders are invited to celebrate the end of summer with a game night on Sunday, August 7th from 4:30-6pm! We'll have dinner, ice cream, and lots of fun!

Jr. High and High School Students Save the date!



YouthQuake is an annual retreat event from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Look for more information to come from the Presbytery Youth A Team.

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday School

9:00am in the church Library

August All are welcome to drop in on Sunday mornings at 9:00am for a casual discussion/reflection on the preaching passages for each Sunday.

September 4 Adult Sunday School will not meet on Labor Day weekend.

Beginning September 11

Everyone is invited an Adult Sunday School discussion series on women in the Bible beginning on September 11th and continuing each Sunday through October 31st. This 8-week class will be led by Denny Rogers and will be loosely based on the book Every Woman in the Bible written by Sue and Larry Richards. It is not necessary to purchase the book. A review of the content for each of the discussions will be available as a handout.

During the course of our study, we will be re-introduced to some very familiar women in the Bible as well as other possibly not so well know women, as we discuss their lives and situations in the times in which they lived. As much as possible we'll also try to find out what these women and stories are trying to tell us in today's world and in our own lives. We look forward to the fellowship, humor, and respectful discussion in this time together.

Conversations that Matter: a fellowship event for those navigating the early and mid-adult stages of life

Friday, August 26, 2022

6:30-8:30pm

Conversations that Matter is a way of exploring meaningful questions in a casual way over a meal together. We will be reflecting on topics relevant to our daily lives and our journeys of faith, as we navigate early- and mid-adulthood (approximate age range, 25-50). **RSVP through Google Forms (link below)** or call the church office 479-273-5450



- New questions, new conversations
- Reservations required; seating is limited (see link, below)
- No cost (meal provided)
- What to bring: yourself and an open heart
- Dinner location: 202 SW O Street (the reception hall at the Museum of Native American History)
- Childcare at church (free, by reservation); drop-off at 6:15pm; nursery care up to age 4; activities and a light supper will be provided for ages 5 through 6th grade (older youth can assist with children's activities)
- You can come just to listen, or jump into the discussion.
- Questions: Pastor Georgia, gseonor@fpcbentonville.org

RSVP - click [here](#)

NOTE: We plan to hold a similar event later in the year for the over-50 crowd! Some of you actually bridge the two cohorts. Stay tuned!

Online Church Directory

One of the great features of our website (www.fpcbentonville.org), is our online Church Directory that we launched in 2020. It is available on your computer and as an app on your cell phone. This is a great tool to help our church family connect with each other. It's time for an update, and we need your help to make sure our Church Directory is accurate and complete. So, we are asking all of our members to:

- Go to our website, look under MYFPC, and click on CHURCHDIRECTORY on the drop down menu. If you have logged in before and created your password, just click ACCESS THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, and it will take you right to the directory.
- If you have not signed in to use the Church Directory before, there are simple instructions that will walk you through creating a login and password (using the email address that the church has for you), and verification via your email. Once that is complete, then click on ACCESS THE CHURCH DIRECTORY.
- If you would like to add the Church Directory to your smart phone, iPad or Kindle, you can get the Instant Church Directory for First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville app for free through Apple App Store, Google Play Store, or Kindle Fire Store.
- Now that you are connected, please check your listing under the Church Directory. Please verify the information, make any corrections using the EDIT button, and even add a picture.

If you are unable to access the directory with your email address please contact Amanda Hayes at administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org and she will assist you in gaining access.

Thank you for making our Church Directory a great resource for keeping us connected and communicating together!

New to the church?

Let's get together on August 29 at 6:30pm

The deacons and pastors will host a Newcomer Gathering on Monday, August 29 at 6:30pm in the church Library. Join us for a conversation to learn more about each other and mission and ministries of our growing church family, and to ask questions in a relaxed, informal context. If you are able to join us, please reply to Amanda Hayes at administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org or (479) 273-5450.

Ready to take the step of membership?

"Joining Day" is September 18

Perhaps you have already attended a Newcomer Gathering, or have been worshipping with us for some time, and are considering membership our FPC church family. Please let one of the pastors know if you are ready to join the church (Pastor Katie, kcummings@fpcbentonville.org or Pastor Georgia gseonor@fpcbentonville.org) so that we can take those next steps with you.

Please join us for our 2022 Clabaugh Speaker Series

Believing and Belonging: God and Neighbor Today

Dr. Eric D. Barreto

Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser Professor of New Testament
at Princeton Theological Seminary



SPONSORED BY



OCTOBER 2

SUNDAY

Worship 10:15 AM

"The We God Calls Us to Be"
Luke 15:1-7

Public Talk 6:30 PM

*"Tasting Salvation: Food,
Belonging, and the Gospel of
Luke"*

OCTOBER 3

MONDAY

**Lunch & Talk 12:00 noon
(RSVP to Church office)**

*"Preaching and Scripture in
the Midst of Crisis"*

Public Talk 7:00 PM

*"The Bible and Our
Differences: Race and
Belonging in the Acts of the
Apostles"*



No charge; all are welcome; all events are at the church

Worship and evening talks will be livestreamed.

First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville, 901 NE J ST, Bentonville AR 72712

www.fpcbentonville.org, 479-273-5450

Eric D. Barreto

Eric D. Barreto is the Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. He earned a BA in religion from Oklahoma Baptist University, an MDiv from Princeton Seminary, and a PhD in New Testament from Emory University. Prior to coming to Princeton Seminary, he served as associate professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, and also taught as an adjunct professor at the Candler School of Theology and McAfee School of Theology.

As a Baptist minister (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship), Dr. Barreto has pursued scholarship for the sake of the church, and he regularly writes for and teaches in faith communities around the country. He has also been a leader in the Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium, a national, ecumenical, and inter-constitutional consortium comprised of some of the top seminaries, theological schools, and religion departments in the country. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

He is the author of *Ethnic Negotiations: The Function of Race and Ethnicity in Acts 16* (Mohr Siebeck, 2010), the co-author of *Exploring the Bible* (Fortress Press, 2016), and editor of *Reading Theologically* (Fortress Press, 2014). For more, go to ericbarreto.com and follow him on Twitter (@ericbarreto).

Caring for Our Community



Photo credit: Ronak Valobohai on unsplash

Our church's **Emergency Response Fund** provides direct support to members of our congregation and community who are struggling financially. Through your generous contributions, we are able to say "yes!" to individuals and families who ask us if there is any way that the church can help them in their unexpected time of distress. We provide gas cards, grocery gift cards, and other emergency financial help. We will never realize all the ripple effects of serving Christ by helping our neighbors in this way. THANK YOU for your support!

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE NOW](#)

If you need assistance:

For confidential needs contact Pastor Georgia
gseonor@fpcbentonville.org

Presbyterian Women News

Renee Nestor and Cathy Rogers attended the PW Synod of the Sun Gathering July 21-23rd in New Orleans, La. There were 12 attendees from the Arkansas Presbytery. The theme for the gathering was 'Remember the Sabbath', also the focus of the 2022-2023 Horizons Bible Study called 'Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight'.

Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary, is the author and was the keynote speaker and introduced the Bible study. The breakout sessions, sermons, tours, and workshops all tied into the practice of Sabbath. We will be highlighting different sessions over several months in the PW section of the newsletter. Thank you for all the prayers and support.

Renee Nestor and Cathy Rogers

My Friends And Me Learning Center is Hiring!

Current Openings

- **Full-time Aide Positions**

We are looking to fill Teacher Aide positions. We seek a caring and compassionate individual who knows classroom procedures and techniques in a childcare setting. The individual should be energetic, dependable, passionate about working with children, and willing to learn and work as a team.

- Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm or 5:30 pm

A Summary of General Assembly Actions

The 225th meeting of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) has officially come to a close. There was much prayer and worship and discussion, and many motions and votes. If you are curious and would like to read a very brief overview, [click here](#).

If there are things you would like to read about more in-depth, [click here](#) for the Presbyterian Outlook's archives of articles throughout the entire Assembly.



Music Notes from Brian

How can I keep from singing (or any music making)

A very short quiz. Name a Christian denomination that does NOT have music in worship. (Cue Jeopardy theme) The only denomination I could find is the original Quakers. As a sect splitting off from the Church of England, they rejected music, specifically singing, because any group singing could not be spontaneous and truly authentic, two fundamental ideas within the church. Later branches have included music. The American Church of Christ has historically rejected instruments, but not singing. Presbyterians have always sung, beginning with primarily the Psalms. Singing, and music making in general, has not only been a core part of Christian worship, but it is also one of the very few guidelines from scripture for worship.

“O come, let us sing unto the Lord,” - Psalm 95:1; “Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God,” - Psalm 147:1; “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” - Colossians 3:16; “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.” - James 5:13. The Hebrew and Christian scriptures are filled with admonitions to sing. We simply can't ignore this vital part of our heritage.

But what about musical instruments? “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.” - Psalm 100:1-2; “Sing for joy to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob. Raise a song, strike the timbrel, the sweet sounding lyre with the harp.” - Psalm 81:1-2; “Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre!” - Psalm 57:8-9. While we don't find the same commands to “strike the timbrel” in Christian scripture, we cannot assume this as a negative. Early Christians worshiped in small house groups, without the benefit of institutional music support, and as persecution increased, the use of instruments could be dangerous. So, once again, we can't get away from any part of music making in worship, vocal or instrumental.

So where does that leave a 21st-century Christian? In the U.S., we live in a culture swimming in music. It is almost unavoidable. TV, movies, radio, streaming platforms of all kinds—music is the background to our lives. And not just any music. Professional produced and selected specifically for consumption. Famous march composer John Phillip Sousa, on experiencing the early phonograph commented, “Now, in this the twentieth century, come these talking and playing machines,...What of the national throat? Will it not weaken? What of the national chest? Will it not shrink? When a mother can turn on the phonograph with the same ease that she applies to the electric light, will she croon her baby to slumber with sweet lullabys, or will the infant be put to sleep by machinery?” Words spoken over a century ago now painfully haunt us. How many times have any of us, when faced with the sounds of professional music, of any style, blanched at the prospect of others hearing our voice? Yet we still can't ignore the scripture, calling us to sing and play, to God. What is the solution?

At this point, you are no doubt musing “I know what Brian is going to say now, come sing in the choir.” Later. First, let me remind you that each Sunday during worship, when Kristy plays the piano or organ, and we are invited to sing hymns and responses, you are in the choir. You are in the most important choir of the church, the congregation. To refuse to sing, well, I refer you back to those verses listed at the beginning of this article. No one is recording you, and if we are all painfully honest, no one cares how each of us sounds when singing in the congregation. I haven't found a scripture that says “Sing to the Lord with a perfect voice.” So SING!

Now I will encourage any who wants to try a bit more singing to join the Chancel Choir. There are NO auditions. Only a willingness to do the best one can, learn, and attend rehearsals. That's it. Oh, by the way, rehearsals are each Sunday at 9 am, so that excuse you can't sing in the choir because of that rehearsal on a weekday evening....

While we don't normally strike timbrels or harps in worship, we do ring bells. Playing handbells does require a bit of knowledge reading music and counting. But again, with a willingness to learn and do your best, almost anyone can play in the Chancel Bells. Guess what? Chancel Bells ALSO rehearse on Sunday, immediately after worship at 11:30.

These are the adult ensembles offered today at First Presbyterian. However, if you play an instrument, there is always an opportunity to include you in worship. All it takes is to let me know.

I hope you will be part of the joy of making music, from the pew or the chancel. I can promise that making music, at any level, opens up experiences of the Divine that nothing else can.

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 August 24, 2022.

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. Dr. Georgia Senior; gseior@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: Steve Miller; 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 come to:

- 1) **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.