

*Jesus,
our Lord,
Emmanuel,
while we are waiting,
come.*

FPC News

December 2022

Here's What's Happening

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



December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship 10:15am with the Lord's Supper and the Sacrament of
Baptism in the Sanctuary & online
Confirmation Class, 3pm
All Ages Christmas Caroling, 4-6pm

December 5

Stated Session Meeting, 6pm in the Library

December 8

Presbyterian Women, 9:30am in the Library

December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online
Merry Christmas Brunch, 11:30am
Confirmation Class, 3pm
Service of Solace in the Sanctuary, music 4pm, service 4:30pm

December 15

Presbyterian Women, 6:00pm in the Library
Bentonville High School Chamber Orchestra, 7pm in the
Sanctuary

December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

December 23 - January 2

My Friends and Me Learning Center closed

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Traditional Candlelight Service, 6:30pm

December 25 - Christmas Day

Worship 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online casual and fun,
pajamas welcome. Waffles after the service.

December 26 - January 2

Church office closed

January 1 - First Sunday of Christmas

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



Join us during Advent and Christmas

First Sunday of Advent **November 27**
Worship 10:15am

Second Sunday of Advent **December 4**
Celebration of the Lord's Supper 10:15am
and the Sacrament of Baptism

Caroling for all ages 4:00pm
Meet in Fellowship Hall, then
caroling at Legacy Village across the street

Third Sunday of Advent **December 11**
Worship 10:15am
Christmas Brunch 11:30am
Service of Solace 4:00pm, music
4:30pm, service

Concert **December 15**
Bentonville High School 7:00pm
Chamber Orchestra

Fourth Sunday of Advent **December 18**
Music Sunday, Worship 10:15am
and the Sacrament of Baptism

Christmas Eve Worship **December 24**
Traditional Candlelight Service 6:30pm

Christmas Day Worship **December 25**
Casual and fun, pajamas welcome 10:15am
Waffles after the service

First Sunday of Christmas **January 1**
Worship with the Lord's Supper 10:15am

Home Advent Kits

We are offering free home Advent kits, which include a set of five candles, a tree-slice base with candle slots, and a devotional booklet with prayers and scripture. You are encouraged to light candles at home each week as part of your own Advent devotional time. You can pick up a home Advent kit at church. If you have a tree-slice base from previous years, you can simply pick up candles and the devotional booklet.

Advent Devotional

"Attending to Advent: poetry, prose and prayer"
from the Presbyterian Outlook

These daily devotionals center around a weekly theme: Mary, Joseph, Herod, and the Christ child. You may pick up a copy at church, or enjoy a viewable digital version at https://issuu.com/pres-outlook/docs/advent-2022_half-letter_color_combined?fr=sM2FmZjU0MDI5ODU

Order a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one

Poinsettias will bring beauty to our sanctuary in December. If you would like to order one in honor or memory of a loved one, with their name(s) included in our Christmas Eve worship guide, please contact Amanda in the church office at administrative assistant@fpcbentonville.org by Friday, December 9. Poinsettias are \$12 each, and you are welcome to take it home with you after Christmas Eve worship.

All ages Christmas caroling, December 4

Everyone is invited to join us for Christmas Caroling at Legacy Village on Sunday, December 4th. No singing experience required! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00pm for some light snacks, rehearse a few songs, and then walk across the street to Legacy Village to carol for the residents. This is an all ages event and parents are asked to remain with their children. We hope to see you there!

Children's Ministry

Coming up in December

12/11- Rest Day (No Programming)

12/18- Rest Day (No Programming)

12/25- Pajamas and Waffles Christmas Day Worship 10:15am

The Children's Team recognizes that we are entering into a very busy season and hopes that less items on the calendar open up some time for your family to spend quality time together and reflect on the wonder of the Advent season. There will be various opportunities for the whole congregation to gather together as well as family devotionals to help guide you through this season.

Save the Date- Summer Camp @ Ferncliff

Incoming 3-5th graders are invited to join us for summer camp at Ferncliff! We will be going **July 30th-August 4th!** This is a normal week of Ferncliff camp that our church is attending together. Church will help coordinate transportation, offer financial help, and provide the opportunity to bunk with your church friends! The Children's Team is excited to offer this opportunity!

Please be in contact with Katie Flood, kflood@fpcbentonville.org with any questions.



Join our church family for a Merry Christmas Brunch after our worship service, December 11th, in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the congregation are invited to bring breakfast casseroles, quiche, bread, fruit or other brunch contributions.

The Fellowship Team will provide beverages.

We will be using our dishes and we welcome congregation members to sign up for our clean up team by following this Sign Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090545ADA828AAFA7-christmas>

There will be Fellowship Committee members in the kitchen before worship if you have a dish that needs to go in the oven prior to brunch. Hope to see everyone there!

Service of Solace

Sunday, December 11 at 4:30pm (music begins at 4:00pm)



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 4:00 to enjoy the stillness of the sanctuary while Kristy plays the piano. When the service begins at 4:30 pm, 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.

Photo: Sixteen Miles Out, on Unsplash

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday School 9:00am in the church Library

Advent study: December 4, 11 & 18

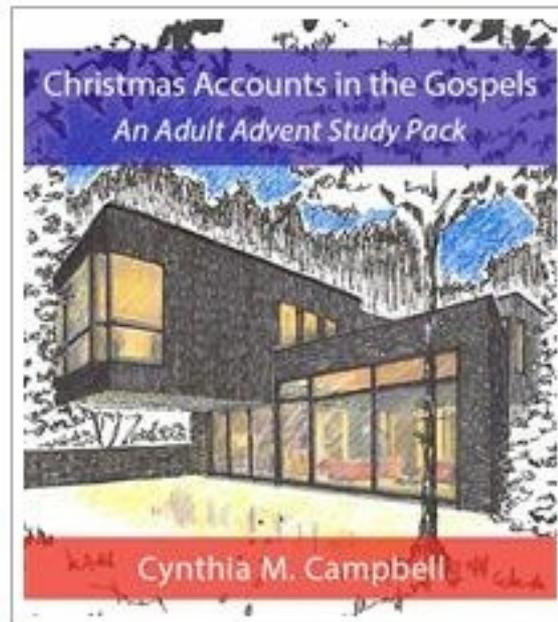
“Christmas Accounts in the Gospels” by Cynthia M. Campbell

Experience how Christmas is observed in each of the four Gospels. The study compares each of the Gospels to homes that Christians visit. Illustrations of each Gospel house are provided by artist Kevin Burns based on his interpretation of the shape and character of each Gospel. Together Christian adults will be challenged to see Christmas from the different perspectives offered in each house as they further reflect on the mystery of Jesus.

Handouts for each lesson will be available in the church office and at Sunday School. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion on any or all of the Sundays during Advent.

December 25 & January 1

No Sunday School.



Sacred Space: Our Chapel and Columbarium

There is a special place in our church building: our Chapel and Columbarium, located just to the left after entering the main doors. Our church's chapel contains beautiful stained glass and a Celtic cross as the focal point. It has been the site of prayer gatherings, preschool chapel story time, renewal of wedding vows, and services of Witness to the Resurrection. Church members are invited to sit and pray in the quiet space of the chapel whenever the church is open. It is also home to the final physical resting place for many of our church family who have passed into the arms of God. The columbarium in our chapel has available niches to reserve, for you or your loved ones, as you make end-of-life decisions.



A columbarium is a structure with recesses (niches) in the walls to receive and house the ashes of the deceased who have been cremated. Each niche includes a nameplate to memorialize departed loved ones. Generally, there is a service in the chapel when the cremains are interred, and then the chapel is available later for personal visits, to sit in peaceful remembrance and prayer. By reserving your niche ahead of time, you help your loved ones by taking care of final decisions in advance.

For more information on arrangements and cost, you can contact any of the members of our Columbarium Committee, or call Amanda in the church office to pick up a brochure and reservation form.

Cheryl Wright
Dick Macartney
David Atwood
Sherry Harris
Blake Hill

Presbyterian Women

December Bible Study

All are invited to attend the December Bible studies of Presbyterian Women, with two options: December 8 at 9:30 am or December 15 at 6:00 pm. Both meetings are in the church Library. We are continuing the study, "Celebrating the Sabbath," covering two lessons in one meeting. You are welcome to come even if you don't have the book. Feel free to bring a Christmas treat to share (optional). This is a great time to meet others and to share in fellowship.

Thank you, to everyone who volunteered for the Presbytery meeting, Trunk or Treat, and most recently, the Hanging of the Greens. Your willingness to serve is very much appreciated.

"Dinner with Friends" will start in January. Sign up now!



"Dinner with Friends" is back, and we are excited to spend time getting to know our church family better in these monthly small-group dinner gatherings. We form groups of 8 people including singles and couples. Groups share a meal once a month for four months. You can potluck at someone's home, or cover your own meal at a local restaurant. Don't want to commit to 4 months? Feel free to sign up as a substitute whereby you will be called upon to fill in for someone unable to attend. Sign up now through December 12. The Fellowship team will arrange the groups, and further guidance will be given. Sign up in the Welcome Hall , or by email to Cheryl Wright at cheryl.wright329@gmail.com

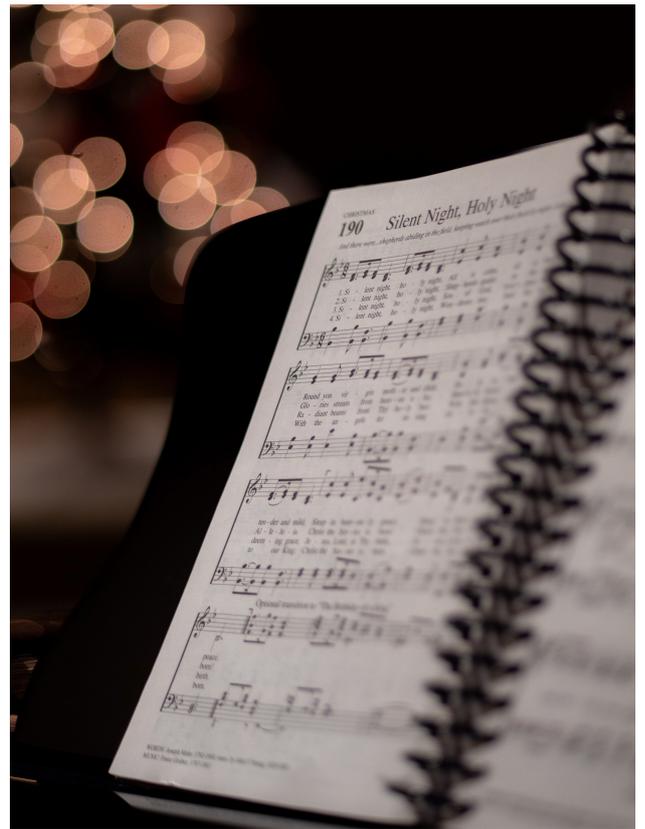
Music Notes

Brian Breeding, Director of Music Ministry

I don't place bets, but maybe this one time... I bet there isn't any other time during the year when more choral music is sung than at Christmas. Children's choirs, carolers, church music programs, and even choral concerts on TV fill the air from Thanksgiving through the end of December. Part tradition, part history, and part just fun, we all love to hear and sing Christmas music.

Christmas may be a year-round attitude for some, but at church, it is a season. Advent begins this year on November 27, Christmas on the 24th, and culminates in Epiphany on January 6. We have just six weeks to dust off those carols and fill the sanctuary. And I do mean WE! Everyone is invited to join the Chancel Choir for this season. Sunday morning we gather at 8:45 am to rehearse upcoming music. This season we will enjoy a Christmas carol sing-a-long on December 18, and culminate the season on Christmas Eve. No audition!

Questions? Just email me at brian@fpcbentonville.org and let's get you singing. I don't have to bet to know you will love it!



A full house for Thanksgiving Dinner!

On November 16, we gathered in Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving feast with church family and friends. With hearts full of gratitude, we shared an abundance of food and love around the tables. Pastor Georgia shared about her sabbatical trip to the Holy Land. Many thanks to our Fellowship team and all who pitched in to help with set up and clean up!



Turkey Day at the Food Pantry

On November 19, we had a wonderful morning serving our neighbors through our Food Pantry. Volunteers distributed 176 turkeys. We had planned for 150, but we still had a line of cars, so we went out and got more! We also gave out stuffing, cranberries and mashed potatoes, as well as the usual distribution of pantry, produce and personal care items. There was lots of sunshine and smiles all around. A beautiful day, and we are so grateful. Many thanks to the Friday and Saturday volunteers who made it happen!



Hanging of the Greens

On November 20, we gathered after worship to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season!



Sharing the Light of Christ with Neighbors in Need

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 our Emergency Response Fund (ERF) above and beyond regular contributions to the church. The ERF is a non-budgeted fund, based solely on direct 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 help meet people's needs when they are going through a tough time. This is a tangible way to share the warmth of Christ in our community.



Emergency Response Fund

"Serve one another in love"
Galatians 5:13

[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

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 21, 2022.

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 Senor; 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: 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.