



FPC News

March 2023

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



March 3-4

Presbytery meeting at Lyon College, Batesville, AR

March 5 - Second Sunday in Lent

Choir Practice, 8:45am in the Sanctuary
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship with the Lord's Supper, 10:15am in the
Sanctuary & online
Handbell practice, 11:30am
J St. Kids/Club456, 11:30-1:00pm
Confirmation Class, 3pm
Youth Group, 4:00 - 5:00pm

March 12 - Third Sunday in Lent

Choir Practice, 8:45am in the Sanctuary
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship, 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online
Handbell practice, 11:30am
Deacon meeting, 11:30am in the Library
J St. Kids/Club456, 11:30-1:00pm
Confirmation Class, 3pm
Youth Group, 4:00 - 5:00pm

March 19 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Choir Practice, 8:45am in the Sanctuary
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship, 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online
Handbell practice, 11:30am

March 24

Reception remembering Nancianna Nott, 1pm in the
Library

March 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Choir Practice, 8:45am in the Sanctuary
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library
Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism, 10:15am in the
Sanctuary & online
Handbell practice, 11:30am

March 27

Stated Session Meeting, 6pm in the Library

Youth Sunday was February 12

The Youth led us in worship based on [Luke 8:22-25](#). They also collected over \$1500 for the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year the youth decided that the funds would support the NWA Food Bank.



We Welcome New Members to our Church Family!

We rejoice as God adds individuals and families to our fellowship. We welcomed new members on Sunday, February 19. Pictured from left to right are AnnMarie and Joseph Pope, Kristina and Jeff Keeler, Zachary Taylor, (Melissa Monroe, current member) and Dottie Kemp.



Mark your calendars for our next Newcomer Gathering!

We will have a Newcomer Gathering on Monday, April 17, at 6:30pm in the church library. 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. Light refreshments will be provided. If you are able to join us, please reply to Amanda Hayes at administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org or (479) 273-5450.



During the season of Lent and the first Sundays of Easter, our sermon series and overall theme is “Conversations with Jesus”. The Gospels offer narratives of all kinds of people’s conversations with Jesus in all kinds of life circumstances. What do we notice in these conversations? What do we learn about Jesus? What do we learn from Jesus? What do we see in the hopes and fears of the people that we also see in ourselves?

May we be encouraged by these conversations, and by the assurance that it is our Crucified and Risen Lord who talks with us and walks with us on the path of life.

2/26	First Sunday in Lent	Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus and the Devil
3/5	Second Sunday in Lent	John 3:1-17	Jesus and Nicodemus
3/12	Third Sunday in Lent	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
3/19	Fourth Sunday in Lent	John 9:1-42	Jesus and the man born blind
3/26	Fifth Sunday in Lent	John 11:17-44	Jesus and Martha and Mary of Bethany
4/2	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus and the crowds
4/9	Easter Sunday	John 20:1-18	Jesus and Mary Magdalene
4/16	Second Sunday in Easter	John 20:19-31	Jesus and Thomas
4/23	Third Sunday of Easter	Luke 24:13-35	Jesus and disciples on the Emmaus road

HOLY WEEK

April 2 Palm Sunday worship 10:15am

(in person and online)

Holy Week Stories 11:30am-1pm

Intergenerational experience

April 6 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm

Soup supper and worship

(in person)

April 7 Good Friday 12:00pm

Prayer and scripture

(online)

April 9 Easter Sunday worship 10:15am

(in person and online)

Order a hydrangea in honor or memory of a loved one

Hydrangeas will bring beauty to our sanctuary this Easter. If you would like to order one in honor or memory of a loved one, with their name(s) included in our Easter worship guide, please contact Amanda in the church office at administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org. Hydrangeas are \$24 each; you may pay by check or online under "flowers" on the drop down menu. Click [here](#) to pay online. Order forms will also be available at the church. You may include multiple names with a single hydrangea. You are welcome to take your hydrangea home with you after Easter worship. Deadline to order is **Sunday, April 2, 2023**.

Adult Faith Formation

Lenten Devotional

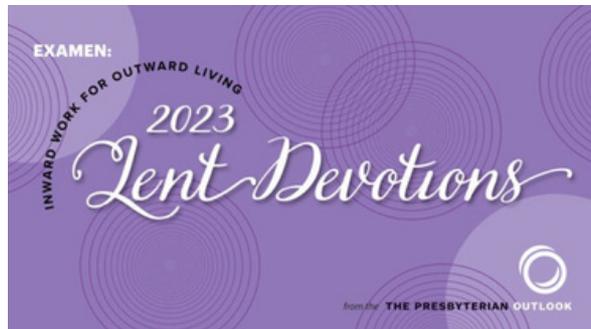
"Examen: Inward Work for Outward Living"
from the Presbyterian Outlook

Our Lenten devotionals this year come from the publication The Presbyterian Outlook and its editor The Rev. Teri Ott. The daily devotionals are based on the ancient spiritual practice of "examen" that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. The examen is a practice for discerning the voice and activity of God within the flow of the day. It is a regular time of coming into God's presence and prayerfully asking a few simple questions.

There is a different theme for each week of Lent, with an invitation to readers to explore the connection between internal contemplation and outward action. Themes include examining our fear to live with faith, examining our pain to live with healing, examining our dishonesty to live with truth, examining our joy to live with gratitude, examining our love to live with heart, and examining our burdens to live with blessing.

You may pick up a printed copy at church (in compact booklet form, or larger print format) or enjoy a viewable digital version any time at https://issuu.com/pres-outlook/docs/lenten_devotional_booklet_-_half_size_color_compre?fr=sNDE5ZDU3NDkzNjU

May God bless you and keep you on your Lenten journey.

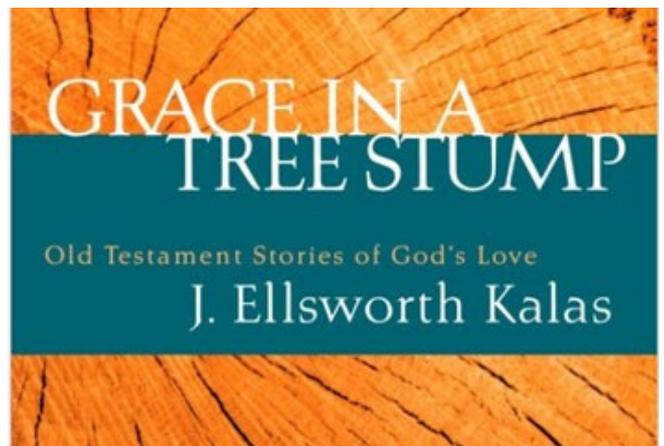


Sunday School 9:00am in the church Library

Our 2023 Study continues

"Grace in a Tree Stump" by J. Ellsworth Kalas

Each Sunday we look at an Old Testament passage with an eye to understanding God's love and grace in that context and for our lives. Each lesson stands on its own, so please come whenever you are able to. These lessons will carry us through the the winter and spring.



Copies of the book are available in the church office or at class, but all are welcome to attend and participate even without having the book.

Presbytery Mission Trip to Honduras

Roy Horan attended the Honduras Mission Network Retreat at the Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Lithia, Florida January 23-27. The primary purpose of the retreat was to build on and improve our relationships with the Honduran Presbyterians and further develop our strong relationship with them to meet their future needs.

The retreat themes were **Abundance, Friendship with Dignity, and Mutual Transformation**. We spent time taking a look at this Mission Network body and dreaming and brainstorming about its future and purpose. We had time for rest and fellowship and enjoyment.

There were 11 participants from Honduras and 21 from the United States from Arkansas, Florida and Pennsylvania. The PC(USA) was well represented by the Presbyterian World Mission group with four folks from the agency. Solar Under the Sun was also at the retreat.

Highlights included several interactive activities, including a statue building activity and the river of life activity, which included a history of our relationship with the Honduras Presbytery.

We also visited the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, which supports farm workers in the Florida area with a food pantry serving over 600 families every week.

Before and after the retreat, the Hondurans in attendance visited First Presbyterian in Winter Haven, Lutz Community Church in Lutz, First Hispanic Presbyterian Church in Tampa, and First Hispanic Presbyterian Church in Miami.

The group of Hondurans who attended the conference will be proposing the following 5 recommendations to the Presbytery of Honduras:

1. Resolve the land issues for a house for Pastora Gloria. (This might not be ready when the group from Arkansas goes in March)
2. Improve communication paths within the Presbytery, especially concerning financial matters.
3. Report consistently on the scholarship program to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.
4. Transparency in reporting on money received and how it is spent.
5. Enable better and faster decision-making, including the prioritization of projects.

We hope to further build our relationships with the Honduras Presbytery so that we can be true partners meeting the needs of our Honduran people. We also hope that First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville will begin to develop a sister community relationship with one of the Presbyterian church communities in Honduras in the near future.

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Summer Camp Opportunity

Sign-ups are live for our camp week at Ferncliff July 30th-August 4th! Those who will be entering 3-5th grade this summer are invited to sign-up at ferncliff.org! When signing up select Camp Create: Elementary-902 and write that you are with FPC Bentonville for the buddy request! Camp spots fill up fast, so it's best to sign-up soon! Financial resources are available through the church and the church will be coordinating transportation to and from Ferncliff! **Please be in contact with Katie Flood, kflood@fpcbentonville.org, if you have any questions!**

Easter Egg Hunt Donations

The Children's Ministry is collecting donations of candy (no nuts or peanut butter please), Easter Eggs, and non-candy prizes (small enough to fit in an egg) for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please drop off all donations to Katie Flood's office before Sunday, March 26th! Thank you so much for supporting this opportunity for families to gather and celebrate together!

Easter Egg Hunt

Children of all ages and their families are invited to join the Children's Ministry team on Saturday, April 8th from 3-4pm for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We'll meet by the playground in the north field. We encourage you to bring a basket or bag and look forward to seeing you on April 8th!



Children's Ministry



MARCH 5TH	J ST. KIDS/CLUB456	11:30AM-1:00PM
MARCH 12TH	FERNCLIFF @ FPC DAY!	11:30AM-1:00PM
MARCH 19TH	REST DAY	
MARCH 26TH	REST DAY	
APRIL 2ND	HOLY WEEK STORIES	11:30AM-1:00PM
APRIL 8TH	EASTER EGG HUNT	3:00-4:00PM
APRIL 9TH	EASTER	
APRIL 16TH	J ST.KIDS/CLUB 456	11:30AM-1:00PM
APRIL 23RD	J ST.KIDS/CLUB 456	11:30AM-1:00PM
APRIL 30TH	J ST.KIDS/CLUB 456	11:30AM-1:00PM
MAY 7TH	REST DAY	
MAY 14TH	REST DAY	
MAY 21ST	END OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION! TBA	



Youth Ministry

Youth Presbytery Retreat Options

Senior High Students- Youth @ Presbytery- March 3-4th at Lyon College

Senior High Students attend a presbytery meeting and have the opportunity to visit a Presbyterian college campus.

Junior High Students- Mission Possible- April 14-16th at First Presbyterian Church of Russellville

Junior High students gather for a service project weekend with other youth throughout the presbytery.

Please email Katie Flood, kflood@fpcbentonville.org, if you are interested in either of these trips.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser! Together our congregation raised \$1501.61 for the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank. Thank you for helping the youth tackle hunger!



Youth Ministry



MARCH 3-4TH	SENIOR HIGH YOUTH @ PRESBYTERY	
MARCH 5TH	PRAYER STATIONS	4:00-5:30PM
MARCH 12TH	TRIVIA NIGHT	4:00-5:30PM
MARCH 19TH	REST DAY	
MARCH 26H	REST DAY	
APRIL 2ND	EASTER EGG STUFFING	4:00-5:30PM
APRIL 9TH	EASTER	
APRIL 14-16TH	JR. HIGH MISSION POSSIBLE	
APRIL 16TH	SENIOR HIGH ACTIVITY (REST DAY FOR JR. HIGH)	4:00-5:30PM
APRIL 23RD	SENIOR SUNDAY	DURING WORSHIP
APRIL 30TH	YOUTH GROUP	4:00-5:30PM
MAY 7TH	CONFIRMATION	DURING WORSHIP
MAY 14TH	REST DAY	
MAY 21ST	END OF SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION	

You are invited to participate in the Deacon Meal Ministry



One of the most active deacon ministries is to deliver meals to members of the congregation when we learn of situations when a warm, nourishing meal would relieve the stress of food preparation, provide comfort, and boost spirits. We are there when people have a health crisis, experience a death in the family, bring home a new baby, or encounter other difficult situations.

This ministry could not exist without the many wonderful volunteers who join with us in delivering meals. In addition to home cooked meals, there is also the option to order food from a restaurant and have it delivered.

Opportunity for members to serve with us

If you are interested in occasionally providing a meal, **please email or call the church office** and ask to be on the Meal Ministry List. Include the following information: name, email, phone, and your preference for method of contact (Email, Text, Phone/Voicemail).

As a volunteer delivering a meal, you will meet people in the congregation that you may not know and you will find personal satisfaction in following Jesus by helping others. Recipients of meals express their gratitude in many different ways. One person summed it up best: "I feel loved!"

Remembering Nancianna Nott
Friday, March 24 at 1pm in the library



Come to a gathering at 1 pm on March 24 in the FPC Library, a place that Nancianna loved and where we shared many memories. It's her birthday, and is also the same day as her memorial service at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Some friends plan to join her family in Dallas that day. For those of us who are in Bentonville, please come and bring a story, a memory, even one descriptive word as we remember and appreciate her time with us in Bentonville. Wear bright colors...even a hat if you like!

Everyone who knew and loved Nancianna is invited. So spread the word!

A Bright Spot in a Dark Time



When church members or people in our community are going through a dark time, help from our church's Emergency Response Fund can serve as the light that is needed to see their way through the crisis. You can be a part of the vital ministry of this ministry in several ways:

- Support the ERF (Emergency Response Fund) of the church through direct contributions to that fund. This is a non-budgeted fund, dependent upon designated donations.
- Donate gift cards to the church for fast food restaurants or Walmart/Harps/etc., (small amounts, please, \$25 dollars or less each). We give these to individuals and families who stop by the church in crisis situations. It's amazing how much difference that makes to them.
- Join the ERF committee! Please contact the church office if interested.

Our church has been on the frontline in response to unexpected emergencies, in large and small ways. We have been able to work with our community partners to fill the gaps when regular assistance is not available. The children of the church continue to make "Blessing Bags" to share with those in need, which has been a wonderful addition to this ministry.

As we continue to see unexpected needs arise in our church family and community, God continues to work through the generosity of this congregation. Your support goes a long way toward helping families stay warm, safe, and fed through temporary crises.



[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

photo: Sai Balaji Varma Gadhiraaju on unsplash

Job Opportunities at FPC

My Friends and Me Learning Center Aide

My Friends and Me is seeking positive and enthusiastic individuals with a passion for working with children. The ideal candidate knows classroom procedures and techniques to guide, manage, and instruct children in a childcare setting and is willing to learn and work as a team.

There are two opportunities:

Classroom aide

Full-time, 7:30am – 2:30pm

Extended care aide

Part-time, 1:30 – 5:30pm

High school and college students are encouraged to apply for this position.

Financial Manager

We are seeking a full time Financial Manager while our part time interim Financial Manager Steve Miller continues to serve through the transition. The Financial Manager conducts the financial affairs of the church, My Friends and Me Learning Center, and the FPC Food Pantry. This Financial Manager works closely with the Finance, MFM, and Mission committees and reports to the Pastor/Head of Staff. Responsibilities include payroll, all transactions, financial reports, giving statements, MFM billing, resourcing committees, and some human resource functions. 35-40 hours a week; hours are flexible.

Facilities Maintenance Coordinator

The Facilities Maintenance Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the church facility, both indoors and outdoors, including equipment and systems, is maintained and functioning properly through regular upkeep, repairs, preventive maintenance, quality control, and purchasing of supplies. This includes performing the needed work as well as working with various contractors. This Facilities Maintenance Coordinator works closely with the Property, Insurance, and Technology Committee, and reports to the Pastor/Head of Staff. 20-25 hours/week; hours are flexible.

AV Tech and Communications Support

The AV Tech and Communications Support staff person leads and coordinates the AV team for worship production, live streaming and other church AV needs, and works closely with the pastors and music staff in preparation for in person and online worship. This position is responsible for keeping the church website up to date and manages social media posts. This position reports to the Pastor/Head of Staff. 12-15 hours/week, including Sunday morning worship. Skills needed include Microsoft Office applications, WordPress, photo and video editing, and ProPresenter.

For My Friends and Me position inquiries, please contact Z Cooper, Director of My Friends and Me at zcooper@fpcbentonville.org, or 479-273-5450.

For Financial Manager, Facilities Maintenance Coordinator, and AV Tech positions, please contact Pastor Katie at kcummings@fpcbentonville.org, or 479-273-5450.

Session Highlights from February

Electronic meeting on February 15

The Session voted by email to elect two Elder Commissioners to the March 3-4 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas to be held at Lyon College in Batesville. Elder Tom Senior and Elder Phil Cummings were elected to serve.

Electronic meeting on February 16

The Session voted by email to approve new insurance policies with Brotherhood Mutual. The timing of the termination of the current policy (February 24) necessitated an email vote before the next stated meeting of the Session on February 27.

Called meeting on February 19 to receive new members

The Session met on Sunday, February 19 at 9:15am in the north youth room to receive new members. Introductions were made, questions of faith were presented and responded to by the new members, and the Session voted unanimously to receive them into membership. They were welcomed in worship that morning. New members are: Zachary Taylor (transfer of letter from Cross Church, Fayetteville, AR), Dottie Kemp (reaffirmation of faith), Joseph and AnnMarie Pope (transfer of letter from Central Presbyterian Church in Ft. Smith, AR); Jeff and Kristina Keeler (transfer of letter from Maumee First Presbyterian Church, Maumee, OH)

Stated meeting on February 27 at 6:00pm in the church library.

The Christ candle was lit as the meeting was called to order. Pastor Katie opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 32:8-11. The Session shared a prayer exercise with deep breaths and praying "Lord, we are listening". Session received and discussed highlights from regular reports from ministry staff and committees. The Session also:

- Approved the 2022 Annual Statistical Report for our congregation, sent in to the PC(USA)
- At her request, removed Loretta Mouse from the FPC membership roll
- Approved the 2023 budget for My Friends and Me Learning Center
- Discussed draft Crystal Bridges MOU and easement documents, with items raised that will be addressed in future drafts of the documents
- Discussed but did not approve Baldwin Shell's request to use a lift in our parking lot
- Authorized Financial Manager Steve Miller to interact with New Covenant Mutual Funds on our behalf.

The meeting was closed with prayer. The next stated Session meeting will be Monday, March 27 at 6:00pm in the church library. As always, copies of the session packet and minutes of meetings are available from the church office.

Class of 2023

Cie Cochran
Kim Dixon
Hunter Breshears
Melissa Monroe
Ken Ziervogel (trustee)
Safi Harris

Class of 2024

Mike Bender
Nate Burdick
Josh Johnson
Tela Webb
Denny Rogers (trustee)

Class of 2025

David Atwood
Grace Blazer
Rick Harris
Kristi Metzger
Sue Redfield (trustee)

Sing with the choir this Easter!

Brian Breeding, Director of Music Ministry

When you read this, Lent will be well underway. Perhaps you are using the provided music links from the February newsletter as opportunities for Lenten meditation. Maybe you joined an adult class. Or even craft your own way to mark these 40 days. I am not sure the specifics are as important as the simple act of taking time to prepare for Easter.

This year Easter is celebrated on April 9. Hopefully, you will find the worship opportunities during Holy Week, from April 2nd's Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday worship, or an online Good Friday service, all guiding us through the story of triumphant entry, betrayal, and death in preparation for the resurrection. It is a story we all no doubt know well. But let me offer an idea that might bring a different view.

Easter Sunday we will celebrate with special music such as a brass choir. The Chancel Choir will prepare music specifically for the day. You are invited to join the Chancel Choir in this observance of Easter through the singing of not only the hymns but also special music. Two practices are all that is required, Sunday, April 2, and of course, Easter Sunday, April 9. Each practice is at 8:45 am, in the Music Suite behind the sanctuary. No audition! Why? Because Jesus doesn't audition us for service. He simply invites.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Breeding". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Please contact me at brian@fpcbentonville.org if you have questions.

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 March 24, 2023.

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 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 : Open
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.