

FPC News

April 2024



Sunday Worship

10:15 am in person and
online

Phone 479.273.5450

(answered Monday - Friday
8am - 4pm)

Email

info@fpcbentonville.org

Website

www.fpcbentonville.org
(church calendar found
under My FPC)

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:00pm

For more information about
upcoming events, please
contact us, visit our
website, or find us on
Facebook.

Each week, the FPC Food
Pantry sets up Fridays at
9am, and is open Saturdays
from 9-11am



Here's What's Happening

April 3

Choir Practice, 6:30pm in the Music Suite

April 4

Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library

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

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

J St. Kids, 11:30am - 1:00pm

Youth group, 4:00pm

April 9

Fellowship Committee meeting. 3:00pm in the Bird's Eye Room

April 10

Choir Practice, 6:30pm in the Music Suite

April 11

Rachel Circle, 9:30am in the Library

April 14-19

My Friends and Me Learning Center Annual Scholastic Book Fair

April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter / Joining Day

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library

Worship with welcoming of New Members, 10:15am in the
Sanctuary & online

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

J St. Kids, 11:30am - 1:00pm

Youth group, 4:00pm

April 15

Earth Care Task Force meeting, 4:00pm

Adult CE meeting, 5:00pm

April 17

Church Forward meeting, 6:00pm

Choir Practice, 6:30pm in the Music Suite

April 18

Men's Fellowship, 9:00am in the Library

Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room

Mary Martha Circle, 6:00pm in the Library

April 19-21

Jr. High Mission Possible

April 20

Men's Fellowship, 9:00am in the Music Suite

April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter / Earth Care Sunday

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library

Worship, 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online

Deacons meeting, 11:30am in the Library

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

J St. Kids, 11:30am - 1:00pm

Sr. High Youth group, 4:00pm

April 22

Stated Session meeting, 6:00pm in the Library

April 24

Choir Practice, 6:30pm in the Music Suite

April 25

Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room

JOY Group, 11:00am in the Library

April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter / Graduating Senior Sunday

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am in the Library

Worship, 10:15am in the Sanctuary & online

Graduating Senior Reception, 11:30am

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

ERF committee meeting, 11:30am

Earth Care Sunday April 21, 2024

Our congregation's Earth Care Task Force has coordinated with the Worship Committee to designate April 21 as "Earth Care Sunday" for our regular worship service at FPC. We are looking forward to hymns, scriptures, prayers, and a message centered on the theme of caring for God's amazing creation.

Members of the Earth Care Task Force will be greeting and leading in worship and will have a special gift for each person in attendance. As we consider our stewardship of this beautiful planet, we know that God calls to each one of us to cherish what has been given to us.



Note: On Earth Care Sunday, we would like encourage minimal use of printed worship guides (to save on paper, energy, ink, and printing costs). Worship guides will be available online through the Friday eblast on April 19, and as a link on Facebook along with the worship service on April 21. A limited number of printed worship guides will be available Sunday morning for those who wish to have one, but the service will be designed so that you can simply follow along with the screens and worship leadership.

Photo: Navi on Unsplash

For those of us navigating early- and mid-adulthood:

Conversations that Matter

Friday, April 26, 2024 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 (**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: to be determined
- 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](#)

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library April 7, 14, 21, & 28

During the four Sundays in April we will explore some of the New Testament readings suggested for this year's Easter season. We will reflect on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, look at the disciples' varied responses, and take note of how their lives (and others') were touched and transformed by the way of life God's Good News of Easter makes possible. The Rev. Dr. Chuck Miller will facilitate the study. No preparation is necessary. Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the church Library beginning Sunday, April 7.

J.O.Y. GROUP

Next gathering: April 25 at 11:00am, church library

J.O.Y Group, or Just Older Youth (roughly retirement age and older), is a lunch gathering on the 4th Thursday of each month. Of course, people of any age are always welcome. You are invited to bring a dish to share, enjoy great fellowship, and experience some type of program.

Questions, contact Jeanne Boehmler at 479-366-5904.

At the March J.O.Y.. Group, Hilary Horan Lex shared about her travels to Nepal.

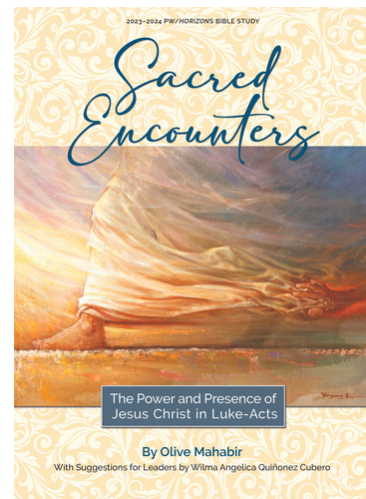


Presbyterian Women Bible Study: *Sacred Encounters*

Thursday, April 11 at 9:30am

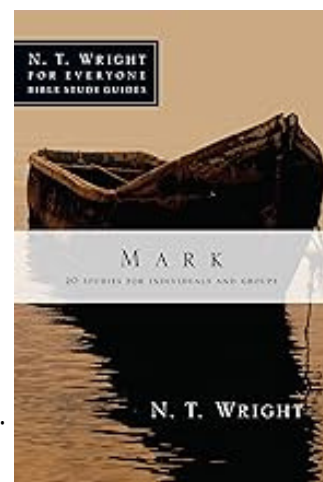
Thursday, April 18 at 6pm

All Presbyterian women are welcome and encouraged to attend either or both circles as your schedule permits. The morning circle is taught by Nettie Robek and the evening circle is facilitated by Sue Ann Overstreet. A copy of the *Sacred Encounters* study may be picked up in the church office for \$10 or at our meeting.



A Weekly Women's Bible Study

The Thursday morning Women's Devotion group continues their study the book of Mark. The study is written by N. T. Wright and is divided into 20 lessons. We meet every Thursday morning in the Bird's Eye Room at 9:30 for an hour except the second Thursday of the month in order to attend our regular PW meeting. All are welcome to attend. Study books are provided. Please contact the church office so that we can order you a book. Coordinator is Carol Ritchie.



April Men's Fellowship Gatherings:
Thursday, April 18 at 9:00am
Saturday, April 20 at 9:00am



Our men's fellowship has two opportunities to gather in April for coffee and conversation. You can attend one or both of these. Gatherings are casual and open to all. Feel free to invite others!

- Thursday, April 18 at 9:00am in the church Library
- Saturday, April 20 at 9:00am in the choir suite (behind the sanctuary – please enter through the southeast choir suite door in order to not interfere with Food Pantry operations)

Refreshments are provided. All are welcome! The contact person is Dennis Ritchie, d27ritchie@gmail.com, 479-715-2192.

Senior Celebration Sunday

Sunday, April 28th is Senior Celebration Sunday! We will celebrate the graduating high school seniors with a blessing during worship and a reception after worship. This year we are celebrating: Colby Monroe, Lizzy Howard, Hannah Johnson, Jonah Kincy, and Natalee Clark.



Natalee is graduating from Bentonville High School. Throughout her time in high school, Natalee has enjoyed cheering for the tigers, competing with Infiniti Athletics, and singing with the choir. Performing in the Noel program each year has been a huge highlight for her. She has also kept busy by working at Walmart (Store 100- go say hi!). This fall, Natalee will attend college. She will either attend Pittsburg State in Kansas or Univ. Central AR in Conway and plans to major in business.



Lizzy is graduating from Bentonville West High School. She was a member of the BWHS Chamber Choir and Model United Nations Co-President, Outside of school she volunteered at the public library serving on the Teen Advisory Board, served as the Youth Moderator for the Presbytery of Arkansas, and is ordained as a deacon. In the fall Lizzy will attend the University of Missouri, studying history on a pre-Law track.



Hannah is graduating from Gravette High School. She maintains a high GPA, obtained the ServSafe Food Handler Certification for culinary practices, and earned college credits. Hannah has been working in the church nursery for almost 3 years and assisted in the My Friends & Me program. She will also travel with the church youth on the trip to North Carolina. In the fall Hannah will attend Crowder College studying Occupational Therapy. Her long term goal is to earn her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy.



Colby is graduating from Bentonville High School. He was the Youth Deacon in 2022. He plays the French Horn and has been heavily involved in the band program at BHS. Colby plans on studying French Horn Performance in college this Fall. He is still awaiting acceptance from several schools of music.

April/May Children's Ministry

April 7th-	J St. Kids	11:30am-1:00pm
April 14th-	J St. Kids	11:30am-1:00pm
April 21st-	J St. Kids	11:30am-1:00pm
April 28th-	Senior Sunday Celebration	
May 5th-	End of Year Celebration	

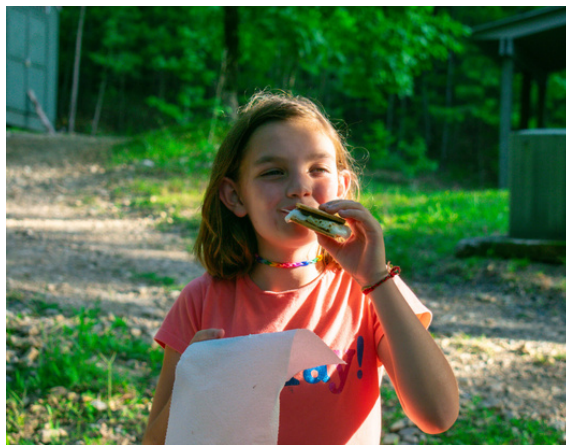
For more information on any of these Children's Ministry fellowship opportunities, please see the weekly Children's Ministry e-blast or be in touch with Katie Flood.

APRIL YOUTH MINISTRY

APRIL 7TH-	YOUTH GROUP	4-5:30PM
APRIL 14TH-	YOUTH GROUP	4-5:30PM
APRIL 19-21ST-	MISSION POSSIBLE	
APRIL 21ST-	SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	4-5:30PM
APRIL 28TH-	SENIOR SUNDAY	10:15AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE SEE THE WEEKLY YOUTH MINISTRY E-BLAST OR BE IN TOUCH WITH KATIE FLOOD.

Ferncliff Summer Camp 2024 - Scholarships available



FPC Bentonville's 3-8th graders will be headed to Ferncliff July 7-12th, 2024. Children entering grades 3-5 can sign-up for: Pathfinders: Foxtail (603). Children and youth entering grades 6-8 can sign-up for Trailblazers: Foxtail (605) at ferncliff.org. **Please indicate on the buddy request that you are with FPC Bentonville.** The church will provide transportation to and from camp. For scholarship information, please contact Katie Flood, kflood@fpcbentonville.org.

Youth Spring Trip Opportunities

Jr. High Mission Possible- April 19-21st.

Join us for the third annual Mission Possible service trip. We will be staying in Hot Springs and spending Saturday in Mena doing a service project with FPC Mena. We'll also spend some time doing fun activities in Hot Springs Saturday evening. This trip is open to 7-8th graders and is sponsored by the Presbytery. Bentonville will drive together in the church van and plan on leaving directly after school on the 19th.

When: April 19-21st

Cost: \$125/youth (Scholarships available)

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

Senior High Sabbath Saturday- June 8th

High Schoolers are invited to enjoy a day along the Kings River. Weather permitting, we will be spending time outdoors decompressing and detaching from screens. There will be time in the river, lawn games, and enjoying lunch together. This is a Presbytery sponsored trip. FPC Bentonville will coordinate rides to and from the church for this trip.

Timing: approx. 9 am - 4 pm - Kings River, NW Arkansas

Cost: \$30 / youth

Register at <https://presbyark.org/ministries/youth-a-team/> by May 25th

Stewardship and Finance

The Stewardship and Finance Committee reviews giving and financial statements, and helps ensure that our financial resources are serving our mission to the fullest, as grateful stewards of all the gifts God has entrusted to us.

If you have questions, or would like to be part of this ministry, please contact the church office (479-273-5340 or administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org) to be connected to David Atwood, Chair of the Stewardship and Finance team, or Nate Burdick, Treasurer.

Finance Facts as of February 29, 2024

Balance Sheet

- Cash in Operating Fund is \$163,265.40
- Designated Funds is \$188,041.65

Designated Accounts Activity

Funds were released from Food Pantry, ERF and Local Mission Funds.

	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	Better (Worse) than YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Revenue	\$36,076.28	\$142,707.42	\$131,868.76	\$10,838.66	\$774,691.00
Expenses	\$75,436.28	\$127,969.82	\$137,737.72	\$9,767.90	\$861,907.81
Net Income (Loss)	(\$39,360.00)	\$14,737.60	(\$5,868.96)	\$20,606.56	(\$87,216.81)

Emergency Response Fund (ERF)



“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry?” *Matthew 25:37*

Recently, a homeless family (single father, 2 children) reached out to the church asking for food. The father had lost his job, and subsequently his car was repossessed. He had spent everything he had left on a two-week hotel stay, with no money remaining for food. He said they hadn't eaten in two days. We gave him information about our church's Saturday Food Pantry, but this was a Monday and they were hungry (and they had no car). A volunteer from our church's Emergency Response Fund (ERF) along with church staff worked together to prepare two large boxes of food (from our Food Pantry resources), two "Blessing Bags," and a grocery gift card. The ERF member then drove to the hotel and met the father in the parking lot, providing the food, gift card, and a prayer.

When you specially designate an extra church contribution for either the Food Pantry or the ERF, your donation is well-spent in support of "the least of these" in our community. Thank you!

Click [here](#) to donate to either the Food Pantry or ERF.



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: Siegfried Poepperl on Unsplash

Traditions of Easter

At their March meeting, the Deacons discussed this question: What rituals or traditions do you observe for Easter? There are lots of Christmas traditions familiar to us, but what about Easter? Pictures taken among the wildflowers and Easter egg hunts came up. This year, the children and families of the church tried something new, something similar to a nativity scene. It's called a Resurrection Garden. I must admit, I had never heard of a Resurrection Garden before. On Saturday of Holy Week, our family and some friends gathered in the church Fellowship Hall with many others to read the Easter stories and make a Resurrection Garden. It was a good reflection of the message of Easter. It brought us all together for an activity, based on creativity and reflection. It was an activity I hope will become a new Easter tradition.

- Alex Brice, Chair of Deacons



My Friends and Me Annual Scholastic Book Fair

Mark your calendars to visit Fellowship Hall April 14-19, 2024

April 14: Kick Off from 11:15am-1 pm

April 15-18: 1pm-4pm daily

April 19: 9am-11am

My Friends and Me and the Library Committee will have volunteers available to help you make selections for anyone on your list. Books will be showcased for babies through second grade.

The My Friends and Me teachers and the Children's Library will have wish lists of books for their classrooms and the library.

The Fair accepts credit cards and checks only. Online shopping benefits us all year long. Shop online at

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/myfriendsnmedaycare>

Any Questions please email Wendy de la Rosa

wdejarosa97@gmail.com



My Friends and Me Learning Center

2024 Summer School and 2024-2025 School Year



Parents who want to register their child for the 2024-2025 school year must complete an **APPLICATION FORM** at the church website. To secure your spot, please drop your application off at the church or email your form to zcooper@fpcbentonville.org

Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Age eligibility is considered for classroom placements. Children are placed in classrooms based on age as of August 1. Preschool students (3 to 4 and 4 to 5 years) must be completely toilet trained.

The registration fee of **\$75 for Summer School** and **\$100 for the 2024-2025 School Year** must accompany your application form (s). Fees are non-refundable.

Thank you for considering MFM for your child's early childhood education.

United Campus Ministries Open House Sunday, April 14

United Campus Ministry invites college students to gather for meals, develop friendships, explore Bible study, serve others through local and international mission, and to develop leadership. Each week at UCM, students can come on Mondays for a free lunch, on Tuesday nights for a student-led small group Bible study, and Thursday nights for a home cooked meal and Bible study discussion. Learn more at the upcoming UCM open house.



YOU'RE INVITED TO DROP IN FOR A

Taste and Tour Open House

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024
FROM 3 TO 5 PM

Come enjoy good food, fun and fellowship. Learn more about the mission of United Campus Ministry.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY BUILDING
902 WEST MAPLE STREET
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS 72701

RSVP [HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/BLSHL](https://shorturl.at/blshl)



The logos at the bottom of the flyer include the Christian Church logo on the left, the UCM logo in the center, and a chalice logo on the right. Below the UCM logo is the text "United Campus Ministry".

EVENT PARKING
520 NORTH STORER AVE.
(LOT 68 ADJACENT TO THE STUDY
ABROAD HOUSE.)

CAN'T ATTEND BUT WOULD LIKE TO
CONTRIBUTE?
WWW.UCMUARK.ORG

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL
UCMKRISTI@GMAIL.COM

Vera Lloyd Garden Party Sunday, April 28

Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services has a vision for children, youth and families to have the resources they need to be successful. Dedicated staff carry out this mission every day through comprehensive services available to youth who live at the organization's residential homes in Monticello, Arkansas as well as foster and adoptive parents.



**BUBBLY
& BINGO**
Vera Lloyd's Garden Party

Sunday, April 28th **The Peel Mansion**
2 - 4 pm *400 South Walton Blvd. Bentonville, AR*

Hor d'oeuvres Live Entertainment Silent Auction Wine Pull Beer Tasting

 Scan this QR Code to purchase tickets today!

www.veralloyd.org
501-666-8195    

\$1 HOT DOG NIGHT

FPC NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

**NWA
NATURALS**

VS

WICHITA

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5, 2024

GATES OPEN AT 6:00 PM

GAME STARTS 7:05 PM

DISCOUNTED TICKETS ARE \$9 EACH

IF PURCHASED IN OUR BLOCK

PARKING \$5 (PAYABLE AT THE PARK)

Location: Arvest Ballpark, Springdale

**JOIN US TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
BEFORE THE OPENING PITCH ON THE FIELD
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DAN FRY**

**RESERVE SEATS THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE
ADMINSTRATIVE.ASSISTANT@FPCBENTONVILLE.ORG**

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 12

The church kitchen is gleaming!

The main church kitchen was recently completely emptied and deep-cleaned. Then it was re-organized and stocked. Thank you to those who helped including Pat Hagemeyer, Ruth Sanderson, Carol Ritchie, Linda Murphy, Mike McGinley, Katie Flood, Pastor Georgia and Kristi Metzger. If you notice needs for the kitchen, please contact Kristi Metzger at fourmetzgers@att.net



Music Notes

During the month of March, we featured bells, choir, flute, violin, organ, and piano through our Sunday services. As we focused on the Psalms during Lent, it was spiritually and musically rewarding to program music which helped to amplify and reflect on those readings, as well as the New Testament readings they were paired with. Also rewarding was our choir retreat on March 9 at First Christian Church, where, with the assistance of Kristy Olefsky and Jayme Amonsens (Grace Episcopal, Siloam Springs), we spent time together digging deeply into music and had lunch and fellowship with one another. Through the Hosannas of Palm Sunday to the cries of "Crucify him", Holy Week is a time of deep emotion for me as we consider the sacrifice made for all us, and then the risen Lord being proclaimed with brass, organ, and voices. He is Risen, He is risen indeed! On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for their words, cards, food, prayers, and concern for me and my family during my father's passing at the end of February. I am thankful to work in a church where not only do people care about each other, but they act on that care in real and powerful ways. Thank you!

Daniel Fry

Director of Music Ministry

Palm Sunday, March 24

On Palm Sunday, we processed with palms and gave thanks for God's goodness through the One who comes in the name of the Lord.



Maundy Thursday, March 28

We gathered on Maundy Thursday around tables for a meal, prayers, singing, scriptures, and the Lord's Supper. We moved outdoors to remember Jesus' crucifixion, and left together in silence.



Gathering in the Garden

Saturday, March 30

Families gathered to create resurrection gardens while they engaged with the stories of Holy Week.



Easter Sunday, March 31

It was a joyful celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord! We are grateful for the whole community as we gathered in person and online to worship and give thanks for God's grace and love in Jesus Christ.



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 April 22, 2024.

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: Dan Fry; dfry@fpcbentonville.org
Organist/Pianist: Kristy Olefsky
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie Flood; kflood@fpcbentonville.org
Financial Manager: Steve Miller; financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org
Facility Maintenance Manager: Mike McGinley, facilities@fpcbentonville.org
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes; administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org
AV Tech and Communications Support: Alex Brice; avtech@fpcbentonville.org
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; zcooper@fpcbentonville.org
Custodian: Open
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.