

# FPC News

## May 2024

## *Here's What's Happening*

**May 1** - Choir Practice, 6:30pm

**May 2** - Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am

### **May 5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am

Choir practice, 9:15am

Worship with The Lord's Supper, 10:15am

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

J St. Kids End of Year Celebration, 11:30am - 1:00pm

Youth group End of Year Celebration, 4:00pm

**May 8** - Choir Practice, 6:30pm

**May 9** - Rachel Circle, 9:30am

### **May 12 - Ascension Sunday**

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am

Choir Practice, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

**May 15** - Choir Practice, 6:30pm

**May 16** - Men's Fellowship, 9:00am

Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am

Mary Martha Circle, 6:00pm

**May 18** - Men's Fellowship, 9:00am

### **May 19 - Pentecost Sunday**

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am

Choir Practice, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

Deacons meeting, 11:30am

Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am

**May 22** - Choir Practice, 6:30pm

**May 23** - Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am

JOY Group, 11:00am

### **May 26 - Trinity Sunday**

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am

Worship, 10:15am

### **May 27 - Memorial Day**

My Friends and Me Learning Center Closed

Church Office Closed

**May 28** - Stated Session Meeting, 6:00pm

**May 29** - My Friends and Me Learning Center Graduation,  
10:30am

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

**May 30** - Presbyterian Women Mark Study, 9:30am

### **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

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



# Helping Hands Day is Saturday, May 4

Let's serve our neighbors!



Established in 1976, Helping Hands meets the needs of Benton County neighbors through their food pantry, community garden, rental and utility assistance, and help with diapers and baby formula. Much of their funding comes through the thrift store, supported by volunteers during the week as well as a rotation of church volunteers on Saturdays.

**It is FPC Bentonville's day to serve on Saturday, May 4 from 12-4pm.**

Volunteers will help customers at check out with bagging items or working the cash register, as well as keeping the store neat. It is a great way to serve! You may sign up ahead of time, or simply show up and we will put you to work.

## Ways to sign up:

- via SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CAFAC2EA5F49-49117730-helping>
- contact Phil Cummings at [cummingsphil@msn.com](mailto:cummingsphil@msn.com)

Helping Hands is located at 320 SW 28th Street in Bentonville.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
BENTONVILLE

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

END OF SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION

May 5th 11:30-1pm

Fellowship Hall and Outside

Children and their families are invited to  
join us for walking tacos, ice cream  
sundaes, and play time!

We'll play water games if weather permits!  
Parents are asked to stay with children  
under 5 at this event.



## Youth Group

**END OF SCHOOL YEAR  
CELEBRATION!**

**MAY 5TH 4-5:30PM**

**YOUTH ROOMS AND OUTSIDE**

7-12th graders are invited  
to join us for shaving  
cream whiffle ball, Raising  
Canes, and ice cream!

Rising 7th graders are  
welcome to join us for this  
event!

# Welcome New Members!

We rejoice as God adds individuals and families to our fellowship. The Deacons welcomed new members with fresh baked treats on Sunday, April 14.



Ann Greenwood



Dennis Bailey



Ross Macartney



Steve Rogers and Heidi Carlsen-Rogers



Aaron and Alicia Hall, Ava and Adria



Sarah and Luke,  
and Ford Jenkins

## High School Senior Recognition on Sunday, April 28

On April 28th we shared a blessing with our graduating high school seniors during worship and honored them with a reception afterwards. We are grateful to be able to walk alongside each of these seniors as they step into adulthood. The Presbytery of Arkansas also sent a special gift to celebrate Lizzy completing her term as co-moderator of the Youth Advisory Team.



**Do you have a graduate in your family?  
We'd love to celebrate with you!**

Along with our high school graduates, we know many others are graduating this spring, too. We'd love to celebrate with you! Please send the name, area of study/degree and school information of your family to Amanda in the church office ([administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)) by Wednesday, May 22 and we will include them in our June newsletter.

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**Welcome, Guadalupe Holguin  
FPC Custodian**



We welcome Guadalupe "Lupe" Holguin to our church staff! Lupe is our new full time custodian. She brings lots of experience in keeping organizations clean and organized, and enjoys being part of a team that serves others.

Lupe and her husband Estevan live in Springdale, and have six children.

She is working MWF 6am-2pm, and will soon transition to Monday-Friday. Come by and say hello!

# Earth Care

Composting is Easy!

As part of our Earth Care Task Force mission, we are discussing ways to increase our awareness of composting among our church membership. As some of you may know, we now have a composting bin in our church that collects all the waste from the food pantry, the preschool and church fellowship functions. This is picked up weekly by a composting business.



While composting businesses provide this service for homes as well, it is very easy to compost your family waste without an expensive service or elaborate composting systems. Our family has composted for years in a variety of ways. We have leaf piles in an unused corner where we bury compost during the winter, storage bins that rotate and holes dug in gardens. One of our sons had a 5 gallon bucket he kept in his small San Francisco apartment and composted with worms. His house plants were beautiful! Currently we have a bin which is half buried in the garden. Our waste goes in, the worms do their thing, and we have compost!

There are so many ways to compost and some of them are complicated. But here where we live, composting is easy. In NWA food scraps tend to rot and return to the soil very quickly, especially in the Spring and Summer. Try it on a small scale at first, perhaps just your coffee grounds, and then you will understand just how easy it is to keep our food waste out of the landfills. Get the kids involved and they will have a way to feel like they can make a difference in their future.

Also, please consider joining our Earth Care Task Force. Happy composting!

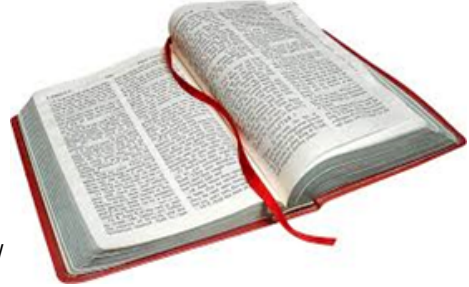
-Kathy McAlister, member of our congregation's Earth Care Task Force

*Photo: Lenka Dzurendova on Unsplash*

# Adult Faith Formation

**Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library May 5, 12, 19 & 26**

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: May 23 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.

Our Guest Speaker for May is Nancy Leake, who will be joined by a representative from the Community Center, will be sharing information on the new upcoming Bentonville Senior Center.



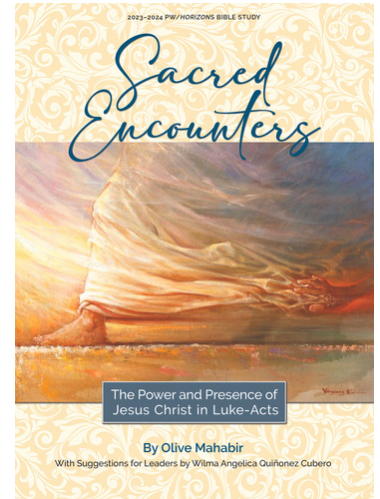


# Presbyterian Women Bible Study: *Sacred Encounters*

## Thursday, May 9 at 9:30am

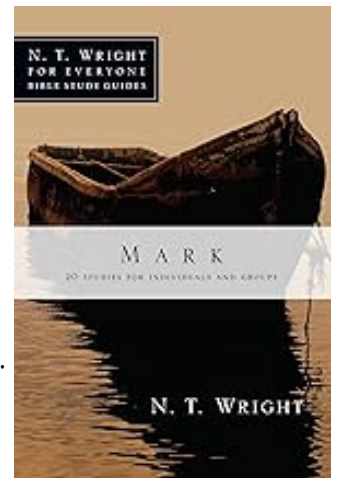
## Thursday, May 16 at 6pm

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.

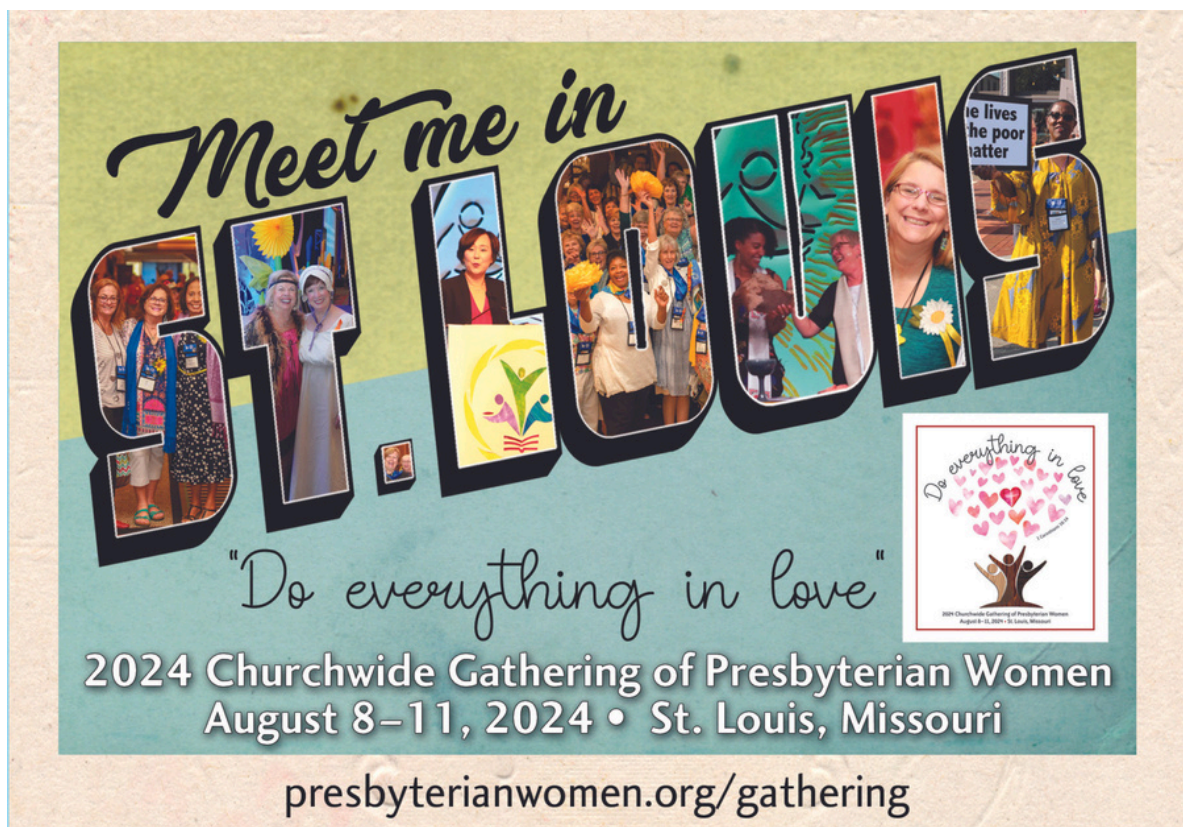


## A Weekly Women's Bible Study

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.



# Coming Soon: 2024 Presbyterian Women Gathering in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8-11



A little bluebird tweets that [registration is now open](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) for the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, August 8—11, 2024, in St. Louis, Missouri!

Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) to learn more or to register! And if you wish to speak with someone about the Gathering, reach out to Renee Nestor at [nestor.family52@gmail.com](mailto:nestor.family52@gmail.com).

## Take note!

Register by June 3 and receive a bluebird pin  
[Book your hotel](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) by July 7 to receive group pricing



**May Men's Fellowship Gatherings:  
Thursday, May 16 at 9:00am  
Saturday, May 18 at 9:00am**



Our men's fellowship has two opportunities to gather in May 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, May 16 at 9:00am in the church Library
- Saturday, May 18 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](mailto:d27ritchie@gmail.com), 479-715-2192.

# 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](http://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](mailto:kflood@fpcbentonville.org).

## 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



JUNE 5TH  
NATUrALS GAME

JUNE 28-29  
VBS: OPERATIOn SERVE

JULY 7-12  
fErnCLiff CAMP

AugUst 4TH  
POOL PARTy

TBA  
AmAZEUM nighT



June 5th  
Naturals Game

June 8th  
High School Sabbath

July 7-12  
Ferncliff Camp

July 20-27  
Montreat

August 4  
Pool Party

# Stewardship and Finance

At the April 15 meeting, our regional representative with the Presbyterian Foundation, the Rev. Josh Kerr joined us. He shared with the committee about ways to expand and deepen our stewardship practices as a congregation throughout the year.

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](mailto: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 March 31, 2024

### Balance Sheet

- Cash in Operating Fund is \$172,823.01
- Designated Funds is \$183,593.24

### Designated Accounts Activity

Funds were released from Building Maintenance Reserve, Food Pantry, and ERF Funds.

	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	Better (Worse) than YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Revenue	\$64,024.90	\$206,732.32	\$192,834.47	\$13,897.85	\$774,691.00
Expenses	\$67,616.81	\$195,486.63	\$208,440.85	\$12,954.22	\$861,907.81
Net Income (Loss)	(\$3,591.91)	\$11,245.69	(\$15,606.38)	\$26,852.07	(\$87,216.81)

## Emergency Response Fund (ERF)



Let us always remember our neighbors in need. Our church's Emergency Response Fund helps with short-term needs such as gas and utilities. All requests are screened by our ERF Committee. This is a non-budgeted fund, based solely on designated donations. Thank you for giving!

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

# Session Highlights

## Electronic meeting on March 12, 2024

The Session voted by email to approve a motion from the Worship Committee to release up to \$1,700 of undesignated memorial funds for the purpose of purchasing two permanent piano dollies. The dollies will allow support and safe movement of the pianos to enhance their use for worship and fellowship. The motion was approved.

There was not a stated meeting in March.

## Called meeting to receive new members on April 14, 2024 at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

The Session met to welcome and joyfully receive into membership Aaron and Alicia Hall, and their daughters Ava and Adria (reaffirmation of faith); Dennis Bailey (letter of transfer from First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, AR); Ross Macartney (re-joining, letter of transfer from North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA); Steve Rogers and Heidi Carlsen-Rogers (reaffirmation of faith); Ann Greenwood (letter of transfer from Central Methodist Church in Fayetteville, AR); Luke and Sarah Jenkins, and son Ford (reaffirmation of faith).

## Stated meeting on April 22, 2024 at 6:00pm in the church library

The meeting was opened with a reading from Psalm 148 and prayer by Pastor Katie. Along with receiving committee reports and noting highlights and upcoming events, meeting items included:

- Katie Flood shared with the Session about her journey and process toward ordination as a pastor in the PC(USA). Katie has been “under care” of our Session and the Presbytery of Arkansas since 2021, shortly after she moved to Arkansas from Michigan. Katie is currently “certified ready to receive a call” by the Presbytery of Arkansas, which means that she has completed all of the steps required by the denomination to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament. Any pastoral call process takes time, and Katie will be in an open and discerning posture in the coming months. The Session and congregation continue to support Katie in her calling, and are grateful for her ministry with us. Kim Dixon offered a prayer of thanksgiving and provision for Katie.
- Elected Ruling Elders David Atwood and Kim Dixon to serve as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the 156th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas on June 1.
- Appointed Denny Rogers to serve as Moderator of the Congregational Nominating Committee

- Appointed to the Church Forward Committee: Kristi Metzger (Elder in the Class of 2025), Hunter Breshears (Elder in the Class of 2026) and Troy Galloway (non-active Elder in the Class of 2026)
- Approved the following roles for Elders serving on the Stewardship and Finance Committee: David Atwood, Chair of Finance; Hunter Breshears, Chair of Stewardship and representative on the Personnel Committee.
- Dissolved the Property Interest Liaison Group with thanks, in light of the Session decision in November 2023 to remain in our current location.

The meeting was closed with prayer for individuals, the church and community, and world. Complete copies of the Session minutes, meeting packets and ministry reports are available from the church office.

**The Session**

**Class of 2024**

Mike Bender (PIT; Personnel)  
 Nate Burdick (S&F)  
 Josh Johnson (Preparedness)  
 Tela Webb (Church Forward)  
 Denny Rogers (CF; Trustee)  
 Sophie Webb (Youth)

**Class of 2025**

David Atwood (Stew & Fin)  
 Grace Blazer (Community Engagement)  
 Rick Harris (Mission)  
 Kristi Metzger (Fellowship, CF)  
 Sue Redfield (MFM; Personnel, Trustee)

**Class of 2026**

Hunter Breshears (S&F, CF, Psl)  
 Kim Dixon (Youth; Personnel)  
 Carin Martin (Children)  
 Sherry Holliday-Sklar  
 (Worship; Personnel; Trustee)  
 Gary Smyth (Personnel)

Pastors: Rev. Katie Cummings (Moderator), Rev. Dr. Georgia Senior  
 Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears  
 Treasurer: Nate Burdick



## Music Notes

Following Easter on March 31, the music ministry at FPC is still going strong! You will hear the Chancel Bells on May 5 and May 19, and the Chancel Choir through the month of May. On May 19, Pentecost, we will be featuring our music ministry interwoven through scripture. During the summer, music offerings will adjust to some solos, small ensembles, and occasional choir/handbell opportunities. If you have not been able to make a commitment to either of these groups, this is a great time to "dip your feet in the water".

Continue to watch for other musical programs and opportunities in the newsletter and in the E-blast. And, when you get an opportunity, please thank those who serve in this very important ministry in the church. We can always use singers of all voice types, but especially sopranos and altos, and bell ringers and/or subs. Please contact Dan and [dfry@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:dfry@fpcbentonville.org) for more information, or call the church office. We work hard, but have fun- just ask!

Daniel Fry  
Director of Music Ministry

# 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](mailto: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.

**\$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](mailto:ADMINSTRATIVE.ASSISTANT@FPCBENTONVILLE.ORG)**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 12**

# VBS: OPERATION SERVE

June 28th & 29th

A faith and service focused weekend  
for rising K-6th graders

## Friday Schedule

- 5:30PM: Check-In and Dinner
- 6:15PM: Gather and Serve
- 7:30PM: K-2nd Pick-Up  
3-6th Movie Night
- 10:00PM: 3-6th Pick-up

Register Here by

June 16th:



## Saturday Schedule

- 8:15AM: 3-6th Grade Arrival  
Serve @ Food Pantry
- 11:30AM: 3-6th Lunch/Play
- 1:00PM: K-2nd Arrival/Play
- 1:30PM: Opening Gathering
- 2:00PM: Mission Projects
- 3:00PM: Snack
- 3:30PM: Mission Projects
- 4:30PM: Closing Gathering
- 5:00PM: Picnic Dinner  
with families

## Presbyterian Women Gathering at Ferncliff April 12-13

Presbyterian Women from FPC Bentonville attended the PW Presbytery Gathering at Ferncliff 4/12-4/13. The theme was 'Thriving Together: Mind, Body, Spirit, and Community'. We participated in activities such as tai-chi, craft project, scavenger hunt, inspecting personal hygiene kits, and a group art devotional. The retreat was a great bonding and spiritual connection for those attending.



# Jr. High Mission Possible in Hot Springs, April 19-21

April 19-21st was Mission Possible, a Jr. High service weekend with the Presbytery. The Jr. High students were hosted by PC(USA) churches in Hot Springs and Mena for a weekend of service, fellowship, and fun!



## Conversations that Matter on April 26

With open hearts and open minds, our young-ish adults enjoyed a wonderful meal and meaningful conversation on a recent Friday evening. With scriptures and provocative questions, they deepened their fellowship with each other at the latest edition of "Conversations that Matter," held at the former location of our church. Thank you to the "over 50" kitchen servers, and to John Whiting for his expert catering!



We thank you and appreciate the collaborative effort that goes into publishing our monthly newsletter. We could not do it without your contribution. If you have an article, announcement, or image you would like included in our next monthly newsletter, please send your submission to Amanda Hayes via email to: [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org) by May 20, 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](http://www.fpcbentonville.org)  
E-mail: [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)

Pastor, Head of Staff: Rev. Katie Cummings; [kcummings@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:kcummings@fpcbentonville.org),  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Georgia Senor; [gseor@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:gseor@fpcbentonville.org),  
Director of Music Ministry: Dan Fry; [dfry@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:dfry@fpcbentonville.org)  
Organist/Pianist: Kristy Olefsky  
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie Flood; [kflood@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:kflood@fpcbentonville.org)  
Financial Manager: Steve Miller; [financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org)  
Facility Maintenance Manager: Mike McGinley, [facilities@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:facilities@fpcbentonville.org)  
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes; [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)  
AV Tech and Communications Support: Alex Brice; [avtech@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:avtech@fpcbentonville.org)  
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; [zcooper@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:zcooper@fpcbentonville.org)  
Custodian: Lupe Holguin  
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.