



August 2025

FPC News

Here's What's Happening

August 1

Committal Service for Maxine Rail, 2:00pm

August 2

Service for Dick Sterup, 2:00pm

Young Adult Gathering, 6:30pm

August 3

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

Youth Sacred Shakes, 1:00pm

FPC Night at the Amazeum, 6-8pm

August 10 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Worship with guest preacher Joel Gill, 10:15am

Sandwich and Cookie Social, following worship

Children's Ministry Open House, 11:30am

August 14

Men's Fellowship, 9:30am

August 16

Preschool/PreK playgroup at Park Springs Park, 9am

August 17

Summer Choir, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

Deacons Meeting, 11:30am

J St. Kids Kick-Off with Parent Meeting, 11:30am

Youth Group Kick-Off with Parent Meeting, 4:00pm

August 22

"Envisioning Our Future" churchwide dinner, 6pm

August 24

Summer Choir, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

Newcomer Gathering, following worship

J St. Kids, 11:30am

Youth Group, 4:00pm

August 25

Stated Session Meeting, 6:00pm

August 28

J.O.Y. Life Group, 11:00am

August 31

Worship, 10:15am

J St. Kids, 11:30am

Youth Group, 4:00pm

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



Pastor Nominating Committee Monthly Update



In July, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continued research on the budget of calling a new pastor head of staff. There are several elements to consider in the PNC process.

We are pleased to announce that the Church Forward Committee (CFC) has contracted with a church consultant group to help us develop a transition plan and mission study.

- Phase 1 is the transition plan—a roadmap that guides us from our current state through the first 4–6 months after the new pastor’s arrival. It will provide a clear, actionable framework for managing the transition and communication process, keeping the congregation informed and ensuring all key transition tasks are completed.
- Phase 2 is the development of a church mission study—a required step by the Presbytery. This study will tell the story of who we truly are as a congregation and guide us in identifying the right person to lead us forward. It will help ensure that our search is grounded in our actual identity and values rather than in assumptions or past narratives
- This work began in July and will take 2-3 months to complete.
- This includes a churchwide dinner, *“Envisioning Our Future,”* Friday, August 22, 6:00-7:30pm. Details coming soon.

“Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him ”
(2 Peter 3:14-15).



We ask for your continued prayers during this journey.

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Cie Cochran (chairperson); Roy Horan (vice chairperson); Kim Dixon (recording secretary); Aaron Hall; Denny Rogers; Janet Atwood; Joe Metzger; Dacia Johnson; and Devan Brice (representing youth).

FPC Night at the Amazeum Sunday, August, 3 6-8pm

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BENTONVILLE**

**Sunday August 3, 2025
6-8-pm**

FREE NIGHT AT THE AMAZEUM

Invite your friends!

Please RSVP to the church office with
your family name and # attending.

Call the church at 479-273-5450

or email

administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.

Sunday, August 10 we welcome Joel Gill as our Guest Preacher

On August 10 (Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday) we welcome Joel Gill as our guest preacher. Joel is the Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock. He is a native Arkansan and a graduate of Austin College. Prior to serving at Ferncliff, he worked with various camps and youth development organizations throughout the United States, including Arkansas 4-H Center and Heifer International. Joel believes Ferncliff is the perfect place to work to fulfill his passion of connecting people to God through experiences in nature while also satisfying his need to be creative and give back to others.



Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday, August 10



Sub Sandwich and Cookie Social, Sunday, August 10



Children's Ministry Fall Open House, Sunday, August 10



Children's Church

Children's Church

Aug. 3rd: No Children's Church

Aug 10th: No Children's Church

Aug 17th: Creation

Aug 24th: Abram and Sarai

Aug 31st: Baby Isaac

Children's Church takes place on most Sunday mornings directly after the Children's Message for children age 3-2nd grade. This time includes an activity, storytime, and snack. Children's Church does not meet on Communion Sundays.



FPC Bentonville Pre-K Playgroup

Join us this summer for a preschool playgroup! A playgroup is a relaxed meeting for children and their caregivers. Playgroups are good for a child's learning and development. They can be good for parents too, by providing an opportunity for fellowship and support. Contact Carin Martin for questions.

carin.s.a.martin@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

-August 16th 9-11AM at Park Springs Park

J St. Kids Fall Schedule



J ST. KIDS FALL CALENDAR



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER

AUGUST 17TH

KICK-OFF WITH PARENT MEETING

AUGUST 24TH

PRAY PERSISTENTLY AND HUMBLY

AUGUST 31ST

PRAY WITH AND FOR OTHERS

SEPTEMBER 7TH

PRAY WITH YOUR WHOLE SELF

SEPTEMBER 14TH

LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY

SEPTEMBER 21ST

SERVE A STRANGER

SEPTEMBER 28TH

CHURCH PICNIC-NO
J ST. KIDS



OCTOBER



OCTOBER 5TH

SHOW MERCY

OCTOBER 12TH

WASH ANOTHER'S FEET

OCTOBER 19TH

BE COURAGEOUS

OCTOBER 26TH

TRUNK OR TREAT



NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER 2ND

LIVE PEACEABLY

NOVEMBER 9TH

SERVICE PROJECT

NOVEMBER 16TH

SHARING AND CARING

SHOPPING

NOVEMBER 23RD AND 30TH

THANKSGIVING BREAK



J ST. KIDS HAPPENS FROM 11:30AM-1PM ON
SUNDAYS FOR K-6TH GRADERS AND INCLUDES
LUNCH, A BIBLE STORY, AND ACTIVITIES.

Youth Ministry Fall Schedule

YOUTH MINISTRY

FALL 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BENTONVILLE

August

3rd

SACRED SHAKES

1-2:30PM

17th

KICK-OFF/PARENT MEETING 4-5:30PM

24

YOUTH GROUP

4:00-5:30PM

31st

NWA YOUTH EVENT

TBA

September

6th

FOOD PANTRY

8:15-11:15AM

7th

YOUTH GROUP

4:00-5:30PM

12-14th

YOUTHQUAKE

21st

YOUTH GROUP

4:00-5:30PM

28th

YOUTH GROUP

4:00-5:30PM

October

5th

GLOW YOGA

4:00-5:30PM

12th

YOUTH GROUP

4:00-5:30PM

18th

CORN MAZE TRIP

TBA

19th

YOUTH GROUP

4:00-5:30PM

Children and Youth Registration and Liability Forms

Children and Youth Registration and Liability Forms

If your children and/or youth plan on being involved with Children's Church (age 3-2nd grade), J St. Kids (K-6th grade), or Youth Group (7-12th grade) this school year, please fill out the appropriate registration form and liability forms below before kick-off on Sunday, August 17th. Registration forms need to be filled out for each participant. Liability forms can be filled out for multiple family members regardless of age.

Children's Church (age 3-2nd grade)

There are no extra registration steps for you if you have previously registered your child at the kiosk on a Sunday morning. Please make sure to fill out the liability form.

J St. Kids (K-6th grade)

Please fill out the registration form below as well as the liability form.



Youth Group (7-12th grade)

Please fill out the registration form below as well as the liability form.



Liability and Permission Form



Thank you for helping us keep our information up to date and successfully plan for our fall programming.

J.O.Y. GROUP

**Next gathering: August 21st at 11:00am,
in the 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.

Jill Thompson, Program Director for the Alzheimer's Association, will be our guest speaker.



Dinner with Friends Sign up by August 24!

GROUPS OF 8 - INCLUDING COUPLES AND SINGLES
WILL ENJOY 4 MEALS TOGETHER FROM SEPTEMBER TO
DECEMBER 2025 EITHER IN HOMES OR RESTAURANTS.

BENTONVILLE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DINNER WITH FRIENDS

RSVP BY AUGUST 27, 2025
TO BE INVOLVED

TO SIGN UP - CONTACT:
KRISTI METZGER
FOURMETZGERS@ATT.NET
417-894-7130

*SUBSTITUTES
NEEDED ALSO

GROUP CHOICES INCLUDE
1. DINNER 2. LUNCH AND
3. RESTAURANTS ONLY

New to the church?
Newcomer Gathering, August 24!

A decorative border featuring a repeating pattern of teal leaves and stems on a light orange background, framing the central text area.

NEW TO THE CHURCH?

If you are somewhat new to the church, we invite you to a Newcomer Gathering on **Sunday, August 24** after worship in the church Library. Join us for an informal conversation to learn more about the mission and ministries of our growing church family, and ask questions in a relaxed setting with pastors and church members. Light refreshments included. Extended nursery care is available by reservation. You can RSVP by calling or emailing the church office: 479-273-5450, administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org

FPC-4-FPC (Flowers, and Plants Crew)

The FPC-4-FPC (flowers, and plant crew for First Presbyterian Church) Landscape Committee is very grateful for the generous support of our 2025 fundraising initiative, as we will begin to purchase new plants, shrubs, flowers, and trees for the areas around our front entrance with a planting schedule before year end.

We are excited to announce that we are at 85% of our 2025 target of \$10,000, with over 40 families responding to this appeal. If any of our church family would like to join in the work of the landscape committee with their donation to help us reach our goal, please do so in the month of August. (All donations of any size will be appreciated.)

Please note on the memo line of your check to the church that this is a donation to the Landscape Committee, or call our church financial manager, Hannah Cheeseman, and she will be happy to help you with your donation.

Thank you for your patience, knowing that there are other areas around the church that still need attention, we will certainly keep the congregation informed on our progress on this continued work over the next several years.

There will also be work done in August/September to trim some of our redbuds, maples, and other trees and shrubs that need a little attention before winter.

We appreciate your continued prayers and words of support as we go about this work to improve the appearance of our church grounds for our congregation, our neighbors, and our community.

Thank you, Congregation, we will stay in touch to keep you informed of our progress!

FPC-4-FPC Landscape Committee
Nancy Barnes, Bob DuBois, Roy Horan, Brooke Spenser
Bob Boehmler Co-Chair, and Gail Rogers Co-Chair

Music Ministry Notes



It's hard to believe that August is here already. Summer always seems to fly by more quickly each year!

First, an invitation to anyone (adults and youth) who would like to join us to participate in summer choir on August 17 and 24. We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 to prepare a piece to sing that Sunday. No robes, no midweek rehearsal-just come and lift up your voice!

We will also have other special music soloists in the month of August to enhance our worship experience.

Please continue to watch the Friday e-blast for updates about music opportunities and rehearsal plans for the Fall, and prayerfully consider if this might be a place for you to serve. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. We work hard, but have fun too.

Blessings and peace,

Daniel Fry
Director of Music Ministry

You're invited!

Sacred Creation: Justice Flows Down Like Water

October 8-11, 2025 | Fercliff Camp & Conference Center, Arkansas | In-person and Virtual

Presbyterians for Earth Care invites you to gather this fall for Sacred Creation: Justice Flows Down Like Water—a faith-filled, justice-focused conference exploring water as a sacred gift, a source of life, and a call to action.

Held at the beautiful Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center—with the option to join virtually—this four-day event brings together people of faith, science, advocacy, and service to engage deeply with the biblical and ecological call to care for creation.

Whether you're a longtime advocate for environmental justice or just beginning to explore the connections between faith and the Earth, this conference offers a place to learn, connect, and be renewed.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EVENT (Schedule, Keynote & Panelist Speakers, Lodging, Cost): <https://presbyearthcare.org/2025-earth-care-conference/>

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ATTENDING (including financial assistance or other questions), **PLEASE EMAIL:** gseonor@fpcbentonville.org

We hope you'll consider helping to represent our church for this meaningful time of worship, learning, and faithful action!



Clabaugh Speaker Series, October 19 & 20, 2025

**Save the dates for our annual Clabaugh Speaker Series
October 19 & 20, 2025**

guest speaker:

The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel



The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel is a nationally recognized preacher, teacher, and author. Originally from Anderson, South Carolina, she spent her childhood in Asia, London, and Washington, D.C., as the daughter of a UPI journalist. She holds a BA from Bryn Mawr College, an MDiv from Yale Divinity School (honored in 2010 for “Distinction in Congregational Ministry”), and a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary. Dr. Daniel has served as pastor in four congregations—most recently at the First Congregational Church in Dubuque, Iowa—and is now Conference Minister for the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ. She has also taught preaching at Yale Divinity School, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the University of Chicago Divinity School. An accomplished writer, she is author of:

- ***Tell It Like It Is, When Spiritual But Not Religious Is Not Enough***
- ***Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don’t Belong To***
- ***This Odd and Wondrous Calling***

Her work has been featured in the New York Times, PBS, Christian Century, HuffPost, Christianity Today, and more. She’s also an editor-at-large for Christian Century and a contributing editor for Leadership Journal. Dr. Daniel speaks widely at prestigious venues such as the National Cathedral, Duke Chapel, the Festival of Homiletics, King’s College London, and Queen’s College, Ontario.

Dr. Daniel will preach at the regular Sunday morning worship service (10:15 am), and give public presentations on Sunday and Monday evenings, October 19 & 20. She will also lead a discussion over lunch on Monday, October 20. All events will take place at the church and are free of charge. More details as to the specific themes and topics of her presentations will be included in the September

Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering, July 23-26

"Our Joy is in Christ" was the theme of the 2025 Presbyterian Women's Synod of the Sun Gathering, which was held at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, beginning Wednesday, July 23rd, and ending Saturday, July 26th. We had almost 200 attendees and volunteers from the States of Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Katie Jackson and Barbara Verdery of FUPC, were Co-directors for the gathering event. The Arkansas Presbytery PW team and local Northwest Arkansas churches contributed by providing cookies, breakfast items, snack bags, homegrown flowers for the tables, church van and car shuttle services, workshops, field trips to Crystal Bridges and the Fayetteville Farmer's market, workshop leaders, cleaning, setup, technology, music, and so much more. We celebrated the tradition of committed Presbyterian Women who have gone before us and hope that current and future generations will be inspired and dedicated to continuing the mission.

Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold of First Presbyterian Church Springdale, was our keynote speaker, offering challenges in our lives for finding JOY in the messy middle, and celebrating JOY in our lives in a vibrant and engaging way.

Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, the author of the new Horizons Bible study, *'Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ'*, gave an overview of the study.

The worship services, workshops, and fellowship were great times for sharing ideas and experiences across our Synod. The opening plenary session featured a choir made-up of men and women from Northwest Arkansas, including Joel and Dan from our choir! We had good participation from our church but hope to grow our PW footprint starting in the fall.

The PW Synod Gathering collected over \$3500.00 that will be split 50%, 25%, and 25% between Peace at Home Family Shelter, Ferncliff, and Vera Lloyd. A giant collection of school supplies was also provided for Peace at Home. We shared fun, games, and laughter all while renewing our JOY in Christ.

The next PW Synod Gathering will be in San Antonio, Texas, July 27th-29th, 2028!

We will be starting the new Bible Study in the fall, so considerer yourself invited! We will have a kick-off salad lunch potluck in the fall. Date and time to follow. If you are interested in joining a Bible study, or want more information about PW, contact Renee Nestor (479)531-7216 or Cathy Rogers (479)640-0866 for details.

Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering, July 23-26



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 22, 2025.

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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Parish Associate: Rev. Dennis Ritchie; d27ritchie@gmail.com
Director of Music Ministry: Dan Fry; dfry@fpcbentonville.org
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie McKenzie; kflood@fpcbentonville.org
Financial Manager: Hannah Cheeseman; 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: Zoe Hughes; avtech@fpcbentonville.org
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; zcooper@fpcbentonville.org
Custodian: Dalton Henson
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.