



September 2025

FPC News

Here's What's Happening

September 1 - Labor Day

Church office closed

My Friends and Me Learning Center closed

September 3

Family Faith Night, 6-8pm

Choir practice kickoff, 6:30pm

September 4

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30am

September 6

Young Adult Gathering, 6:30pm

September 7

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am

Choir Practice, 9:15am

Worship with the Lords Supper, 10:15am

J St. Kids, 11:30am

Youth Group, 4:00pm

September 10

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

September 11

Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30am

September 14

Choir, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

J St. Kids, 11:30am

Youth Group, 4:00pm

September 17

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

September 18

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30am

September 21

Choir, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

Congregational Meeting, following worship

Deacon meeting, 11:45am

J St. Kids, 11:30am

Youth Group, 4:00pm

September 22

Stated Session Meeting, 6:00pm

September 25

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30am

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth), 11:00 am

September 28

Worship in the Park and potluck picnic, 10:15am



Photo: Twin Falls at Camp Orr in Jasper, AR

Pastor Nominating Committee Monthly Update



In August, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) worked with the Church Forward Committee (CFC) and PneuMatrix Consultants on developing the all-church survey, which will result in a transition plan and mission study. As a reminder:

- Phase 1 is the transition plan—a roadmap that guides us where we are through the first 4–6 months after the new pastor's arrival.
- Phase 2 is the mission study or story about our church that will help us find the right person to lead the church that we really are, instead of the one we are in our imaginations and narratives.

We hosted, with the CFC, a dinner on August 22nd, where we met with Michelle and Pastor Reginald from PneuMatrix to answer questions about the work we have been doing. We participated in conversations about the direction of our church at this time of pastoral transition.

Our all church survey was sent out on August 23rd, and we hope you have had the opportunity to complete it. If not, please do so ASAP.

“...endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us.” Romans 5:4-5

We ask for your continued prayers and patience 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).



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 21

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 21 in the sanctuary after the 10:15 worship service. There is one item for congregational action:

- To act on the slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon, and other elected positions as recommended by the Congregational Nominating Committee.

The slate of nominees will be sent out to the congregation in advance of the meeting.

Children's Church



Children's Church

Sept. 7: No Children's Church

Sept. 14: The Burning Bush

Sept. 21: The Red Sea

Sept. 28: No Children's Church (Church Picnic)

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.

Fall Family Faith Nights

FAMILY FAITH NIGHTS 6-8PM		<p>Children and their families are invited to join us from 6-8pm for Family Faith Nights the first Wednesday of the month. Each month will have a different theme.</p>
	Wed. Sept. 3	<p>Story: Jesus Calms the Storm Activity: Calming Craft Stations Dinner: Pasta Bar</p>
	Wed. Oct. 1	<p>Story: Parable of the Prodigal Son Activity: Pumpkin Painting Dinner: Campfire Meal (weather permitting)</p>
	Wed. Nov. 5	<p>Story: Parable of the Good Samaritan Activity: Hygiene Kits Dinner: Pizza Night</p>
	Wed. Dec. 3	<p>Story: Advent Activity: Building Nativity Sets Dinner: Breakfast for Dinner</p>
For more information, please see our weekly e-blast or contact Katie McKenzie, kflood@fpcbentonville.org		

J St. Kids September

J St. Kids is a faith formation opportunity for children in K-6th grade. We meet on Sunday afternoons from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall and J St. Kids classroom. Each week, we gather for lunch, story time, and a variety of activities that help children grow in their faith.

In September, we will finish our series on prayer with a prayer labyrinth, and then we will move into a series called "Walls We've Built." Children will examine the walls that we have built in our lives and in our society and think about ways to be people who build bridges instead of walls. This series will be very building-focused, so there will be a lot of activities with LEGO and other building materials.

For more information on J St. Kids and other Children's Ministry opportunities, you can subscribe to our weekly Children's Ministry e-blast by sending an email to Katie McKenzie (kflood@fpcbentonville.org).

Trunk or Treat - Save the Date!



Youth Ministry September

Youth Group is an opportunity for 7-12th grader to grow deeper in their faith, connections to each other, and in their relationship with the Church. We meet on Sunday afternoons from 4-5:30pm in the youth rooms.

This September, the youth group will continue our series on trust by exploring the stories of Peter in the Bible and spending time reflecting through journaling and group discussions. The group has also been working on a collaborative art project that represents their journey through this series.

Additionally, our group will be heading to Ferncliff on the 12th-14th for Youthquake. This year's Youthquake theme focuses on what it means to be "fearfully and wonderfully made." We'll be exploring this theme through keynote, small groups, worship, and fun!

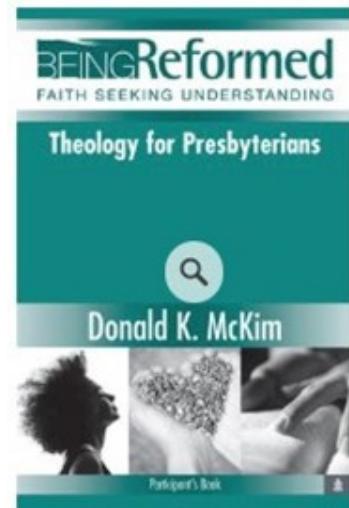
To learn more about upcoming Youth Group opportunities, please join our weekly newsletter list by sending an email to Katie McKenzie (kflood@fpcbentonville.org).



Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library

Beginning September 7, the Adult Sunday School class will be discussing theology from a Presbyterian perspective based on Donald McKim's 8-part study, "Theology for Presbyterians." Participant books are available in the church office, but you can come for the conversation whether you have the booklet or not. Leadership is shared among members and staff. All are welcome!



September Men's Fellowship Gathering:

Thursday, September 11 at 9:30am
Saturday, September 13 at 9:00am



Our men's fellowship has an opportunity to gather in September 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, September 11, 9:30am in the church Library
- Saturday, September 13, 9:00am at Acropolis (905 NW 13th St, Bentonville)

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

Presbyterian Women

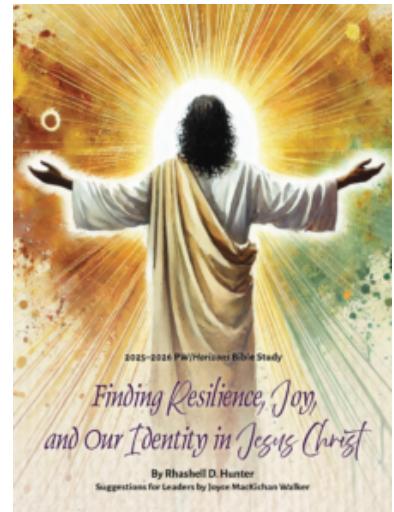
Thursdays at 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room

All women of the church are warmly invited to join our Presbyterian Women's Bible studies! Whether you've attended before or this would be your first time, we'd love to have you with us. Come and see what it's all about—you might find it's just what you've been looking for!

"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rev. Dr. Raschell Hunter.

We will meet the 2nd Thursday @ 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room. Bible study books are available in the church office.

We will again offer a casual Elizabeth Circle covering the same material as the Rachel Circle if we have interest in a nighttime circle. This meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6pm in the Library.

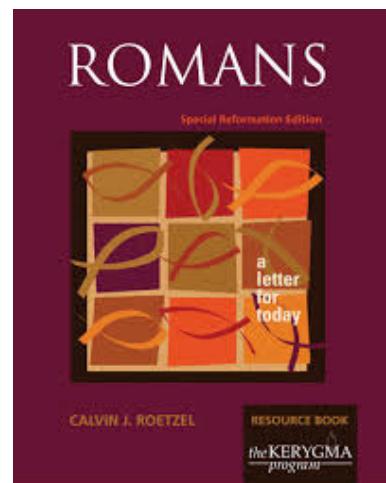


W.O.W. (Women Of The Word) Bible Study

The WOW (Women of the Word) Bible Study group is an informal group of women looking for meaning, heartfelt understanding and application of Scripture. We share what we discover and question in the lesson.

WOW starts meeting again on Thursday, September 4th, at 9:30-10:30 in the Bird's Eye room. We meet every Thursday, except on the 2nd Thursday of the month, when we participate in the PW Horizon study.

The study on September 4th will be concluding the First Lesson of the Kerygma Romans Study, Celebrating Luther's Reading of Romans. Come join us or drop in anytime. Questions? contact Carol Ritchie 479-715-1723



J.O.Y. GROUP

Next gathering: September 25th 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 Boehm勒 at 479-366-5904.



Worship in the Park September 28
Church picnic following worship!

BENTONVILLE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORCHARDS PARK PAVILION

**WORSHIP AND PICNIC
IN THE PARK**

WORSHIP 10:15 AM
PICNIC TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

Sunday September 28, 2025

PROVIDED: BURGERS/HOT DOGS/VEGGIE BURGERS
CHIPS, DRINKS, PLATES ETC.

BRING A SIDE TO SHARE IF YOU WOULD LIKE

BRING A CHAIR IF YOU CAN!

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

Congratulations and Thanks!

We have reached our 2025 Landscape Committee goal of \$10,000*.

We are extremely appreciative to those of you who decided to sponsor a plant, flowers, or a tree, and/or give a donation so that we can move to our next step in our process.

On Sunday, September 7th, during our worship service, we will express our gratitude to the congregation and provide a brief update on our next steps.

We appreciate your continued prayers and words of support as we work to enhance our church grounds for the benefit of the community and our congregation.

Be on the lookout over the next few months for new plantings!

With gratitude, your FPC-4-FPC Landscape Committee,

Nancy Barnes, Bob Boehmler, Roy Horan, Kathy McAlister, Gail Rogers, and Brooke Spenser

* If you would still like to provide a donation before the end of the year to the Landscape Committee, please contact Hannah Cheeseman, our Financial Manager, with your information. Any additional funds received this year will help us with the required fundraising that will be needed in 2026 as we continue to beautify our grounds.

Music Ministry Notes



The end of summer is here, and with that comes cooler weather, back to school, new patterns, and more. Speaking of new patterns, have you ever wondered what it might be like to be a part of a choir or bell ensemble? After a summer break, featuring guest special musicians and two recent Sundays of "summer choir", we return to regular rehearsals after Labor Day.

- Chancel Choir sings most Sundays and welcomes adults and also interested younger singers. We rehearse on Wednesday from 6:30-7:45, and usually meet on Sunday at 9:15. Mostly we wear robes, but not always, and when we sing in the service varies. We appreciate the vocal support of Angela Allen and Shiloh Jones, who have added much to the music ministry at the church. Our first choir rehearsal is Wednesday, September 3.
- Chancel Bells rehearse after the service on Sunday from approximately 11:30-12:30, and ring on average 6-8 times a program year. Occasionally we do combined pieces with the choir or have a midweek rehearsal. It's helpful, but not required, to have some basic note and rhythm-reading experience. Youth and adults are welcome in this group.

Our first rehearsal is Sunday, September 7.

Blessings and peace,

Daniel Fry
Director of Music Ministry

Bike to Church on October 12!

On October 12, we will have a Bike to Church Sunday sponsored by the Earth Care Task Force. Everyone who can ride a bike is encouraged to dress casually and ride to church for the regular Sunday service.

If anyone would like to serve as a ride captain from different locations so that we can ride as groups from more distant points, please let the church know so that ECTF members can coordinate (such as, from the Bentonville square). If you live too far away to ride the distance, maybe you could park and ride the rest of the way with one of these groups. More details on that later, but let us know if you are interested in leading or being part of a group. Those not biking can still take part by greeting the riders as they arrive for church after a fun Sunday morning ride. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule.

Members of the Earth Care Task Force are: Lou & Kathy McAlister; Heidi Carlsen-Rogers; Linda Murphy; Don and Sue Ann Overstreet; Michael and Janice Zoller.



(Photo: Philippe Oursel on Unsplash)

"Good News from a Bad Pastor for a Better Church"

October 19 & 20

The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel



Join us for our annual Clabaugh Speaker Series as we welcome The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, 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***

Dr. Daniel will preach at the regular Sunday worship service on Oct. 19 ("The Woman at the Well Was Wronged"), and she will give public presentations on Sunday and Monday evenings, Oct. 19 & 20. She will also lead a discussion over lunch on Monday. All events will take place at the church and are free of charge.

Dr. Daniel is a nationally recognized preacher, teacher, and author. 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 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. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, PBS, The Christian Century, HuffPost, Christianity Today, and other notable publications. She's also an editor-at-large for Christian Century and a contributing editor for Leadership Journal. Dr. Daniel speaks widely at prestigious venues, including the National Cathedral, Duke Chapel, the Festival of Homiletics, King's College London, and Queen's College, Ontario.

A Source of Hope in Times of Struggle

As unexpected needs arise in our church family and community, God continues to work through the generosity of this congregation. You can be a part of the vital ministry of our church's Emergency Response Fund 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.

Thank you for your support.



[**CLICK HERE TO GIVE NOW**](#)

If you are a church member in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Georgia on a confidential basis, gsenor@fpcbentonville.org. For other requests, please contact the church office, 479-273-5450
administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org

Session Highlights

At the Stated Session meeting on August 25, 2025, regular reports of committees and task forces were received.

In addition, the following actions were taken by the Session:

- Approved a motion from the Children's Ministry Committee to adopt a new Child Protection Policy that will apply to church staff and all volunteers who are in supervisory roles with children/youth.
- Approved a motion from the 2025 Nominating Committee to call a congregational meeting for September 21, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and other leaders to begin serving in January of 2026.
- Approved a motion from the Stewardship and Finance Committee to "pass the plate" on Commitment Sunday, November 9.
- Welcomed Bob Boehmler of the FPC-4FPC (landscaping) group, to give thanks and an update on current and future activities on the grounds around the church building, with a celebration of having raised \$10,000 for the 2025 launch of this project.
- Discussed part 1 of a Church Leadership Training video series as part of Boundary Training that is required by the Book of Order for church Sessions.

Note: the Session did not meet in July. The next Stated Session meeting will be on September 22.

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 September 23, 2025.

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

Associate Pastor, Acting Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Georgia Senor; gsenor@fpcbentonville.org
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.