



November 2025

FPC News

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



Photo credit: Arkansas Frontier Blog

Here's what's happening

November 2 - All Saints' Sunday

Children's (K-6th graders) Sunday School, 8:45am
Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir Practice, 9:15am
Worship with the 's Supper, 10:15am
Handbells, 11:30am; Youth Group, 4:00pm

November 5

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

November 6

Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30am

November 9 - Commitment Sunday

Children's (K-6th graders) Sunday School, 8:45am
Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir Practice, 9:15am
Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism, 10:15am
Called Session meeting (examination of incoming officers),
11:30am
Handbells, 11:30am; Youth Group, 4:00pm

November 12

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

November 13

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30am
J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth), 11:00 am

November 16

Children's (K-6th graders) Sunday School, 8:45am
Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir Practice, 9:15am;
Worship, 10:15am
Handbells, 11:30am; Deacons meeting, 11:30
Sharing and Caring shopping (children/youth), 1- 2:30pm

November 17

Blood Drive, 1:00pm - 6:00pm

November 19

Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:00pm

November 20

W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30am
My Friends and Me Learning Center Program, 10:30am
Choir Practice, 6:30pm

November 22

Food Pantry Turkey Day, 9:00am

November 23

Children's (K-6th graders) Sunday School, 8:45am
Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir, 9:15am
Worship, 10:15am
Hanging of the Greens; Handbells, 11:30am

November 24-28

My Friends and Me Learning Center closed

November 27-28

Church office closed

November 30 - First Sunday in Advent

Children's (K-6th graders) Sunday School, 8:45am
Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir, 9:15am
Worship, 10:15am ; Handbells, 11:30am

Welcome New Members!

We rejoice as God adds individuals and families to our fellowship. We welcomed new members on Sunday, October 12.



Scott Washam & Steve Popelka



Sandy & Larry Wheeler



Cathy & Andy Orr, Katie, and Matthew

Thank you, Hannah!

On October 26, in worship, we recognized Hannah Cheeseman, our Financial Manager, for her one-year anniversary of serving our church. Treasurer Nate Burdick offered words of appreciation. Thank you, Hannah!



Compost your Jack O'Lanterns, pumpkins, and mums!

The Earth Care Task Force will have a red compost bin near the front door of the church from October 31 - November 10 to compost your Jack O' Lanterns, pumpkins, and mums.



Commitment Sunday November 9



Great is
God's
Faithfulness

How do we respond to the goodness of God's care for us and the gift of this church?

Everyone is invited to take part in this season of stewardship as we plan for the life and ministry of our church in 2026. This is a time to reflect with gratitude on all that God has provided and to consider how we can each contribute to the future of our shared ministry.

If you missed it, you can view the full [2026 Stewardship Packet](#) that was recently shared.

On **Sunday, November 2**, following worship, the Stewardship & Finance Committee will host a Q&A session in the church library to answer questions about the 2026 operating budget. We hope you'll join us for this conversation.

Then, on **Commitment Sunday, November 9**, we'll celebrate the opportunity to make our 2026 financial commitments together during worship. The offering plate will be passed during worship to collect the commitment cards that are turned in. Commitment cards may also be submitted at any time online [here](#) or by returning a card to the church office.

It takes all of us to make our church excel and grow!

Stewardship & Finance Committee
David Atwood, Chair

We are hosting another Red Cross Blood Drive!
Monday, November 17 1:00 - 6:00p,



Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall
901 NE J St
Bentonville, AR 72712

Monday, November 17, 2025

1:00pm - 6:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter FPCB to schedule an appointment.



Give blood Nov. 17-Dec. 7 for an exclusive pair of Red Cross X Pack-Man socks, while supplies last!

All who donate blood will also receive via email, a \$20 Amazon Gift Card, or a \$20 gift card to a merchant of your choice.

You can also register by scanning this QR code:



**Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner Wednesday,
November 19 at 6:00pm**



Pastor Nominating Committee Monthly Update



In October, the congregation was presented with the results of the all-church survey from PneuMatrix Consultants. The PNC did a deep dive on the survey results to begin the process of developing our church's mission study.

A mission study is a prayerful process a congregation goes through to seek who God has called them to be, and the direction that God is calling them to go. It is essential for a congregation to know who it is before searching for who will guide them in the form of pastoral leadership.

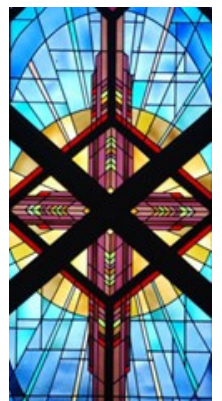
The key components of a mission study are:

1. Vision: Describe the vision for the future of our church.
2. Elements of Transformation: This includes speaking about our spiritual energy, our congregational identity, our leadership both professional and volunteer, our involvement in the community, and how our present and future ministry be funded.
3. Goals and Objectives: Listing these to fulfill the vision.

For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. -Hebrews 10:36

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-4-FPC Landscaping Committee

Dear Church Family:

Thank you again for your financial support and prayers to help us purchase, plant, and provide irrigation for Phase I as we work to improve the outside grounds of our church.

We are extremely appreciative to those of you who sponsored a plant, flowers, or a tree, and/or made a donation* so we could move forward to make this “wish” a reality.

We hope that you have noticed our new plants and trees! We hope to continue with our work on Phase II in the Spring and Summer of 2026, while we also prepare a landscape master plan to solicit feedback from the congregation in the Fall of 2026.

We will also be planting flower bulbs in the next few weeks around the church that several of you have donated and look forward to seeing some additional color in the Spring/Summer of 2026 with these additions.

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

How Great is God's Faithfulness!

With gratitude, your FPC (Flowers, and Plant Crew)-4-FPC Landscape Committee,
Abraham Aguilar

Nancy Barnes

Bob Boehmler

Roy Horan

Kathy McAlister

Gail Rogers

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 required fundraising that will be needed in 2026 as we continue to beautify our grounds.)

Children's Church

A poster for Children's Church with a light beige background. It is decorated with a green vine border at the top and bottom, featuring small red berries and orange pumpkins. The title "Children's Church" is in a large, orange, serif font. Below it, the schedule for November is listed in a brown, serif font. A paragraph of text in a smaller, orange, serif font explains the program. The bottom of the poster features two horizontal sprigs of autumn leaves in shades of yellow and brown.

Children's Church

Nov. 2: No Children's Church (Communion)
Nov. 9: Gideon
Nov 16: Boy Samuel
Nov 23: Elijah and the Widow
Nov 30: Advent: An Angel Visits Mary

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.

J St. Kids

A poster for J St. Kids with a light beige background. It is decorated with a border of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. On the left side, there are illustrations of pumpkins and leaves. The title "J St. Kids" is in a large, bold, brown, serif font. Below it, the schedule for November is listed in a brown, serif font. A paragraph of text in a smaller, brown, serif font explains the program.

J St. Kids

Nov. 2: Walls We've Built: Jeremiah
Nov. 9: Walls We've Built: Daniel
Nov 16: Walls We've Built: Jesus
Nov 23: Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30: Thanksgiving Break

J St. Kids is faith formation for K-6th graders that meets on Sunday mornings from 8:45-10am. Children engage with Bible stories through music, games, crafts, and other activities.

Youth Group Fall Calendar

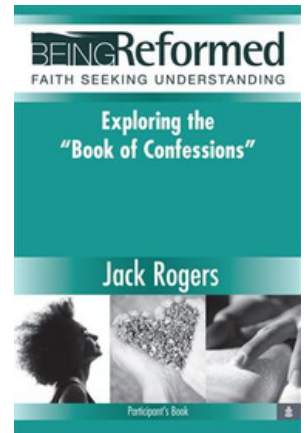
Fall Youth

Nov. 2 nd	Youth Group	4-5:30pm
Nov. 9 th	Youth Group	4-5:30pm
Nov. 16 th	Sharing and Caring	1-2:30pm
Nov. 22 nd	Turkey Day Serving	7:45-11am
Nov. 23 rd	Hanging of the Greens	11:30am
Nov. 30 th	Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 6 th	PJ & Pancake Party	TBA
Dec. 7 th	Youth Group	4-5:30pm
Dec. 14 th	Youth Group	4-5:30pm

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library

The Adult Christian class will continue a five-week study, "Exploring the Book of Confessions" by Jack Rogers, in the month of November. This study opens doors to major themes of Reformed creeds and confessions by setting them in historical contexts and focusing on their key aspects. All are invited.



November Men's Fellowship Gathering: Thursday, November 6 at 9:30am



Our men's fellowship has an opportunity to gather in November for coffee and conversation. Gatherings are casual and open to all. Feel free to invite others!

- Thursday, November 6, 9:30am in the church Library

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

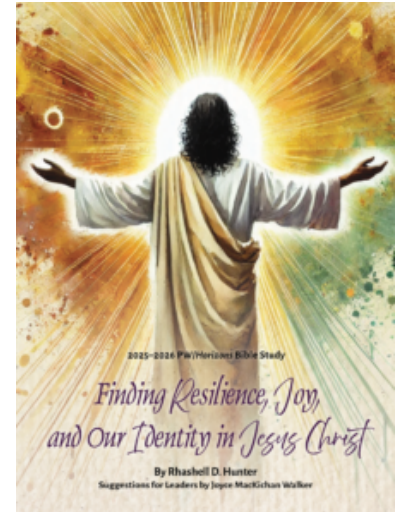
Presbyterian Women Thursdays at 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room

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.

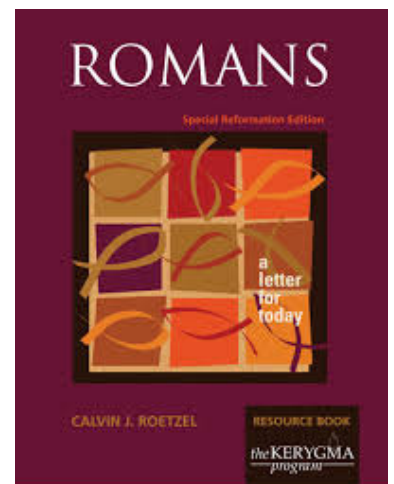
We will again offer a casual Elizabeth Circle covering the same material as the Rachel Circle if we have interest in a nighttime circle. This meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6pm in the Library.



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 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.



J.O.Y. GROUP

Next gathering: November 13 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.

Melanie Kerr from Lifeline , will present the program.

***Note:** November's gathering will take place on the 2nd Thursday, due to the Thanksgiving holiday



Sacred Space: Our Chapel and Columbarium

There is a special place in our church building: our Chapel and Columbarium, located just to the left after entering the main doors.

Our church's chapel contains beautiful stained glass and a Celtic cross as the focal point. It has been the site of prayer gatherings, preschool chapel story time, renewal of wedding vows, and services of Witness to the Resurrection. Church members are invited to sit and pray in the quiet space of the chapel whenever the church is open. It is also home to the final physical resting place for many of our church family who have passed into the arms of God. The columbarium in our chapel has available niches to reserve for you or your loved ones as you make end-of-life decisions.



A columbarium is a structure with recesses (niches) in the walls to receive and house the ashes of the deceased who have been cremated. Each niche includes a nameplate to memorialize departed loved ones. Generally, there is a service in the chapel when the cremains are interred, and then the chapel is available later for personal visits, to sit in peaceful remembrance and prayer. By reserving your niche ahead of time, you help your loved ones by taking care of final decisions in advance.

For more information on arrangements and cost, you can contact any of the members of our Columbarium Committee, or call Amanda in the church office to pick up a brochure and reservation form.

David Atwood
Ila Blackketter-Wolfe
Blake Hill
Pam DuBois
Ben Fox

From the Library

The First Presbyterian Church Little Library is now conveniently located just as you enter our parking lot on the South side, making it easy for everyone to stop by.

This special library is open to all ages. Please help us supply the library with your favorite books read and enjoyed in your home with our community.

Thank you for your help to support a love of reading in our community.



Music Ministry Updates



Recently, I started working with the K-6 J Street kids on Sundays at 8:45, it has been a fun time of music, including trying out some choir chimes! I am hopeful that they can share some of their music during worship soon.

It has been great to have Debbie Oliver at the piano during worship and choir rehearsals, hopefully you have had a chance to meet her. Thanks, Debbie!

On November 9, our bells will present special music, including a piece with congregation member Charity Moore, on flute. I know we will all be blessed by their worship contributions.

Choir rehearsals continue on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm, and handbells after the service on Sunday mornings. We are looking forward to starting in on Christmas music soon, and there is a place for you. Just contact Dan to find out more.

Daniel Fry
Director of Music Ministry

Report from the FPC Bentonville Commissioner to the 160th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas, October 10, 2025

Pastor Georgia, Pastor Dennis, and I attended the meeting held on October 11, at Second Presbyterian in Little Rock. We attended the worship service of Holy Communion and were treated to a thoughtful and thought-provoking sermon by Dr. Mark Douglas from Columbia Theological Seminary, as well as beautiful music from the Second Pres adult choir led by Dr. Bevan Keating.

The meeting agenda was robust with interesting reports from the various Presbytery committees. Especially interesting in this meeting:

- The Mission of the Church Committee announced that the Presbytery will support the Providence Park project in Pulaski County by donating \$50,000 through the Gary Gault Trust to build a home and by seed-funding \$25,000 for a second home in the project
- The Honduran Mission subcommittee presented actions for the Presbytery to send to the General Assembly to challenge recent decisions regarding mission work and workers. It was advised that these actions needed more background work and planning; they were voted down. The concerns and recommendations of the Honduran Mission subcommittee will be approached from a different perspective
- The Presbytery voted to allow Pulaski Heights Presbyterian to sell its property as that congregation continues to collaborate with the Westover Hills congregation
- The Presbytery voted to bring candidate Baxter Yarbrough under the care of the Presbytery of Arkansas.

The meeting was vibrant and demonstrated the church at work in a spirit of love, even as some issues were vigorously debated.

A pre-presbytery theological discussion led by Dr. Mark Douglas was hosted at Trinity Presbyterian Church the evening before the main meeting.

Respectfully submitted.
Lou McAlister



Everyone is invited to join in “Hanging of the Greens” on Sunday, November 23 after worship

All ages are invited to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season! We will gather in the Welcome Center after worship on Sunday, November 23, to decorate trees and put up wreaths. Children are especially encouraged to help decorate our Angel tree and Chrismon tree. There will be snacks as we enjoy our time together.



For those who have (more or less) crossed the 50-year mark:

Conversations that Matter

A church fellowship event for those navigating mid-and-later stages of life

Friday, December 5, 2025 6:00-8:00pm

Conversations that Matter is a way of exploring meaningful questions in a casual way over a meal together within our church family. We will be reflecting on topics relevant to our daily lives and our journeys of faith, as we navigate mid-and-later stages of life. **RSVP through the link**, or call the church office 479-273-5450 by December 1.



- What to bring: yourself and an open heart
- No cost (meal provided)
- Dinner location: 406 W. Central Ave. (the former location of our church!)
- You can come just to listen, or jump into the discussion
- **Reservations required**
 - o (click [here](#), or call/email the church office by December 1)

Christmas Brunch Sunday, December 14



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

First Presbyterian Church
Bentonville

Join our church family for
brunch immediately
following worship.

You are invited to bring a
breakfast casserole, pastry,
fruit or other brunch item.

Beverages will be provided

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14,
2025

Bike to Church Sunday

On October 9, our bike-to-church Sunday (and casual dress Sunday) was a big success, with more than 20 bikers arriving for worship and everyone celebrating their participation. The longest ride to worship was 11 miles, and the shortest came from across the street!



“The Woman at the Well Was Wronged” and “Good News from a Bad Pastor for a Better Church”

During our annual Clabaugh Speaker Series this year (October 19 & 20), we heard from the Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, Conference Minister for the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ. Her sermon on the woman at the well was captivating, with advice to the church to get outside the walls and minister to those whom society tosses aside. She said, “Jesus publicly takes the side of the person who is looked down upon.” Her challenge to us was to ask ourselves who the woman at the well is in our context. “Where is she? How do we find her and talk to her?”

Dr. Daniel’s public presentations and lunch discussion expressed her personal experience with the church in a time of crisis, and what it might mean to expand our sense of transparency and grace. She gave us much to contemplate. We look forward to her forthcoming book, due out in Spring, 2026. Her previous books are available in our church Library.



As always, we are grateful for a generous gift from the estate of Ben and Geraldine Clabaugh that makes this annual speaker series possible!

Trunk or Treat 2025

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 26. We welcomed over 200 people into our church and had a blast playing games, eating snacks, and spending time with friends.



Session Highlights

At the Stated Session meeting on October 27, 2025, regular reports of committees and task forces were received.

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

- Approved a motion to transfer all funds from a designated choir robe line to a more general music support line.
- Approved the recommendations of the Endowment Committee as to distributions of this year's available proceeds. Applicants will be notified soon of the decisions; those disbursements will be reported in the December newsletter.
- Received the written report of elder commissioner Lou McAlister regarding the activities of the 160th Presbytery meeting (see the article in this newsletter).
- Discussed a third Church Leadership Training video series as part of Boundary Training that is required by the Book of Order for church Sessions.

The next Stated Session meeting will be December 8.

The Session

Class of 2025

David Atwood
Grace Blazer
Rick Harris
Kristi Metzger
Sue Redfield

Class of 2026

Hunter Breshears
Kim Dixon
Carin Martin
Sherry Holliday-Sklar
Gary Smyth

Class of 2027

Cie Cochran
Chase Holloway
Ross Macartney
Lou McAlister
Janice Zoller

Associate Pastor, Acting Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Georgia Senor (Co-Moderator)

Parish Associate: Rev. Dennis Ritchie (Co-Moderator)

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

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 November 19, 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.