



# December 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](mailto:info@fpcbentonville.org)

### **Website**

[www.fpcbentonville.org](http://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



## **Here's what's happening**

### **December 3**

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

### **December 4**

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

### **December 5**

J St. Kids Movie Night, 6:00pm

Conversations that Matter, 6:00pm

### **December 6**

Youth Group PJ & Pancake Party

### **December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent**

Children's (K-6<sup>th</sup> graders) Sunday School, 8:45am

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir Practice, 9:15am

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

Handbells, 11:30am; Youth Group, 4:00pm

Service of Solace, 4:00pm

### **December 8**

Session Meeting, 6:00pm

### **December 10**

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

### **December 11**

Presbyterian Women Bible Study, 9:30am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30am

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

### **December 12**

Bentonville High School Orchestra Concert, 6:30pm

### **December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent**

Children's (K-6<sup>th</sup> graders) Sunday School, 8:45am

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir Practice, 9:15am

Worship with Lessons and Carols, 10:15am

Christmas Brunch, following worship

Handbells, 11:30am; Youth Group, 4:00pm

### **December 17**

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

### **December 18**

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

### **December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Children's (K-6<sup>th</sup> graders) Sunday School, 8:45am

Adult Sunday School, 9:00am; Choir Practice, 9:15am

Worship, 10:15am

Deacons meeting, 11:30am

Caroling at Legacy Village, 3:00pm

### **December 21-January 2**

My Friends and Me Learning Center closed

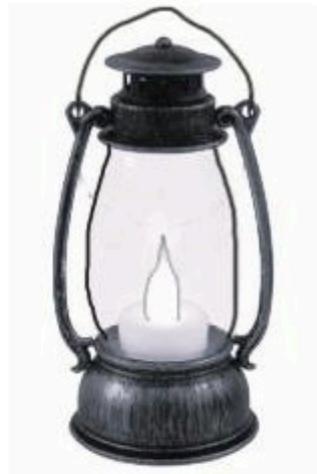
### **December 25-January 1**

Church office closed

### **December 28**

Worship, 10:15am

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

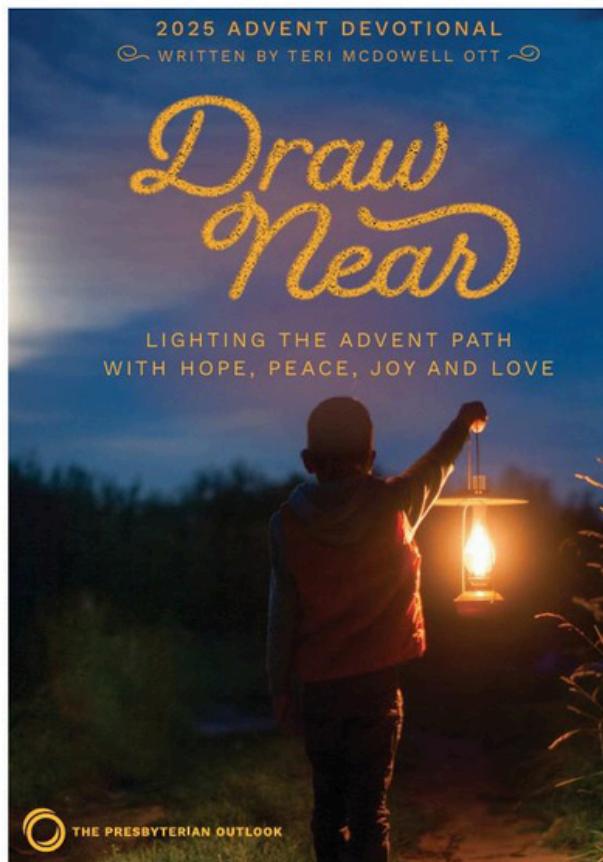


Sunday, November 30	10:15 am	First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 7	10:15 am	Second Sunday of Advent Worship with celebration of the Lord's Supper
	4:00 pm	Service of Solace (music begins at 3:45 pm)
Friday, December 12	6:30 pm	Bentonville High School Chamber Orchestra Holiday Concert (in our sanctuary)
Sunday, December 14	10:15am	Third Sunday of Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
	11:30 am	Christmas Fellowship Brunch
Sunday, December 21	10:15 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship
	3:00 pm	Christmas Caroling (all are invited)
Wednesday, December 24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 30	10:15 am	First Sunday after Christmas Worship

# Home Advent Kits

## Home Advent Kits

Once again, we are offering home Advent kits, which include a set of five candles, a base (a tree slice) with candle slots, and a booklet for weekly devotionals with prayer and scripture to correspond to each Advent candle (hope, peace, joy, and love). You are encouraged to light candles at home each week as part of your own Advent devotional time. You can pick up a home Advent kit at church. If you have a tree slice base from a previous year, you can simply pick up candles and the booklet. Thank you to our deacon John Whiting for making the tree-slice bases!



## Personal Daily Advent Devotional

We are also providing personal daily Advent devotionals from the Presbyterian Outlook, which include artwork, scriptures, prayers, and reflections written by the Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott. Following the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, this devotional lights the way for us as we prepare for Christ's presence among us. These are available on the Advent table at church, or can be delivered to you by a deacon at your request by calling the church office.

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)

# **Service of Solace**

## **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm (music begins at 3:45pm)**



All are welcome to spend time in the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, December 7, as the deacons offer our annual "Service of Solace." This is a casual, quiet service of reflection and comfort as we invite God's Spirit to light the way for us, especially through the dark seasons of our lives and our world. You are invited to come early to relax with piano music starting at 3:45, with the service beginning at 4:00. There will be scripture readings, prayers, candle-lighting, songs, and quiet reflection. Feel free to invite anyone who might benefit from such a service, which will be about a half hour in length. Childcare is provided for infant through five-years-old. Deacons will be available after the service for anyone who wants to talk or have a prayer together.

**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

## **Stewardship & Finance Update: Great Is God's Faithfulness**

We are grateful for the 53 households who have submitted their 2026 commitment to give, totaling \$334,000 so far. Thank you for your generosity and for the thoughtful way you support the life and ministry of our church.

If you are new to making a written financial commitment, please remember that commitments are revocable - you can update your plans at any time if your household circumstances change. These commitments simply help the church plan faithfully for the coming year.

Your commitments are especially important as Session prepares to finalize the 2026 operating budget. The proposed budget for next year is \$1,033,000, which represents about a 16% increase over the 2025 budget of \$891,000. This increase reflects several factors, including funding for a new Senior Pastor beginning in the second half of 2026, increased staffing costs related to expanded administrative hours and planned compensation adjustments, as well as normal year-to-year increases in ministry and operating expenses.

We understand that this time of year brings many charitable giving requests and that household budgets are under pressure. If you have not yet shared your 2026 commitment, we would be grateful to receive it by **December 1st**, as it greatly assists the planning work of Session and the Stewardship & Finance Committee.

The details of the proposed 2026 budget can be found in the [2026 Stewardship Packet](#) if you'd like to review.

Thank you for the many ways you reflect God's faithfulness in our community.

Stewardship & Finance Committee  
David Atwood, Chair

# Pastor Nominating Committee Monthly Update



In November, the PNC met with PneuMatrix consultants and did a deep dive on the all-church survey results. Susan Arnold, who is our Presbytery Committee on Ministry liaison, was in attendance, and she agreed that the survey is essentially the church's mission study, so we can now move on to our next steps.

The PNC then met to begin work on the "Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP)". The MDP asks for more in-depth information about our church and information on the Pastor Head of Staff position. There are multiple questions to answer about our church including, for example, describe our specific vision for ministry, what is the nature and context of our community, how will the new pastor complement the responsibilities to our staff and volunteers, provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person must have to lead our congregation? It is a very comprehensive document.

The PNC also must evaluate and discern the value of expectations of several basic traits that we wish our new pastor to have. These answers come from working through the all-church survey.

This is a very detailed and tedious process to find the pastor who God already knows will come to lead us.

*Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and never give up.*  
-Luke 18:1

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).



# Children's Church

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>- No Children's Church**

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>- An Angel Visits Joseph**

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>- Jesus is Here!**

**Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>- No Children's Church**

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

### J St. Kids

**Dec. 6th: Movie Night (6-8pm)**

**Dec. 7th: Advent: Nativities**

**Dec. 14th: Advent: Nativities part 2**

**Dec. 21st: Advent: Christmas Celebration!**

**Dec. 21st: Christmas Caroling (3pm)**

**Dec. 28th: Christmas Break**

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

## Movie Night

# Christmas Movie Night



THE MUPPET  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROL

Friday, December 5th

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Children K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pizza Dinner Served

RSVP to [Kflood@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:Kflood@fpcbentonville.org) by Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville

# Youth Group Fall Calendar

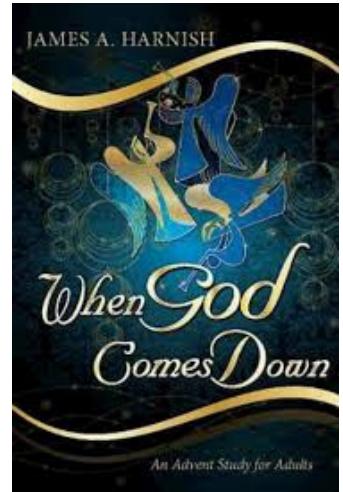
## WINTER YOUTH GROUP

DEC. 6 <sup>TH</sup>	PJ & PANCAKE PARTY	9AM-12:30PM
DEC. 7 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH GROUP	4-5:30PM
DEC. 14 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH GROUP	4-5:30PM
DEC. 21 <sup>ST</sup>	ALL CHURCH CAROLING	3:00PM
DEC. 28 <sup>TH</sup>	NO YOUTH GROUP	
JAN 4 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING	4:00-5:30PM
JAN 11 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING	4:00-5:30PM
JAN 17 <sup>TH</sup>	SERVICE PROJECT	TBA
JAN 18 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING	4-5:30PM

## Adult Faith Formation

### Adult Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library

"When God Comes Down" by James Harnish, is a five week Advent study which begins Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in the church library. Each lesson includes a key scripture, reflection and questions for discussion. This study focuses on God's action in Christ Jesus. All are welcome.



### December Men's Fellowship Gathering: Thursday, December 11 at 9:30am



The next Men's Fellowship will meet Thursday, December 11, at 9:30am in the church library. Gather with us for our devotional and story telling. Doughnuts and coffee are provided. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dennis Ritchie, [d27ritchie@gmail.com](mailto:d27ritchie@gmail.com), 479-715-2192.

## **Presbyterian Women**

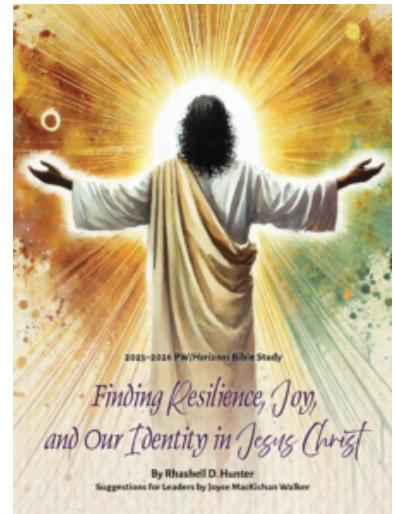
### **Thursdays at 9:30am in the Bird's Eye Room**

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.

In December, WOW Bible Study will discuss Advent-related topics to end out the year, meeting Thursdays, Nov 20, Dec 4, and Dec 18, 9:30-10:30. Please come join us on any or all of these dates as we keep a focus on God in this busy season.

## J.O.Y. GROUP

**Next gathering: December 11, 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.

Our program will be presented by the students of My Friends and Me Learning Center

**\*Note:** December's gathering will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, due to the Christmas holiday



## Music Ministry Updates



November featured the program year debut of our bells in a lovely Prelude and Postlude on November 9. It was great to hear them; they started and concluded the service in a lovely fashion. Thank you! They will join us again on December 14, along with the choir and other musical offerings, carols, and readings, during the service for Lessons and Carols. Choir rehearses on Wednesday at 6:30, generally in the music suite behind the sanctuary, and bells on Sundays after the service. Finally, on Christmas Eve, in addition to the choir, Rhett Harris will be sharing his cello playing with us, as well as Charity Moore on flute.

**On December 21**, all are invited to participate in caroling at Legacy Village, across the street from the church. We will plan to meet at 3:00pm in the Welcome Hall to get organized, and then head over to spread some holiday cheer. There will be some snacks and desserts in the clubhouse after we carol, probably at around 4:15. Contact Dan with any questions.

With best wishes for the Advent season and Christmas,

Daniel Fry  
Director of Music Ministry

## Presbyterian for Earth Care Conference at Ferncliff



Fred Paillet and Helen Davis represented our congregation when they attended the recent earth care conference at Ferncliff: "Sacred Creation: Justice Flows Down Like Water." (Fred and Helen are in the second row, on the right, in the above photo.) Here is the summary they submitted:

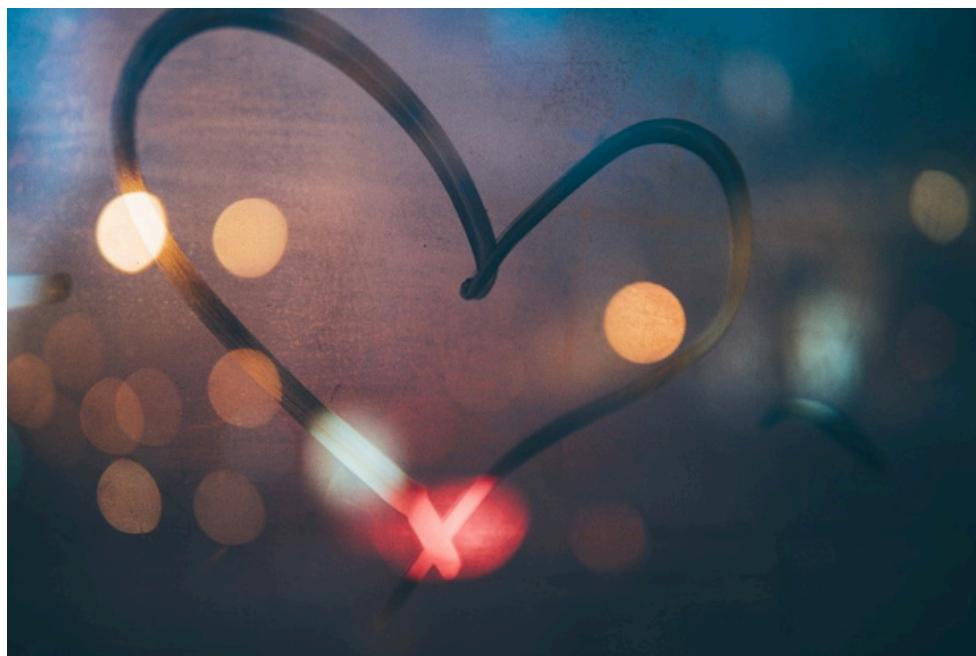
Have you ever heard, "Inaction breeds despair, but action breeds hope."? We saw a lot of ways to take action in October. Fred and I went to the Presbyterians for Earth Care conference held at Ferncliff Camp down near Little Rock. We were there three days and heard eight workshops and two keynote addresses. The keynote speaker, Reverend Andrew Black, is the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is also the National Wildlife Federal Public Lands Field Director. His talks were a mixture of biblical understandings, quotes from famous environmentalists, and his own work with indigenous tribal leaders and veterans suffering from trauma.

The eight workshops were varied in subject matter and participation. We saw talks on removal of the dam at Ferncliff and the future of water. We took part in kick-net stream sampling and organic art at the nature preschool (they have sixty children enrolled there). Some attendees restocked cleanup buckets at the Disaster Assistance Center or enjoyed the numerous other outdoor activities. One of the highlights of the conference was hearing from Patricia Tull (she wrote a recent PW bible study). Her new book *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, The Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* contains many practical suggestions for churches and individual members. We donated our copy to our church library for our Earth Care Team to use.

Our last session was Partners in Water Issues with presenters from Guatemala, Peru, and Kenya. They all showed ways that environmental issues were being addressed in their regions. Our favorite image was the picture of soldiers in Guatemala previously engaged in civil war action now holding shovels and helping plant trees. We saw many ways that Presbyterians all over the world can take earth-care action and become hopeful. Fred did a detailed synopsis of the conference and is happy to share it if you e-mail him at [fredp@cox.net](mailto:fredp@cox.net).

# **Sharing the Light of Christ with Neighbors in Need**

## **Emergency Response Fund**



The generosity of this congregation is keeping families warm through the holiday season and on into the depths of winter. Thank you to all who support our Emergency Response Fund (ERF) above and beyond regular contributions to the church. The ERF is a non-budgeted fund, based solely on direction donations. All requests for assistance are screened by our committee. We have been able to avert utility shutoffs, help get electricity started, provide food or gas at a critical moment, and help meet people's needs when they are going through a tough time. This is a tangible way to share the warmth of Christ in our community.

*Photo: Alex Michael Fenton on Unsplash*

## A Christmas Wish from the Library Committee

If you're upgrading to a new printer or happen to have an extra one to spare, the Library Committee would be grateful for a donated desktop printer. We're specifically looking for a model capable of printing labels for the library office. Your generosity will help keep our collections organized and accessible—thank you for supporting our library! Contact the church office for more information.

### Dinner with Friends Sign-up by January 1, 2026



GROUPS OF 8 - INCLUDING COUPLES AND SINGLES  
WILL ENJOY 4 MEALS TOGETHER FROM JANUARY TO  
APRIL 2026 EITHER IN HOMES OR RESTAURANTS.

RSVP BY JANUARY 1, 2026

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

DINNER  
WITH  
FRIENDS

BENTONVILLE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

On November 9, our congregation joyfully gathered to celebrate the Baptism of Hal Jenkins, the beloved son of Luke and Sarah Jenkins. It was a beautiful moment of faith, family, and community!



## Make a Joyful Noise

On November 16, the kids—joined by Andy Martin on guitar—filled the sanctuary with joy as they lifted their voices in a heartwarming rendition of "Jesus Loves Me!" It was a sweet moment that lit up the whole congregation!



## Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner

On November 19, the congregation came together for a joyful Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Fellowship Committee! The evening was filled with delicious food, laughter, and warm fellowship, making it a truly memorable celebration for all.



# FPC Food Pantry Turkey Day

Our annual Turkey Day event was held Saturday, November 22. We served 285 families, including 33 new to us, totaling 1,063 individuals. Whole turkeys or a smaller turkey breast, household necessities, and toiletries distributed totaled 21,403 pounds. There were 19 positions to fill to pull off our day-of-sharing, and it was successfully accomplished with over 75 volunteers from our congregation, friends, and two high school groups. A BIG thank you to everyone who gave up five hours of their Saturday to make everything run smoothly!



## Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, November 23, our congregation came together after worship to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons! The Fellowship Committee added an extra touch of warmth with delicious hot cocoa and cookies. It was a joyful day filled with laughter and fellowship!



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 December 17, 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](http://www.fpcbentonville.org)  
E-mail: [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)

Associate Pastor, Acting Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Georgia Senor; [gsenor@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:gsenor@fpcbentonville.org)  
Parish Associate: Rev. Dennis Ritchie; [d27ritchie@gmail.com](mailto:d27ritchie@gmail.com)  
Director of Music Ministry: Dan Fry; [dfry@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:dfry@fpcbentonville.org)  
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie McKenzie; [kflood@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:kflood@fpcbentonville.org)  
Financial Manager: Hannah Cheeseman; [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: Zoe Hughes; [avtech@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:avtech@fpcbentonville.org)  
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper; [zcooper@fpcbentonville.org](mailto: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.