

# FPC News

## January 2026

### *Here's What's Happening*

#### **January 11**

J St. Kids, 8:45 am  
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am  
Worship with Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons, 10:15am  
Youth Group, 4:00pm

#### **January 14**

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

#### **January 15**

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

#### **January 18**

J St. Kids, 8:45am  
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:15am  
Handbell rehearsal, 11:30am  
Deacons meeting, 11:30 am  
Youth Group, 4:00pm

#### **January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr Day**

Church office and My Friends and Me Learning Center closed

#### **January 21**

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

#### **January 22**

W.O.W (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30am  
J.O.Y Group, 11:00am  
Elizabeth Circle, 6:00pm

#### **January 25**

J St. Kids, 8:45am  
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:15am  
Congregational Meeting and Salad lunch, following worship  
Youth Group, 4:00pm

#### **January 26**

Stated Session Meeting, 6:00pm

#### **January 28**

Choir Practice, 6:30pm

#### **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



Cover photo by Aaron Burden via  
[unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

## **Join us for the Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders and Deacons Sunday, January 11 during worship**

We look forward to ordaining and installing a new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons during worship on January 11. As Ruling Elders: Ben Fox, Matt Moedritzer, Steve Rogers, Kristi Metzger, Jayne Roth, and Audrey Jones. As Deacons: Myles Cochran, Jacquie Vinson, Pam DuBois, Brenda Galloway, Mary Weaver, and Sampson Cochran. We are grateful for their upcoming season of leadership in our congregation.

What are Ruling Elders and Deacons called to do as they serve in these roles? Here is a brief description from the PC(USA) Book of Order:

### **G-2.03 RULING ELDERS: THE MINISTRY OF DISCERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders [pastors], exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as teaching elders, and they are eligible for any office.

### **G-2.02 DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE**

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

# Pastor Nominating Committee Monthly Update



In December, the PNC met to finalize the work on the "Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP)", which 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 of our staff and volunteers, provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person must have to lead our congregation?

The profile also requires demographic information about the size of our church and community. It also asks for our church's mission statement. We are pleased that PNC finalized the MDP in December. Next steps are approvals from the Session and the Arkansas Presbytery Committee on Ministry representative. Once the approvals are received, we will begin the search process.

*"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that your progress and your profiting may be evident to all."- 1 Timothy 4:15*

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).

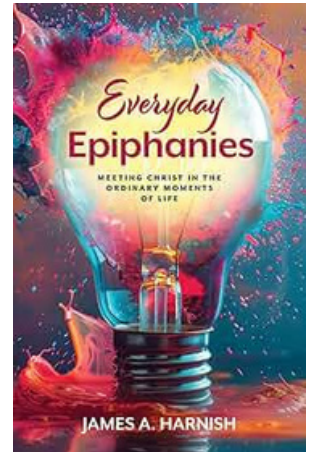


# Adult Faith Formation

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

## **"Everyday Epiphanies"**

*Everyday Epiphanies* is a seven-week study about meeting Christ in the ordinary moments of life, by Rev. Dr. James Harnish. All are invited. Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the church library.



**Newcomer Gathering Sunday, February 1**

## **NEW TO THE CHURCH?**

If you are somewhat new to the church, we invite you to a Newcomer Gathering on **Sunday, February 1** 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](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)

## **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.

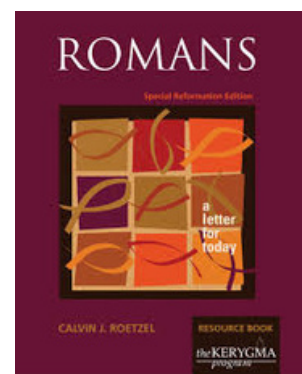
We will again offer a casual Elizabeth Circle covering the same material as the Rachel Circle if we have interest in a nighttime circle. This meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6pm in the Library.



### **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.

Women in the Word Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 15th, 9:30-10:30. We will continue studying Romans using the Kerygma curriculum. All women are invited to attend this study. Contact Carol Ritchie for more information.





## **J St. Kids**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup>: Jesus Calls the Disciples**

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup>: Man Lowered Through the Roof**

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>: Withered Hand**

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: Pool Healing**

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup>: Jesus Calms the Storm**

**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.**

## **Children's Church**

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> - Jesus Says, "Follow me!"**

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - Jesus Gives Us All We Need**

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup> - Jesus Welcomes Everyone**

**Feb. 1<sup>st</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.**

Winter Youth Group



WINTER YOUTH GROUP



JAN 11 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING	4:00-5:30PM
JAN 17 <sup>TH</sup>	FOOD PANTRY	8:30-11AM
JAN 18 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING	4-5:30PM
JAN 25 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING	4-5:30PM
FEB 1 <sup>ST</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY REHEARSAL	4-6PM
FEB 8 <sup>TH</sup>	YOUTH SUNDAY!	
FEB 15 <sup>TH</sup>	TRASH ICE CREAM TRIP	4-5:30PM
FEB 22 <sup>ND</sup>	YOUTH GROUP	4-5:30PM

Youth Sunday

YOUTH SUNDAY

THE YOUTH GROUP WILL LEAD US IN WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>. TOGETHER WE WILL EXPLORE THE STORY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAUL IN ACTS 9: 1-19. THE YOUTH WILL ALSO BE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR THEIR ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FUNDRAISER. MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE INCREDIBLY SPECIAL SUNDAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

# **Congregational Meeting and Salad Lunch, Sunday, January 25**

We will celebrate the life of the church at our Annual Congregational meeting in the sanctuary on January 25, immediately following worship. We will appreciate the Elders and Deacons who have completed their terms of active service, receive the 2025 Annual Report, hear from the Session regarding the 2026 Budget, vote on the pastoral Terms of Call for 2026, and enjoy a slideshow celebrating what God has done through our congregation in the past year. Afterward, we will move to the Fellowship Hall for a salad lunch (see below for more details).

Childcare will be provided for children ages 5 and younger in the church nursery during the Congregational Meeting.





# **J.O.Y. GROUP**

## **Next gathering: January 22 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.



## Warmth and Love at a Time of Need



*photo: Eli Pluma on Unsplash*

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.

Our church has been on the frontline in response to unexpected emergencies, in large and small ways. We have been able to work with our community partners to fill the gaps when regular assistance is not available. The children of the church continue to make "Blessing Bags" to share with those in need, which has been a wonderful part of this ministry.

As we continue to see unexpected needs arise in our church family and community, God continues to work through the generosity of this congregation. Your support goes a long way toward helping families stay warm, safe, and fed through temporary crises.



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

If you are a church member in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Georgia confidentially.

For other requests, please contact the church office, 479-273-5450

[administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)

## Share the gift of life on February 2nd

The Red Cross has asked for our help. On Monday, February 2, 1:30 - 5:30 pm, we'll roll up our sleeves once again to help save some lives! This event will be held in our Fellowship Hall (gym). Click [here](#) to schedule your appointment, or you can call the Red Cross, 1-800-733-2767. Our site code for this blood drive is FPCB. If you have questions or would like to help host the event, please contact the church office.



**Coming up in February!**

## **SHARE THE WARMTH!**

**JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY FOR GRILLED CHEESE  
AND COCOA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
IN THE WELCOME CENTER**

**PLEASE BRING NEW HATS, GLOVES AND SOCK  
DONATIONS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY FRIENDS**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
BENTONVILLE**

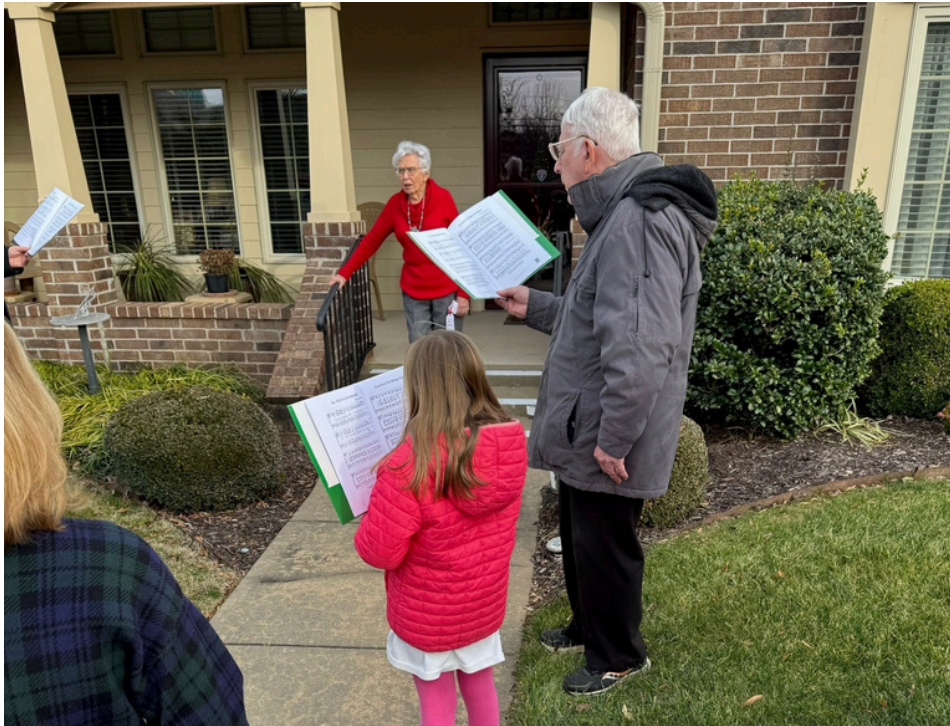
**\*\*\*FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDING ALL FOOD ITEMS**





## Advent and Christmas Photo Gallery

What a full season of worship and fellowship in the life of our congregation! We enjoyed Christmas caroling, Advent and Christmas services, and the My Friends and Me Christmas program.









# Session Highlights

At the Stated Session meeting of December 8, 2025, regular reports of committees and task forces were received.

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

- Re-elected Virginia Breshears for another year of service as Clerk of Session.
- Approved the Lord's Supper dates for 2026.
- Approved use of the Sanctuary on April 24, 2026, for a wedding.
- Elected Lance de la Rosa as Church Treasurer, with great thanks to Nate Burdick for several years of faithful service in that role.
- Renewed the appointment of Pastor Georgia as "Acting Head of Staff" for the calendar year 2026 up to the point at which the permanent Head of Staff position is filled.
- Renewed the appointment of Pastor Dennis as Parish Associate for the calendar year 2026 as needed, with expanded hours.
- Approved the Youth Committee's request to collect donations for Souper Bowl of Caring on February 8, 2026.

There were also Called Meetings of the Session for specific purposes:

- November 9, December 8, and January 6 for the purpose of examining the elders-elect and deacons-elect as a required step toward their ordination/installation on January 11, 2026.
- November 23 (electronic meeting) for the purpose of approving Bentonville High School Chamber Music to collect donations for their program at their concert in our Sanctuary on December 12, 2025.
- January 6 for the purpose of discussing and approving the 2026 church budget. This budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after worship on January 25.

The next Stated Session meeting will be January 26, 2026.

## **The Session**

### **Class of 2025**

David Atwood (Stew & Fin)

Grace Blazer (Community Engagement)

Rick Harris (Mission)

Kristi Metzger (Fellowship, CF)

Sue Redfield (MFM; Personnel, Trustee)

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

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

Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

Treasurer: Nate Burdick

### **Class of 2026**

Hunter Breshears (S&F, CF, PsI)

Kim Dixon (Youth; Personnel)

Carin Martin (Children)

Sherry Holliday-Sklar

(PIT; Personnel; Trustee)

Gary Smyth (Personnel)

### **Class of 2027**

Cie Cochran (S&F)

Chase Holloway (Adult CE)

Ross Macartney

(Communications)

Lou McAlister (Trustee)

Janice Zoller (Worship)



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 February 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](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  
Parish Associate: Rev. Dennis Ritchie  
Interim Director of Music Ministry: Bob Ritschel  
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie McKenzie  
Financial Manager: Hannah Cheeseman  
Facility Maintenance Manager: Mike McGinley  
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes; [administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org)  
AV Tech and Communications Support: Zoe Hughes  
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper  
Custodian: Dalton Henson  
Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears

To reach any of our staff by email, contact [info@fpcbentonville.org](mailto:info@fpcbentonville.org)

## 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.