

Privacy Policy

First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville

Effective Date: March 23, 2026 – Approved by the Session

Location: Arkansas, United States

1. Introduction

First Presbyterian Church (“we,” “our,” or “the Church”) is committed to protecting the privacy of our members, attendees, donors, volunteers, and website visitors.

This Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use, store, and protect your personal information when you:

- Visit our website
- Attend services (including livestreamed services)
- Submit forms or prayer requests
- Make donations
- Register for events
- Participate in church activities
- Text message with church staff

By interacting with us, you consent to the practices described in this policy.

2. Information We Collect

A. Information You Voluntarily Provide

We may collect:

- Full name
- Email address
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- Donation history

- Prayer requests - Prayer requests and similar pastoral communications may contain sensitive personal information. Please submit only the information you are comfortable sharing. Requests may be shared with clergy, church staff, or deacons as reasonably necessary for pastoral care or ministry purposes unless you ask that the request remain more limited. Prayer needs will only be added to the weekly emailed prayer list by request.
- Volunteer information
- Event registration details
- Membership information

B. Donation & Payment Information

Online donations are processed through secure third-party payment processors. We **do not store full credit card or bank account numbers** on our servers.

We retain transaction confirmations and giving history for tax and record-keeping purposes.

C. Automatically Collected Website Data

When you visit our website, we may collect:

- IP address
- Browser type
- Device type
- Pages viewed
- Date/time of visit
- Referring website

This information is used for analytics, website improvement, and security monitoring.

3. Phone and Text Users

By providing your mobile phone number through a written form, website registration, event signup, or other documented method, you consent to receive text messages from First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville related to church services, events, and ministry updates. Message frequency may vary and message and data rates may apply. If you

prefer not to receive text messages, you may notify the church office and we will remove your number from text communications.

4. Livestream & Media Policy

Our services and certain church events may be livestreamed and/or recorded. Worship services and certain church events may be photographed, recorded, livestreamed, or later shared through the Church's website, social media, newsletters, or other ministry communications. Wide-angle or incidental images of attendees may be captured as part of those activities. The Church does not intentionally identify individuals by name in connection with such images without consent, except where appropriate for clergy, staff, speakers, musicians, or ministry participants.

By attending services:

- You acknowledge that video, images, and audio may be captured.
- Congregational footage may include wide-angle views of attendees.
- No identifying personal information is displayed without consent.

Children's classes, counseling sessions, and private meetings are **not livestreamed**.

If you prefer not to appear on camera, please notify a church leader so seating accommodations can be arranged.

5. How We Use Your Information

We use personal information to:

- Communicate about services and events
- Send newsletters or ministry updates
- Process donations and issue giving statements
- Maintain membership and volunteer records
- Respond to inquiries and prayer requests
- Improve church operations and website functionality
- Comply with legal and financial obligations

We do **not** sell personal information.

6. Sharing of Information

We may share information with:

- Payment processors
- Email communication platforms
- Website hosting providers
- Accounting professionals
- Legal authorities if required by law

All vendors are expected to maintain reasonable data security safeguards.

7. Data Security

We use reasonable administrative, technical, and physical measures designed to protect personal information from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure. No method of electronic transmission or storage is completely secure. If the Church becomes aware of a security breach involving personal information for which notice is required by applicable law, the Church will provide notice as required by law.

8. Children's Privacy

We comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). The Church may also collect information about minors in connection with church ministries such as Sunday school, youth activities, camps, childcare, or event registrations. This information is typically provided by parents or guardians and is used for ministry administration, communication, and safety purposes.

We do not knowingly collect personal information online from children under 13 without parental consent.

Parents may request access to or deletion of their child's information by contacting us.

9. Requests Regarding Your Information

You may contact the Church to update your contact information, request removal from email or text communications, or ask questions about information the Church maintains about you. In some cases, the Church may be unable to delete or modify records that it must retain for legal, accounting, governance, safety, or ministry purposes.

10. Cookies & Tracking

Our website may use cookies or analytics tools to enhance functionality and measure engagement.

You may disable cookies through your browser settings, though certain features may not function properly.

11. Record Retention

The Church retains information for as long as reasonably necessary for ministry, operational, legal, tax, accounting, governance, or safety purposes.

12. Third-Party Links

Our website may contain links to external websites (e.g., mission partners, denominational resources). We are not responsible for the privacy practices of those sites.

13. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy periodically. Updates will be posted with a revised effective date.

14. Contact Information

For privacy-related questions or requests:

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