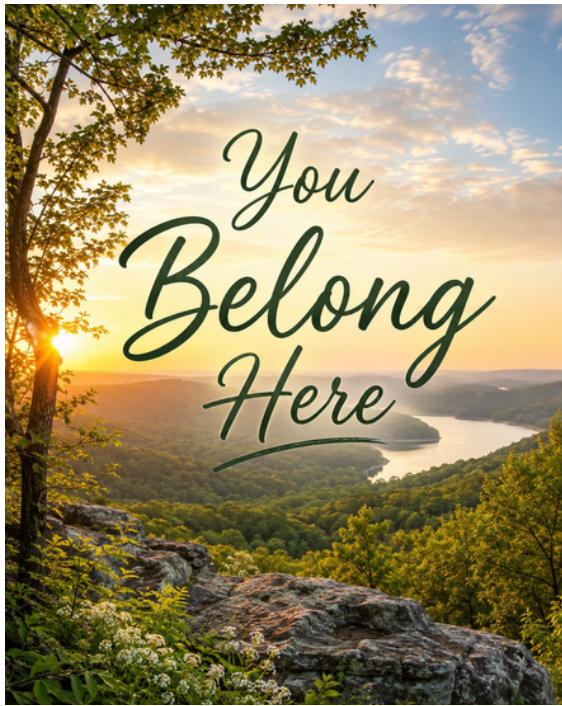




Sunday Worship
10:15 am in person and
online

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



First Presbyterian Church Bentonville

Here's What's Happening August 2026

August 2

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
Worship with the Lord's Supper, 10:15 am
FPC Night at the Amazeum, 6 - 7:30 pm

August 3-7

My Friends and Me teacher work week

August 6

My Friends and Me Learning Center Open House
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

August 9 - Blessing of the Backpacks; hymn request Sunday

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
Worship with guest preacher Rev. Kade Curry, 10:15 am
Ice cream after worship

August 10

My Friends and Me Learning Center First Day of school
Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:30 - 5:30 pm (Fellowship Hall)

August 16 - Kick-Off Sunday

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

August 19

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

August 23

J St. Kids, 9:15 am
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Youth Group, 4:00 pm
Confirmation Class, 5:30 pm

August 24

Stated Session meeting, 6:00 pm

August 26

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

August 27

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

August 30

J St. Kids, 9:15 am
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am, sub sandwiches after worship
Splash Pad and Picnic, 11:30 am (children and families)
Youth Group, 4:00 pm

Introducing Dan Phillips, our new Director of Music Ministry!



We are excited to welcome Dan Phillips to FPC Bentonville as our new Director of Music Ministry! Dan brings a wealth of experience in choral and handbell conducting, congregational singing, and a deep heart for worship.

With a Bachelor of Music Performance in Bassoon, a Master of Education, and work completed toward a Master of Music in Conducting, all from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, Dan has dedicated his career to nurturing musical excellence and fostering congregational participation. He has served for more than 30 years in diverse congregations in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Minnesota. He has directed children's choirs, youth musical ensembles, handbell choirs of all ages and chancel choirs, ranging from outdoor Easter Sunrise services to large scale cantatas with full orchestral accompaniment. Additionally, he has worked as a school music teacher, specializing in middle school band, and as a professional performer in both bassoon and voice throughout the southern states as well as the United Kingdom.

For Dan, music is a vital part of ministry. He believes that uplifting, Christ-centered music has the power to unite and inspire the congregation, open hearts, and draw people deeper into the presence of God. Whether leading traditional hymns, or diverse cultural musical expressions from all times and places, he is deeply committed to creating meaningful expressions of worship where everyone feels invited to lift their voice in praise to God.

When Dan is not directing rehearsals or leading Sunday services, he enjoys spending time at his home in Gentry with his wife, Dawn, his adult children Josh and Faith, and his miniature pinschers, Mina and Doby. He loves to travel and attend concerts and theatrical performances. He enjoys playing games of all kinds, but especially tabletop games like Dungeons and Dragons. He is an avid lover of Celtic music and travels to Celtic festivals both as an attendee and occasionally as a performer.

Many thanks to our Music Director Search Committee (Melissa Monroe, Chris Moore, Mary Weaver, Rhett Harris, Lou McAlister, and Sherri Holliday-Sklar, with support from Janice Zoller and Gary Smyth). The committee sorted through many applications and conducted several interviews, deciding unanimously and enthusiastically to extend the offer to Dan Phillips.

Dan's first day in the church office will be August 3. His first Sunday will be August 9.

Welcome Dan!

New Members

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



The Sacrament of Baptism

On July 12 we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for the DeBoard family: Rachel, Charlie, Benjamin, and Sam! "By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the Body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice."



FPC Night at the Amazeum - Sunday, August 2, 6-7:30 pm



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BENTONVILLE**

**Sunday August 2, 2026
6-7:30 pm**

**FREE NIGHT
AT
THE
AMAZEUM**

Invite your friends!

Please RSVP to the church office with
your family name and # attending.

Call the church at 479-273-5450

or email

administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.

Blessing of the Backpack - Sunday, August 9th

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH DURING WORSHIP!
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO BRING A BACKPACK.
WORK BAG, DIAPER BAG, ETC. TO BE BLESSED
DURING THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.**



Ice Cream Social - Sunday, August 9

Please join us immediately
following worship for an

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 9, 2026**



Share the Gift of Life on Monday, August 10



Blood Drive
First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
901 NE J St
Bentonville, AR 72712

Monday, August 10, 2026
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: [rcblood.org/August](https://www.redcrossblood.org/august).



Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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.

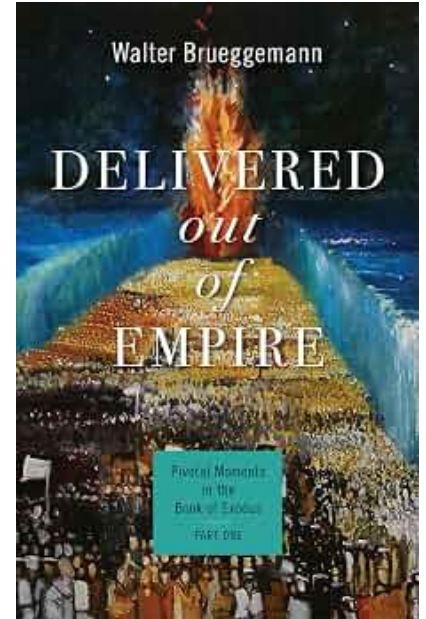
Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library

All are welcome

The Adult Sunday School class will begin a 10 - week study on the book *Delivered out of Empire* by Walter Brueggemann, on Sunday, August 2nd.

In *Delivered out of Empire*, Walter Brueggeman offers a guide to the first half of Exodus, drawing out pivotal moments in the text to help readers untangle the scripture. Reading the text firsthand, one encounters multi-layered narratives: about entrenched socioeconomic ecosystems that exploit the vulnerable, the mysterious actions of the divine, and the giving of a new law meant to set the people apart. Throughout, Bruggemann shows how Exodus consistently reveals a God in radical solidarity with the powerless.



Participant books are available in the church office, or you may obtain your own. All are welcome!

Men's Fellowship Group

Gather with us on Thursday, August 13, at 9:30 am in the church library. Enjoy lively stories, discussions, and prayers. Doughnuts and coffee will be provided. All are welcome.



Presbyterian Women resumes in September!

The Rachel Circle meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the Bird's Eye Room. The Elizabeth Circle meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Library. Study books are available in the church office. All are welcome!

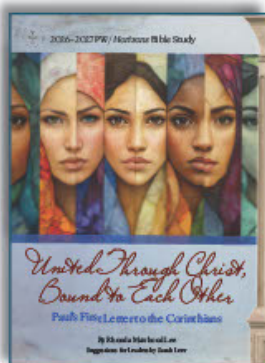
Introducing the 2026–2027 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

By Rhonda Mawhood Lee
Suggestions for Leaders by Sarah Leer

Join Presbyterian Women and learn about Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. This Bible study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ. Readers will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today.



Although First Corinthians contains familiar theology and passages we easily recognize—like the words of institution for the Lord's Supper and the meditation on love—readers often don't realize that Paul wrote this letter to a church in conflict.

Paul founded the congregation in Corinth around the year 50 and later moved to Ephesus, a few hundred miles away. From there Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians trying to help settle their disputes. He saw that the church was lacking in love, and their conflicts were betraying God's saving act in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The church in Corinth was diverse, and it was easy for factions to form. In his letter, Paul called his siblings in faith to a loving unity rooted in the reality that Jesus Christ had been crucified and resurrected for *everyone*. Christians throughout the ages have recognized the Holy Spirit's influence on Paul's words of unity and love, especially during times of conflict.

Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return, and he challenged all to be ready when that day came. Today the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. This Bible study challenges us to trust in Christ's saving love and to demonstrate that love by the way we live.

[Adapted from the Introduction to *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*]

Learn more about this
Bible study by visiting
presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/united



Children's Ministry Updates for Fall 2026

The Children's Team is excited about our Fall Programming kicking off on August 16th. With that we have a few changes to our programming format that will hopefully help us better serve our church families.

Children's Church - Faith Formation for Children Age 3-2nd Grade

Children's Church will begin meeting on Communion Sundays (1st Sunday of the month) beginning in September. Children will go to Children's Church after the Children's Message and parents will pick-up their children to participate in Communion during the service.

J St. Kids - Faith Formation for Children Age 2nd - 6th Grade

J St. Kids will now be for children in 2nd-6th grade and meet from 9:15-10AM on most Sunday mornings beginning August 16th. It is the hope of the Children's Team that this age range shift will help better engage elementary and middle school aged children in our programs.

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 WILL BE TRANSITIONING TO INCLUDE COMMUNION SUNDAYS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

Youth Group- Faith Formation for 7-12th Graders

Youth Group kicks-off on Sunday, August 16th from 4-5:30PM in the youth rooms. On the 16th, we will meet with youth and their parents/guardians to go over the basics of Youth Group, important calendar dates, and answer any questions youth and parents may have about our program year.

This fall we will be exploring a curriculum called, "Compassion from the Inside Out" written by Fuller Youth Institute. The youth will explore what it means to live a life full of compassion through interactive stories, activities, and reflection.



Every note offered in praise is an act of worship.
Thank you, Devan, for sharing your talents with our church family.

Splash Pad and Picnic Day



Splash pad and picnic day

August 30th 11:30-1PM

Families are invited to
join us for a picnic lunch
(provided) at the crystal
Bridges splash pad directly
after church.

Dinner with Friends - Food, Fellowship & New Friendships

Looking for a fun way to get to know others in our church family? Join Groups of 8! Couples and singles are invited to share four meals together between **September and December 2026**. It's a wonderful opportunity to build friendships, enjoy good food, meaningful conversation, and connect with people you may not know well.

When you sign up, you can choose the group that best fits your schedule and preferences:

- Dinner Group
- Lunch Group
- Restaurant-Only Group

Meals may be hosted in homes or enjoyed at local restaurants, depending on your group's preference.

We also need substitutes! If you're unable to commit to all four meals but would be willing to fill in when someone can't attend, we'd love to have you join our substitute list.

Please sign up by Friday, August 28. We hope you'll be part of this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and connection!



J.O.Y. GROUP

**Next gathering: Thursday, August 27th 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.

Our program will be presented by Dana Doughty, manager of the Bentonville History Museum.



FPC-4-FPC Landscaping Update

The FPC-4-FPC (Flowers and Plants Crew for First Presbyterian Church) Landscape Committee is excited to continue **Phase 2** of our landscaping project around the church property.

We are grateful for the many encouraging comments about the improvements completed during Phase 1 in 2025, including new landscaping and the restoration of bare areas with Bermuda grass.

This work has been made possible through the generous financial support of our congregation, a 2025 grant from the Endowment Committee, and additional funding approved by Session in the 2026 budget. Thank you for your continued investment in making our church grounds beautiful and welcoming.

Earlier this year, the remaining overgrown shrubs were removed in preparation for Phase 2. This fall, we will begin planting new shrubs, flowers, trees, and other landscaping around the remainder of the church property. Plans also include replacing redbud trees lost in the storm several years ago, adding new oak trees, and replacing a few plants from Phase 1 as needed.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Mike McGinley, our custodian Anthony, and the many volunteers who have helped with watering and weeding throughout the summer.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We look forward to sharing more updates as Phase 2 progresses and as we continue to enhance our church grounds for our congregation and the community.

FPC-4-FPC Landscape Committee
Bob Boehmler and Gail Rogers, Co-Chairs



From Rev. Blake Brinegar, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Arkansas:

Here is a summary of what took place at the 227th General Assembly of the PCUSA in Milwaukee this summer. However, it does not do justice to all the actions the body took. The consent agenda alone had 64 items of business from a total of 13 committees. Then the committees had other business for the assembly to address. Here are some of the highlights:

1. The General Assembly approved the meeting of the 228th General Assembly (June 11-22, 2028) to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This will be the first time a meeting of the General Assembly has been hosted in Puerto Rico.
2. The Assembly also marked the conclusion of a decade long study to unify the denomination. We now have A corporation which is the corporate identity of the denomination, and Presbyterian Life and Witness (PL&W) which is the ecclesial arm of the denomination.
3. There will be constitutional amendments to the Book of Order. They mainly address concerns about administrative leave, boundary training, anti-racism training, and non-disclosure agreements from being used in terminations which occur at the national headquarters. The assembly on the recommendation of the Constitutional Interpretation Committee approved Authoritative Interpretations to help offer guidance on several areas in the Book of Order and will be placed in the Annotated Book of Order. Changes to the Book of Order will have to be approved by a majority of presbyteries before they are implemented.
4. A request to develop a more robust theological framework document and study guide which addresses human sexuality and gender, including a policy and study on the Christian vocation of family was referred to Presbyterian Life and Witness.
5. The assembly approved several items of business from the Theological Education and Ordination Committee. Some of this work came from the work of previous General Assemblies. Of note, the assembly approved requiring training every 36 months for the presbytery body responsible for preparation of ministry. The body also approved expanding the Standard Ordination exams to include a Senior Ordination Portfolio, showing work done throughout a candidate's education.

6. The assembly codified granting commissioned pastors (CREs) voice and vote in presbyteries while serving their commission. This is something we already do here in Arkansas.
7. The assembly approved referring a request to the Presbyterian Life and Witness to study historic and ongoing harms experienced by African American Presbyterians within congregations, mid councils, and denominational structures. PL&W is to collaborate with the Center for Repair of Historic Harms regarding implementation of pilot or facilitated repair processes within their capacity and resources. This study is to design and recommend processes for intra-community truth telling, accountability, healing, and restoration within African American Presbyterian communities.

This is merely the tip of the iceberg of the business transacted at the General Assembly. There will be more information to come about some of the actions which took place, especially the changes to the Book of Order in the future. Currently, I am waiting for the booklets with the proposed amendments to come out. I will write another article addressing some of the other things the assembly acted on. If there was a specific item of business you are curious about or want more information about, feel free to reach out to me; I would be more than happy to discuss those items with you. I can be reached at revbrinegar@gmail.com

Lastly, I want to thank our commissioners who put in long hours at committee meetings, traveled to Milwaukee, and spent more hours addressing the business of the General Assembly. They are well acquainted with the inside of the Baird Convention Center. Our commissioners were CRE Janet Benson, TE Elizabeth Brinegar, CRE David Clark, and TE Robert Lowry. This is hard, stressful, and tiring work. These individuals need to be commended for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

– Rev. Blake Brinegar

Join Our Nursery Team!

Do you have a heart for young children and a desire to serve on Sunday mornings? Our church nursery provides a safe, loving, and welcoming environment for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers during worship—and we're looking for someone to join our team!

We have an **immediate opening for a paid nursery worker**. This position includes Sunday mornings, with opportunities to work occasional evening church events.

We're looking for someone who is:

- Experienced in caring for young children
- Dependable, energetic, and compassionate
- Committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment

A background check is required for all nursery staff.

Interested? Pick up an application in the church office or contact **Mrs. Z** at zcooper@fpcbentonville.org.

Library Committee's Late Summer Picks

Looking for a fun way to wrap up the summer? Visit the Music/Elementary Library Room (on the left as you head toward the sanctuary) and enjoy one—or both—of these family-friendly activities!

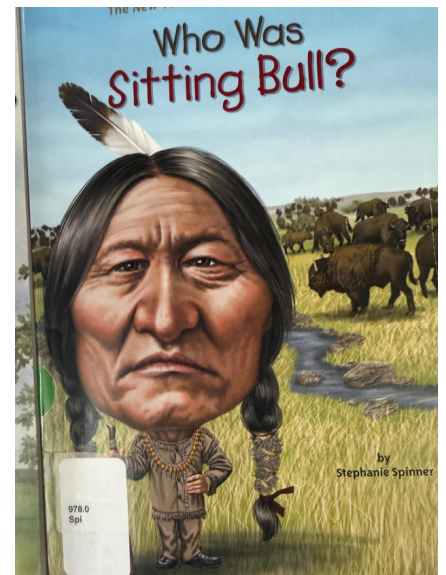
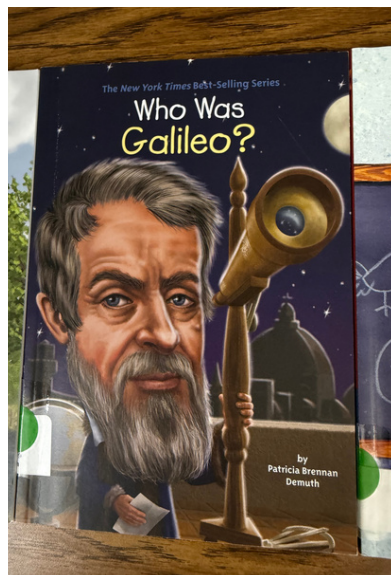
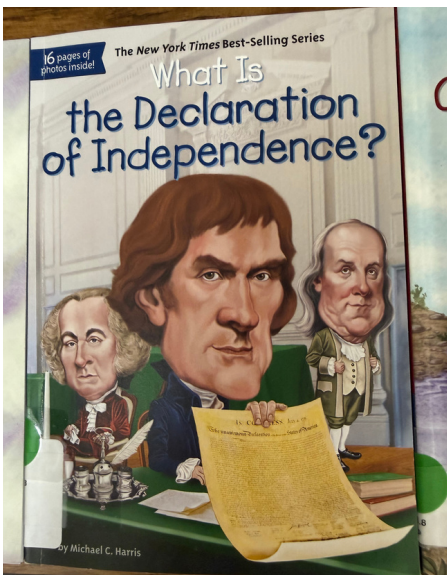
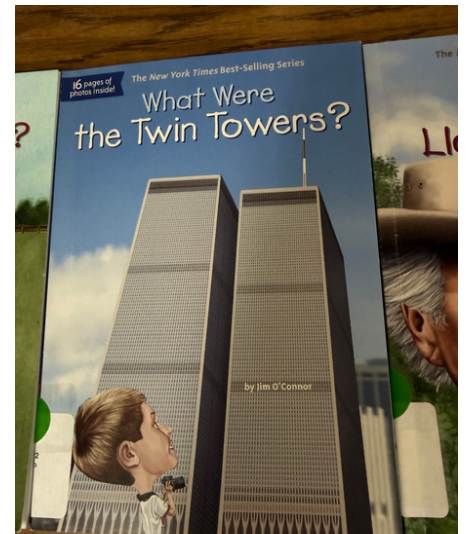
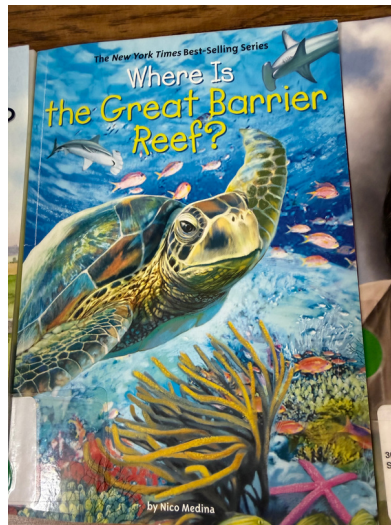
Discover Something New

Browse the wonderful Who Is? What Is? and Where Is? book series. These engaging books are perfect for family read-alouds or for encouraging young readers to explore a new person, place, or topic before the school year begins.

Take the Puzzle Challenge

Stop by the Puzzle Exchange in the church library, borrow a puzzle, or swap one you've already completed. It's a great way to spend quality time with family or friends while enjoying a fun challenge together.

We hope you'll stop by and make the most of these late summer opportunities to learn, connect, and have fun!



A Splashing Good Time!

Church members of all ages gathered at the Melvin Ford Aquatic Center on July 12 for an afternoon of swimming, fellowship, and summer fun. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



Growing in Faith Through God's Creation

Our Wild Life Camp on July 29–30 was full of smiles, laughter, and opportunities to grow in faith. Children enjoyed Bible stories, games, outdoor exploration, and plenty of time to play together while discovering more about God's love. Thank you to everyone who helped make this camp such a wonderful experience!





Stewardship & Finance Update

2026 Midyear Financial and Ministry Snapshot

As we move into the second half of 2026, we are grateful for the generosity that continues to support worship, ministry, mission, staffing, and care for our church community.



OPERATING BUDGET SNAPSHOT THROUGH JUNE



GIVING & OTHER REVENUE

\$425,989



EXPENSES

\$436,155

Through June, expenses exceeded revenue by **\$10,166**. Even so, operating results are tracking significantly better than budget, which anticipated a deficit of **\$50,626** at this point in the year. This favorable result is primarily due to savings from pastoral and music staffing vacancies, along with lower-than-budgeted ministry spending. As the church returns to fuller staffing, expenses are expected to increase during the second half of the year.



OPERATING LIQUIDITY

At June 30, the church had **\$150,780** in total operating liquidity, compared with our reserve target of approximately **\$161,000**.



ENDOWMENT & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The church also holds **\$751,409** in endowment and scholarship funds, including **\$563,735** in the General Endowment Fund and funds designated for the Vinson, Putman, and Boyd scholarship programs. These resources are held separately from the operating budget and support the church's long-term ministry and scholarship commitments.



MINISTRY IMPACT AT MIDYEAR

The following are just a few highlights of the ministry made possible through your generosity.

**Totals include repeat visits.*



61 children

have been served through My Friends & Me.



\$5,200

in scholarships has been awarded to four students.



Food Pantry: **1,621** families and **5,648** individuals served; **162,381** items distributed.



12 families

have received emergency assistance from the Emergency Response Fund.



9 new families

have joined the church.

The people, facilities, administration, technology, communications, and financial support behind these ministries are often less visible, but they are essential. Personnel and ministry-support costs provide the foundation that allows worship, pastoral care, music, children and youth ministry, mission, fellowship, and community outreach to happen.



Save the Date!
**STEWARDSHIP BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 13**

This year, our annual stewardship season will begin about a month earlier, with a kickoff during worship on **Sunday, September 13**. Beginning earlier gives us more time to share the church's financial story, celebrate the ministry made possible through your generosity, and prayerfully prepare for 2027.

We remain deeply grateful for everyone who supports the church through financial giving, time, talents, prayer, and service. As we look ahead to fuller staffing and the 2027 budget, sustained and increased operating giving will be important to supporting the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

With gratitude,

Gratitude for our committee members David Atwood, Trevor Dane, Cie Cochran, Hunter Breshears, Bob Boehmler, and Lance De la Rosa, as well as Pastor Georgia Senor and Hannah Cheeseman, for your service.
— Steve Rogers, Chair, Finance & Stewardship Committee

Save the Dates - 2026 Clabaugh Speaker Series October 18-19

"The Border and Immigration - A Faith Perspective"

We are excited to welcome the Rev. Dr. John Nelsen as our 2026 Clabaugh Speaker. Rev. Nelsen served the PCUSA for 43 years as a pastor of three churches: in Maryland, Oklahoma, and El Paso Texas. In Oklahoma, he and the church were introduced to the Border through numerous mission trips.

Since that introduction, John has been involved with Border Ministry in a variety of capacities for over 33 years including his time as pastor in El Paso. Upon John's retirement in 2022, he accepted a call as a full-time volunteer for Tres Rios Border Ministry Foundation. TRPBM has been heavily involved in immigration ministry through direct support as well as ongoing education to many PCUSA churches, presbyteries, and organizations.



John has been married to Becky for 48 years, and they have two children who have families with grandchildren!

Rev. Nelsen will give the sermon on Sunday morning, October 18, as well as evening public presentations October 18 & 19, and a lunch discussion group on October 19.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Mathew 25:35

Our annual Clabaugh Speaker series is made possible by a generous gift from the estate of church members Ben and Gerry Clabaugh.

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 August 21, 2026.

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
Parish Associate: Rev. Dennis Ritchie
Director of Music Ministry: Dan Phillips
Interim Accompanist: Debbie Oliver
Director of Children and Youth Ministry: Katie McKenzie
Financial Manager: Hannah Cheeseman
Facility Maintenance Manager: Mike McGinley
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Hayes
Interim AV Tech and Communications Support: Alex Brice
Nursery Coordinator: Zinnuh Cooper
Custodian: Anthony Farrar
Clerk of Session: Virginia Breshears
Treasurer: Lance de la Rosa

To reach any of our staff by email, contact 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.