



First Presbyterian Church Bentonville

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



Here's What's Happening September 2026

September 2

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

September 6

J St. Kids, 9:15 am

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am

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

Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am

Youth Group Sacred Shakes, 2:00 pm

September 7 - Labor Day

My Friends and Me Learning Center Closed

Church office Closed

September 8

Newcomer Gathering, 6:30 pm

September 9

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

September 10

Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

September 13

J St. Kids, 9:15 am

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Congregational meeting, immediately following worship

Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am; Confirmation Class, 11:30 am

Youth Group, 4:00 pm

September 16

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

September 17

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

Presbyterian Women Elizabeth Circle, 6:00 pm

September 18-20

Youthquake

September 20

J St. Kids, 9:15 am

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Deacons meeting, 11:30 am; Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am

Youth Group, 4:00 pm

September 23

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

September 24

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

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

Officer Training, 6:00 pm

September 27 - Worship in the Park & Picnic

*** No Adult Faith Formation**

Worship, 10:15 am, Orchards Park (no livestream)

September 28

Session Meeting, 6:00 pm

September 30

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Monthly Update

August 2026 · A report to the congregation



WHERE THE SEARCH STANDS

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting weekly for several months, prayerfully reviewing and evaluating potential candidates and conducting interviews for our new Pastor /Head of Staff.

Because this work must remain confidential, we are not able to share names or specifics at this time, and we are grateful for your patience and trust. The committee gave a short update to the Session at their August monthly meeting.

The committee continues working diligently on behalf of the congregation as we seek the pastor God is preparing for this church. We ask for your continued prayers.

MEETING

Weekly

STAGE

**Evaluating
Candidates**

LAST REPORT

Session in August

“The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:25-26

YOUR COMMITTEE

Cie Cochran (Chair) · **Roy Horan** (Vice Chair) · **Kim Dixon** (Recording Secretary) · Aaron Hall · Denny Rogers · Janet Atwood · Joe Metzger · Dacia Johnson · Devan Brice (Youth Representative)

Music Ministries of the church are back!



Chancel Choir rehearsals are underway, and we are off to a wonderful start! Twelve enthusiastic singers joined Debbie and Dan for an evening filled with beautiful music, meaningful fellowship, and plenty of joyful noise.

Each rehearsal offers an opportunity to reflect on the week, grow in how we express love for God and one another, and share the joys and concerns on our hearts. Of course, we also spend lots of time singing inspiring music that enriches our worship together!

Although the choir loft may have looked full on Sunday, August 23, there is always room for more voices. We would love to have you join us for rehearsal on Wednesday evenings.

Our Handbell Choir is also ringing again! Seven spirited ringers gathered for the first rehearsal, spending time getting acquainted and beginning new music to share in an upcoming worship service.

There is plenty of room around the handbell tables for additional ringers, and no previous musical experience is needed. All you need is a willingness to learn, a sense of adventure, and a desire to be part of a fun and welcoming group.

Come sing with us on Wednesday evenings or join the Handbell Choir on Sunday mornings after worship in the music rehearsal suite. There is a place for you in the music ministry!

Adult Faith Formation

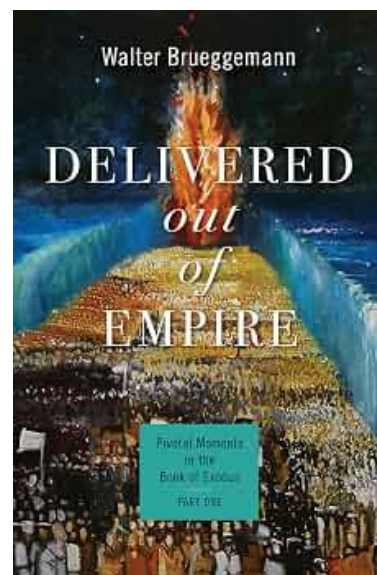
Adult Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library

All are welcome

The Adult Sunday School class continues their study of *Delivered out of Empire* by Walter Brueggemann Sundays at 9:00 am. in the Church Library. Reading Exodus, we encounter multilayered narratives about entrenched socioeconomic systems that exploit the vulnerable and the mysterious actions of the divine

.
Drop in any Sunday morning for this study and time of fellowship. We would love to have you be a part of this eye-opening study.

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, September 10, 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!

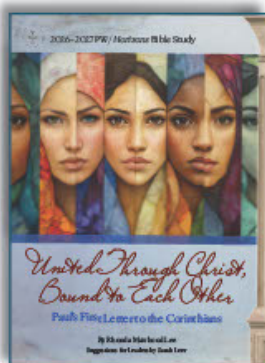
Introducing the 2026–2027 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

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



Calling all women of First Presbyterian Church Bentonville!

Have you been curious what Presbyterian Women is all about?
Come enjoy good food and fellowship and find out at our fall kick off!

What? A salad potluck lunch

When? Saturday, October 3, 2026 at noon

Where? The church library of First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville

Come and bring your favorite salad or dessert or just bring yourself!
Come and find out about what all Presbyterian Women will offer this fall.
Questions? Contact Cathy Rogers 479-640-0866 or ccrogers86@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you there!

Have you heard of The Crayon Initiative?

It's a great way to recycle broken crayons. As part of the Staples Writing Tools Recycling Program, you can drop off your broken crayons at Staples, and they will ship them to The Crayon Initiative. Donated crayons are then melted down, sanitized, and remade into chunky crayons given to Children's Hospitals.

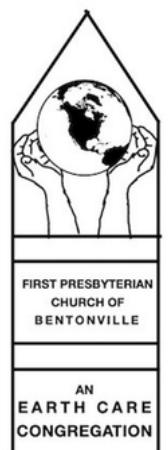
We encourage families to teach your children about recycling and giving through cleaning out your old crayons. To date, The Crayon Initiative has kept 66,751,000 crayons out of landfills while giving recycled crayons to 1,159,400 patients.

Where to drop off:

Staples

4021 WestWalnut Street Rogers, AR.

The Earth Care Task force is looking for ways FPC members can be part of recycling, and other projects to care for our precious planet. If you are interested in attending a task force meeting, call the church office (479) 273-5450, and we will be in touch.



J St. Kids Faith Formation for 2nd-6th Graders

J St. Kids Fall Schedule

Sept. 6th– The Great Feast/ Luke 14

Sept. 13th– Fellowship Table Prep

Sept. 20th– The Last Supper/Luke 22

Sept. 27th– No J St. Kids (church picnic)

Oct. 4th– Bread Baking

Oct. 11th– A Surprise Breakfast/John 21

Oct. 18th– Pumpkin Painting

Oct. 25th– No J St. Kids (Trunk or Treat)

**J St. Kids is faith formation for 2nd-6th graders and meets
Sunday mornings from 9:15-10AM.**

Thank You for Your Support!

The youth and children's ministries are incredibly thankful for the abundance of snack and supply donations from all of you! The youth and children love all the snacks and are so thankful for new crayons and markers. We have growing ministries and donations like these help offset our costs, so that we can use our budget to enhance and expand programming for our youth, children, and their families. Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

Children's Church - Faith Formation for Children

Age 3-2nd Grade

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

THIS FALL OUR CHILDREN WILL BE EXPLORING OLD
TESTAMENT STORIES THAT SET THE STAGE FOR JESUS'
ARRIVAL.

SEPT. 6TH- INTRO TO COMMUNION

SEPT. 13TH- THE BIBLE

SEPT. 20TH- CREATION

SEPT. 27TH- NO CHILDREN'S
CHURCH (CHURCH PICNIC)

OCT. 4TH- ADAM + EVE

OCT. 11TH- ABRAM AND SARAI

OCT. 18TH- BABY ISAAC

OCT. 25TH- JOSEPH

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. ON COMMUNION
SUNDAYS, CHILDREN HAVE A SHORT LESSON AND THEN
RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY TO PARTICIPATE IN
COMMUNION. .

Youth Group- Faith Formation for 7-12th Graders

Youth Ministry

September 6th– Sacred Shakes from 2–3PM

September 13th– Youth Group from 4–5:30PM

September 20th– Youthquake (no regular Youth Group)

September 27th– Church Picnic right after church

October 4th– Youth Group (pumpkin painting) from 4–5:30PM

October 10th– Food Pantry Volunteering from 8:30–11AM

October 11th– Top Golf Outing from 3–5PM

October 17th– Exeter Farm Trip from 10:30AM–6PM

October 18th– College Care Packages from 4–5:30PM

October 25th– Trunk or Treat from 1–3PM

Youth Group is faith formation for 7–12th graders. For more information about our Youth Ministry, please see the weekly Youth E-blast or be in touch with Katie McKenzie.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 13

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 13 in the sanctuary after the 10:15 worship service. There is one item for congregational action:

- To act on the slate of nominees for Elder, Deacon, and other elected positions as recommended by the Congregational Nominating Committee.

The slate of nominees will be sent out to the congregation in advance of the meeting.

J.O.Y. GROUP

Next gathering: Thursday, September 24th 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.



Worship at Orchard's Park, September 27

BENTONVILLE FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORCHARDS PARK PAVILION

WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

WORSHIP 10:15 AM
PICNIC TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW

Sunday September 27, 2026

**PROVIDED: BURGERS/HOT DOGS/VEGGIE BURGERS
CHIPS, DRINKS, PLATES ETC.
BRING A SIDE TO SHARE IF YOU WOULD LIKE**

BRING A CHAIR IF YOU CAN!



A Place for Faith to Flourish



Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—something remarkably small that, when planted, grows into something far greater than we might imagine. It becomes a place of shelter, life, and belonging.

That image is especially meaningful as we begin our annual stewardship season at First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville.

A Place for Faith to Flourish is our stewardship theme this year. It reflects both our gratitude for what God is doing among us and our hope for the ministry we are building together. Through worship, pastoral care, music, children and youth ministries, mission, fellowship, and outreach, seeds of faith are being planted every day.

We are grateful to see signs of growth throughout our church. New families are joining us. People are being cared for in times of need. Our congregation continues to serve our neighbors and provide a welcoming place where people can worship, connect, learn, and grow in faith.

None of this happens through the efforts of one person or one ministry. It happens because a congregation shares its gifts—through prayer, service, participation, and financial generosity.

As we begin this year's stewardship season, we invite each of us to prayerfully consider our next step in generosity. For some, that may mean beginning to give regularly. For others, it may mean increasing an existing commitment or considering giving as a percentage of income. The particular step will be different for each household. What matters is that our giving becomes an intentional expression of gratitude and faith.

Our stewardship season will begin during worship on Sunday, September 13. In the weeks that follow, we will share more about the ministry our generosity makes possible and the opportunities before us as we prepare for 2027.

With gratitude,

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Steve Rogers (Chair), David Atwood, Trevor Dane, Cie Cochran, Hunter Breshears, Bob Boehmler, Lance De la Rosa

Endowment Grant Applications now open to community organizations

The FPC Endowment Committee is grateful to each of the FPC ministry groups that have submitted a grant application. Endowment Grant Applications are also open to community groups. If you know of a community organization whose mission would benefit from the opportunity to submit a grant application, please help the Endowment Committee spread the word.

The Endowment Grant Applications for organizations within and outside the church are included on the following pages.

The deadline for submissions is **October 4, 2026**.

If you have questions, please contact the Endowment Committee Chair, Chris Rogers



First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville

Trusting, Growing, Caring and Serving Together in the Name of Jesus Christ.

2026 Application for Annual Endowment Awards Projects Within FPC

Please fill application out completely and submit to the church office. Applicants may be asked to follow-up with the Endowment Committee and provide documentation that the funds were used as requested. Applicants may also be requested to explain why this project is outside the scope of the regular operating budget. Submission of an application does not ensure funding.

Application deadline: October 4, 2026

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FPC Committee/Team/Group:

What is the amount of funds you are requesting?

How will the requested funds be used?

What is the timeline for the use of the funds?

How will these funds help further the mission of the church?

Who would be the point person(s) at FPC to implement the use of these funds?



First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville

Trusting, Growing, Caring and Serving Together in the Name of Jesus Christ.

2026 Application for Annual Endowment Awards

Projects Beyond FPC

Please fill application out completely and submit to the church office. Applicants may be asked to follow-up with the Endowment Committee and provide documentation that the funds were used as requested. Submission of an application does not ensure funding.

Application deadline: October 4, 2026

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Organization:

Website:

Contact person:

Please describe the organization and its mission:

What is the amount of funds you are requesting?

How will the requested funds be used?

What is the timeline for the use of the funds?

How will these funds help further the mission of the organization?

Bike to Church on October 11!



On October 11, we will have our second annual Bike-To-Church Sunday sponsored by the Earth Care Task Force. Everyone who can ride a bike is encouraged to dress casually and ride to church for the regular Sunday service. The Fellowship Team will be serving "walking tacos" after worship, so you can be well-fed for your journey home! Those not biking can still take part by greeting the riders as they arrive for church after a fun Sunday morning ride. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule.

Members of the Earth Care Task Force include: Lou & Kathy McAlister; Heidi Carlsen-Rogers; Linda Murphy; Don and Sue Ann Overstreet; Michael and Janice Zoller, Helen Davis and Fred Paillet. We are always eager to welcome new participants to our task force. Just let the church office know if you are interested.

Please join us for our 2026 Clabaugh Speaker Series

The Border and Immigration - A Faith Perspective

The Rev. Dr. John M. Nelsen

Founding Member and Partner Liaison for Tres Rios Presbytery Border Ministry



OCTOBER 18

SUNDAY

Worship 10:15 AM

The Neighbor Loophole

Luke 10:25-37

Public Talk 6:30 PM

What's Going on at the
Border and Why Should We
Care?

OCTOBER 19

MONDAY

**Lunch & Talk 12:00 noon
(RSVP to Church office)**

What We Have Learned

Public Talk 7:00 PM

What Can We Do? - Joining
God's Movement

SPONSORED BY



No charge; all are welcome; all events are at the church.

Worship and evening talks will be livestreamed.

First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville, 901 NE J ST, Bentonville AR 72712

www.fpcbentonville.org, 479-273-5450

The Rev. Dr. John M. Nelsen

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

Session Highlights

At the Stated Session meeting on August 24, 2026, regular reports of committees and task forces were received. Jacquie Vinson was the deacon delegate to this meeting; the Rev. Dr. Susan Rose (liaison to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry) attended to moderate discussions initiated by the Pastor Nominating Committee; PNC members Janet Atwood and Roy Horan also attended part of the Session meeting for the PNC discussion.

The following actions were taken by the Session:

- Updated the rolls of the church to add new members: Stephen Wyatt (reaffirmation of faith); Gary and Debbie Brod (transfer from Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village AR); Farris DeBoard (reaffirmation of faith); Rachel DeBoard (affirmation of faith/baptism), with children Charlie, Benjamin, and Sam; all of whom joined the church on July 12, 2026
- Approved a proposal from the Property, Insurance, and Technology Committee to seek donations toward the project of adding a lift to the sanctuary chancel in order to provide access for those with mobility needs
- Approved September 13, after worship, for a Called Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing deacons, elders, and other leaders to begin their service in January of 2027
- Approved the proposed 2027 church budget as a working document for Fall stewardship season
- Elected Cie Cochran to serve as Elder Commissioner to the October 3 Presbytery of Arkansas meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Springdale
- Approved a change in the benefits package for installed pastors, to allow for pastor-only or pastor-and-children health insurance coverage (no longer offering health coverage for spouse)

There was also an electronic (called) meeting on July 2 to approve baptisms, and an in-person called meeting on July 12 to receive new members (as noted above in the rolls update).

There was not a Stated Session meeting in July.

The next Stated Session meeting will be Monday, September 28, 2026.

Thank you for 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 September 23, 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.