



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 October 2026

October 1

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

October 3

Presbyterian Women Luncheon, Noon
Presbytery of Arkansas mtg, FPC Springdale

October 4 - World Communion Sunday

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
J St. Kids, 9:15 am; Choir Practice, 9:30 am
Worship, with the Lord's Supper, 10:15 am
Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am
Youth Group Sacred Shakes, 2:00 pm

October 7

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

October 8

Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Officer Training, 6 pm

October 9

J St. Kids Movie Night, 6-8 pm

October 10

Youth Volunteering at FPC Food Pantry

October 11 - Bike to Church Sunday

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am, Called Session Mtg, 9:15 am
J St. Kids, 9:15 am; Choir Practice, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Walking Tacos Fellowship immediately following worship
Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am; Confirmation Class, 11:30 am
Youth Group at Top Golf, 3-5 pm

October 14

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

October 15

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

October 17

Youth Exeter Corn Maze Trip, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

October 18

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
J St. Kids, 9:15 am; Choir Practice, 9:30 am
Worship with The Rev. Dr. John M. Nelsen preaching, 10:15 am
Deacons meeting, 11:30 am; Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am
Youth Group, 4:00 pm
Clabaugh Public Talk, 6:30 pm

**October is overflowing with fellowship and fun! Turn the page
for more of what's happening at FPC. -->**

October 19

Clabaugh Lunch & Talk (RSVP to Church Office), 12:00 noon

Clabaugh Public Talk, 7:00 pm

October 21

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

October 22

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

October 25 - Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am

J St. Kids, 9:15 am; Choir Practice, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:15 am

Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am

Trunk-or-Treat, 1-3 pm

October 26

Session Meeting, 6:00 pm

October 28

Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

October 29

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

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

Music News

Our church family is already very familiar with Debbie Oliver, as she has been sharing her musical gifts with us over the past year in the role of “interim” Accompanist. We are very excited to share that Debbie has accepted the position of permanent Accompanist for the church! We are grateful for her kind, skillful presence that has enhanced our Sunday morning worship in so many ways. She will continue to work with the chancel choir and bell choir, and collaborate with Dan Phillips in all areas of church music.

Debbie completed her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and was accepted into the Master’s of Vocal Performance degree program at Arizona State University. She was previously the Accompanist at a Lutheran church in the area and has been a Freelance Accompanist at the University of Arkansas. She also served as accompanist for the U of A Children’s Choir. She has taught voice and piano through U of A affiliated programs and in her private studio. She is a Certified Teacher of the Suzuki Piano Method.

She has served in three Presbyterian churches — as the Adult, Youth, and Children’s Choir Director, as well as the Adult and Youth Handbell Choir Director. She has sung professionally as a chorus member of the North Dakota, Colorado, and Arizona Opera Companies. She has also been a salaried Soprano Soloist.

Debbie lives in Fayetteville with her husband, Lin, who is a Physics Professor at the U of A. They have three adult sons.





Bells are ringing, and choirs are singing! Sounds kind of like a Christmas carol, doesn't it? There's a good reason for that. Even though it is October, preparations for the Advent and Christmas season are already beginning in the Music Ministry department!

We are preparing to present a wonderful new cantata for Christmas in the Chancel Choir. Because of this, Chancel Choir rehearsals will run a little longer each week, so we have time to work on anthems for the upcoming services and prepare for the cantata service! Since we're just getting started, now is the time to come join us! We'd love to have lots of voices. Maybe you don't want to commit to being a long-term member of the Chancel Choir, but you want the excitement of singing with a group for the Christmas season. That's okay with us! Come on and join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings in the music room! Childcare is provided.

And as I said, bells are ringing too! Handbells will be preparing special music for the Advent season and Christmas Eve! I am even getting back into a little music arranging myself for some special pieces featuring our bells and several members of the congregation who play musical instruments! We have nine ringers on our roster now for handbells, but there is always room for more! Please reach out to me if you'd like to learn more. We rehearse on Sunday mornings after worship for about an hour. So come ring those bells!

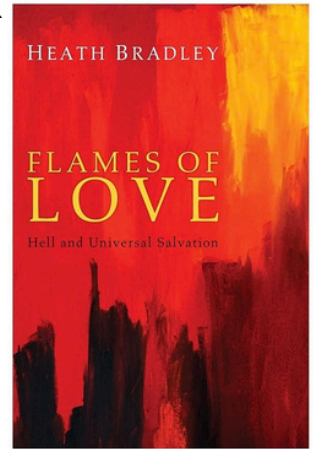
Dan Phillips
Director of Music Ministry

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am in the church Library All are welcome

The Adult Sunday School class begins a new study of the book *Flames of Love* by Heath Bradley on October 18.

A theological exploration of how divine love and judgment coexist. This book offers a clear and compelling response to the question of what hell could be for in a universe created and redeemed by a loving God.



The book seeks to articulate the centrality of Christ, coheres with Scripture, affirms the reality of divine judgment, and offers motivational grounds for evangelism and holy living.

Tom Senior will be leading this class.

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, October 8, at 9:30 am in the church library. Enjoy lively stories, discussions, and prayers. Doughnuts and coffee will be provided. All are welcome.



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.

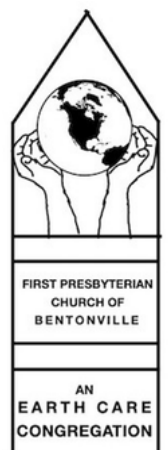
We encourage families to teach your children about recycling and giving through cleaning out your old crayons. To date, The Crayon Initiative has kept 66,751,000 crayons out of landfills while giving recycled crayons to 1,159,400 patients.

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.



Presbyterian Women

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!

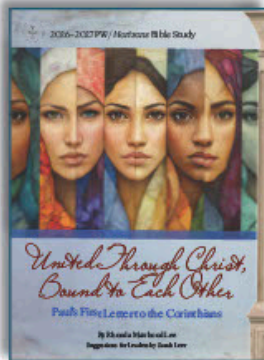
Introducing the 2026–2027 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study

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



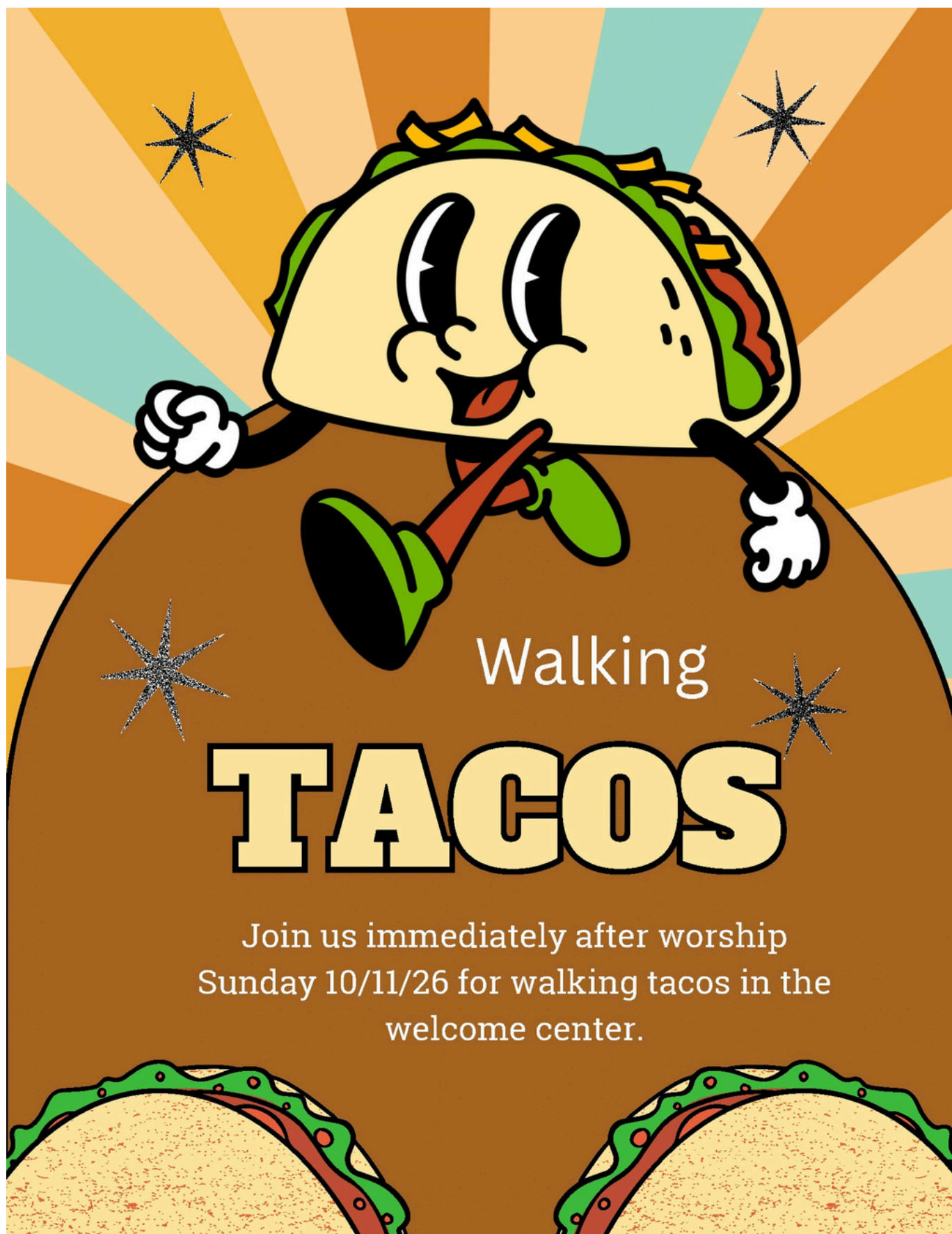
Bike to Church on October 11!



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.

Walking Tacos After Worship - October 11



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

J St. Kids Oct. Schedule

Oct. 4th– Bread Baking/ World Communion

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.



MOVIE NIGHT

J ST. KIDS

2-6th graders are invited to join us for a fall movie night on Friday, October 9th from 6-8PM!

A pizza dinner will be provided. Please sign-up by October 6th to attend. This is a drop-off event.

SIGN UP HERE:



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.

OCT. 4TH- ADAM + EVE
OCT. 11TH- ABRAHAM 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

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 Corn Maze Trip from 9AM–4:30PM

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.

Trunk-or-Treat, Sunday, October 25, 1-3pm

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!

TRUNK OR TREAT

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY FRIENDLY COSTUME

October 25 | 1PM - 3PM

**Games - Prizes- Snacks - Fairy Hair
Kona Ice (2-3PM) - Obstacle Course -
Fundraiser for Sharing and Caring**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BENTONVILLE

901 NE J St. in the north parking lot. In the case of bad
weather, we will move inside.



Trunk-or-Treat Volunteering and Support

The Children's Team is looking for volunteers for Trunk or Treat (10/25 from 1-3pm). Trunk or Treat welcomes dozens of community members, church families, and preschool families to our church. It is an opportunity to welcome others into our space and communicate what our church is about. To have a successful event, we need your help! Here are a variety of ways you can help support our event:

Trunk Host (12:30PM-3:30PM)

Trunk hosts decorate the trunk of their vehicle, lead an activity, and pass out candy/prizes to participants. The activity and prizes are provided.

Obstacle Course Monitor (Shift One: 12:45-1:30, Shift 2: 1:30-3PM)

Monitor the obstacle course and keep children safe as they have fun.

Toddler Bounce House Monitor (Shift 1: 12:45-1:30, Shift 2: 1:30-3PM)

Monitor the toddler bounce house area and ensure children are safe as they have fun.

Greeter (Shift 1: 12:45-1:30) Shift 2: 1:30-3PM)

Greeters welcome participants to our church and help answer any questions about the event. Greeters can work in shifts.

Concessions (12:30-3:00PM)

Work with the youth group to prepare and sell nachos for their Sharing and Caring fundraiser.

Set Up Team (Shift 1: 9am-10am, Shift Two: 11:15-12:45PM)

Help set up the event and ensure that all trunks and activity hosts have what they need.

Clean Up Team (3:00-4:00PM)

Help tear down and clean up tables, chairs, and activity items after Trunk or Treat.

Supply Donation

We will need bags of candy (no nuts or peanut butter, please), prizes, and other Halloween treats to pass out. We will also gladly accept bags of tortilla chips and nacho sauce to help offset the overhead costs of the youth/children's Sharing and Caring fundraiser.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Katie McKenzie (kflood@fpcbentonville.org) by Oct. 12th or drop off supply donations to her office by Oct. 19th. Thank you!

J.O.Y. GROUP

**Next gathering: Thursday, October 22nd 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.

Program presented by: Kyle Alexander and Samaritan Feet International

The holidays are coming, and our meeting dates have been adjusted. Please add the following dates to your calendar:

November 12th - Camp War Eagle with Andy Charles

December 10th - My Friends and Me Learning Center update with My Friends and Me students singing carols



A Place for Faith to Flourish

Stewardship & Finance



As we continue our stewardship season, we're grateful for the many ways faith is flourishing at FPC.

Faith is flourishing through...



Children & Youth — J Street Kids, youth ministry, and families worshiping and learning together.



Fellowship & Belonging — Conversations that Matter, Adult Sunday School, meals shared after worship, and other opportunities to gather and build relationships.



Worship & Music — Worship, choir, handbells, musicians, and the many volunteers who help make our services possible.



Serving Our Neighbors — The Food Pantry, My Friends & Me preschool, and mission ministries throughout our community.



Looking Toward 2027

Our proposed 2027 operating budget is approximately **\$1.13 million**. It reflects a fuller staff, including the anticipated calling of a permanent Head Pastor, while sustaining our ministries, programs, building, and the support that makes the life of FPC possible.

Reaching this goal will require a significant increase in congregational giving.



Take Your Next Step

If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider your next step in generosity for 2027. Commitment cards may be returned to the church office, or you can make your 2027 commitment online using the link below:

[MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT ONLINE](#)

Please submit your commitment no later than Dedication Sunday, October 25.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Steve Rogers, Chair

David Atwood, Trevor Dane, Cie Cochran, Hunter Breshears, Bob Boehmler, Lance de la Rosa

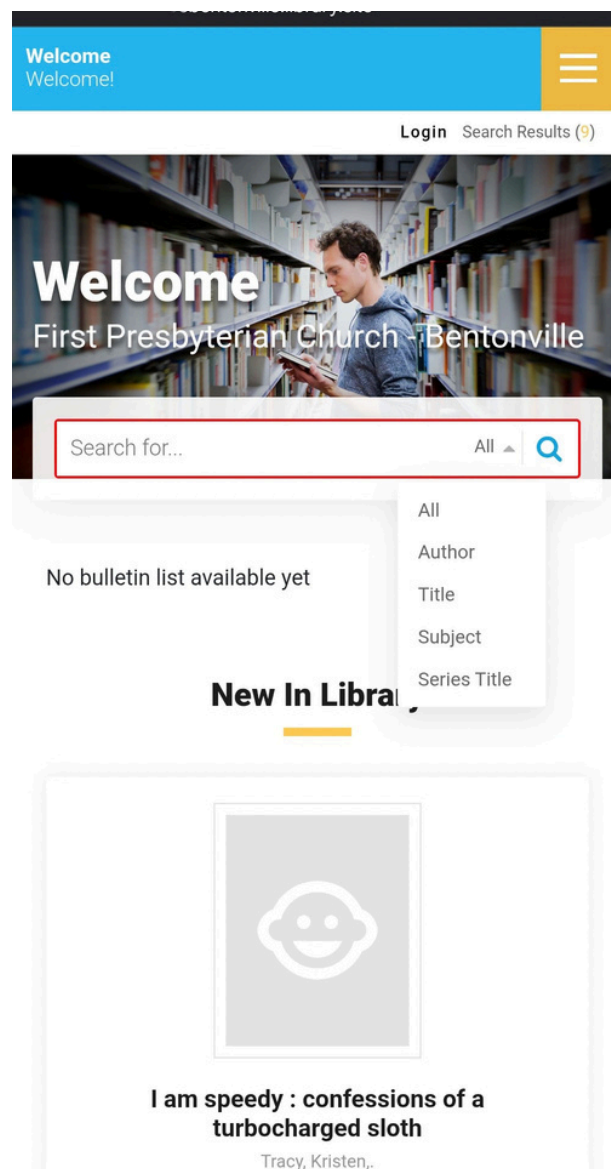
Introducing New Technology in the Church Library!

We cherish the long history of our church library. It is said that the first library in Bentonville was housed in First Presbyterian Church on Central Avenue in the 1920 or early 30s.

Fast forward 100 years; the team has stepped up its game. Our library currently has approximately 4,000 titles. To help sort through this wide selection, the library's software database system, Surpass, is now in the cloud. With this [link](#) anyone can search our book inventory from their computer or phone.

The photo below shows what you will see when you open the link. Right now, "new books in the library" appears first. To bypass this section, click on the down arrow beside ALL. You can search by author, title, subject, or series. At this time, all books from adult to children's selections are listed together. We are working to separate adult titles from the children's titles.

We hope everyone of all ages will use this new library resource. Please try it and let us know if you find this new tool useful.



The FPC Food Pantry Needs Boxes!

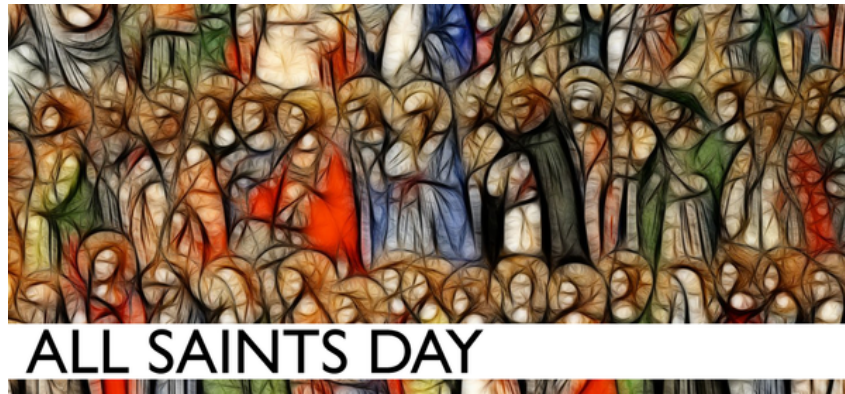
Our box supply is running low! The space that normally holds boxes stacked eight feet high is nearly empty, and we use approximately 200 boxes each Saturday to pack food for our neighbors.

Please help us restock by donating new or used boxes larger than a shoebox and smaller than a microwave. Donations may be dropped off at the Food Pantry table in the Welcome Hall.

Thank you for helping us keep this ministry moving—one box at a time!



All Saint's Sunday, November 1, 2026



During worship on November 1, we will remember with thanksgiving those loved ones and church members who have entered their eternal rest since All Saint's Sunday last year (November 2, 2025). If you have a loved one who has died within the last year, whom you would like remembered and named on this day, please contact the church office, (479) 273-5450 or administrative.assistant@fpcbentonville.org.

We will also include this list in the worship guide for the Friday eblast on October 30, and in the worship guide that Sunday morning.

You are also welcome to share a photo of your loved one (optional) by emailing it to the church office with the name as an attachment. The photos will be displayed on the screen during the anthem on All Saints Sunday.

Please submit names (and photos if you so choose) to the church office by **Tuesday, October 27.**

Second Quarters - Young Adult Group

YOU'RE INVITED TO



SECOND QUARTERS

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

FOR THOSE IN THEIR 20'S, 30'S AND 40'S

Kick-off is Sunday November 15, 2026

@ 9 am in the Church Library

"FAITH JOURNEYS" - DENNIS & CAROL RITCHIE

CHILD CARE PROVIDED IN THE NURSERY AND J STREET KIDS

WE WILL BE MEETING MONTHLY

BAGELS & COFFEE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BENTONVILLE

QUESTIONS? 417-894-7130 CALL OR TEXT

Session Highlights

At the Stated Session meeting on September 28, 2026, regular reports of committees and task forces were received. Alex Brice was the deacon delegate to this meeting; Pastor Nominating Committee members Janet Atwood and Roy Horan also attended part of the Session meeting for updates and motions coming from the PNC.

The following actions were taken by the Session:

- Approved the baptism of Liam McCann for October 11, 2026
- Removed Don McCaskill from the rolls of the church due to his death on August 29, 2026
- Approved a motion from the children's committee for the children and youth to engage in a fundraiser to support Christmas shopping for children from the Sharing and Caring program
- Approved a revised accompanist job description to go along with shifting Debbie Oliver from "interim" accompanist to a permanent position
- Approved a motion from the Pastor Nominating Committee to retain a recruiting firm to support the pastoral search, funded through an individual donation
- Approved adjustments to Pastor Georgia's health benefits and pension correction

The Session also heard an update from the PIT Committee regarding progress on the chancel lift project.

There will be a Called Session meeting on October 11 at 9:15 am for the purpose of receiving new members.

The next Stated Session meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2026.

Thank you for the collaborative effort behind 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 October 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
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.