A PLACE FOR FAITH TO FLOURISH

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

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Here's What's Happening November 2026

November 1 - All Saints' 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, 4:00 pm

November 2
Prayer Vigil, 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

November 3 - Election Day
FPC is a polling site, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 am - 7:30 pm

November 4
Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

November 5
W.O.W (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30 am

November 8
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
Youth Group, 4:00 pm

November 11
Choir Practice, 6:30 pm

November 12
Presbyterian Women Rachel Circle, 9:30 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
J.O.Y. Group (Just Older Youth), 11:00 am

November 15
Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am, Young Adult Gathering, 9:00 am
J St. Kids, 9:15 am; Choir Practice, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am; Confirmation Class, 11:30 am; Deacons meeting, 11:30 am; Earthcare composting workshop, following worship
Sharing and Caring Shopping, 2- 3 pm

November 16
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm

November 18
Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, 6 pm; Choir Practice, 7 pm

November 19
W.O.W. (Women of the Word) Bible Study, 9:30 am
My Friends and Me Program, 11am
Presbyterian Women Elizabeth Circle, 6:00 pm

November 21
FPC Food Pantry Turkey Day, 9 - 11 am

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

November 22

Adult Faith Formation, 9:00 am
J St. Kids, 9:15 am; Choir Practice, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Hanging of the Greens, after worship
Handbell Rehearsal, 11:30 am

November 23 - 27

My Friends and Me Learning Center closed

November 26 - 27

Church Office closed

November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

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

Praying for peace, wisdom, and safety on Election Eve

Our Sanctuary will be open from 6:00 - 6:30 pm on Monday, November 2 for all who wish to gather for a simple time of prayer and scripture in anticipation of the election and the season ahead. This will be an opportunity to ground ourselves in the grace of God in a non-partisan way. We will not discuss ballot issues or candidates.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:4

Lets's Make Some Compost!

On November 1 and 2, the Earthcare Task Force will place red compost bins at the curb on the South side of the building so you can easily compost your Jack-o'-lanterns, pumpkins, and fall decorative plant material.

Also, on November 15, after the service, we will host our second compost workshop. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and learn how to layer compost in cardboard boxes. Then we will add some friendly earthworms to help us get our compost cooking. All ages are welcome to come and participate. Come learn an easy way to become more Earth-friendly. Free Earthworms to good homes!



“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come! Raise the song of harvest home.”

It’s November! Time is surely flying. And I do really love the Thanksgiving hymns that we sing. But December will be here before we know it! As I mentioned in last month’s newsletter, work is already underway on this year’s Christmas Cantata, A Carol Mosaic, by Heather Sorenson. We'll present this wonderful new work with an orchestra during worship on Sunday, December 13, and all of you will all take part as well! I’ll share more information on that later. In the meantime, we are presenting a lovely anthem for All Saints’ Day called “I Will Always Be With You,” featuring Charity Moore on flute. We also have something special planned for November that will bring us into Thanksgiving and then into the Advent season!

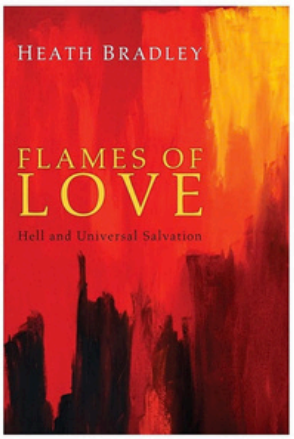
Handbells are working on a couple of great pieces for the month of November! We will be ringing them in worship on Sunday, November 8. “Let Your Praises Ring,” a very exciting piece that really lifts the spirit, and “Peals of Thanks and Praise,” a medley of some of those great Thanksgiving hymns I mentioned! I know you will love these!
It’s not too late to join these two groups, even for the cantata! If you would like to come sing with us, Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Childcare is provided! Handbells rehearse after worship on Sundays from 11:30 to 12:30. Please consider joining us!

Heads-up for next month: we'll host the Bentonville High School Orchestra for a concert of holiday concert on Monday, December 7 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please mark your calendars now before they fill up with all the other activities of the busy holiday season!

Dan Phillips
Director of Music Ministry

Adult Faith Formation

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



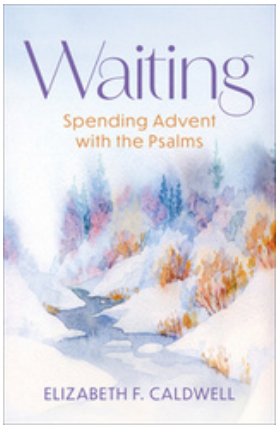
The Adult Sunday School class continues a new study of the book *Flames of Love* by Heath Bradley on through November 22.

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 Senor will be leading this class. Participant books are available in the church office, or you may obtain your own. All are welcome!

Advent Study



The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a new Advent study, *Waiting, Spending Advent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, on November 29.

The season of Advent, meant to be a time of waiting, all too often rushes into Christmas without letting us take a breath. The poetry of the Psalms invites us to slow down, pause, and connect with the psalmist's thoughts, feelings, and images. Designed to help us carve out time for reflection and meditation during this hectic season.

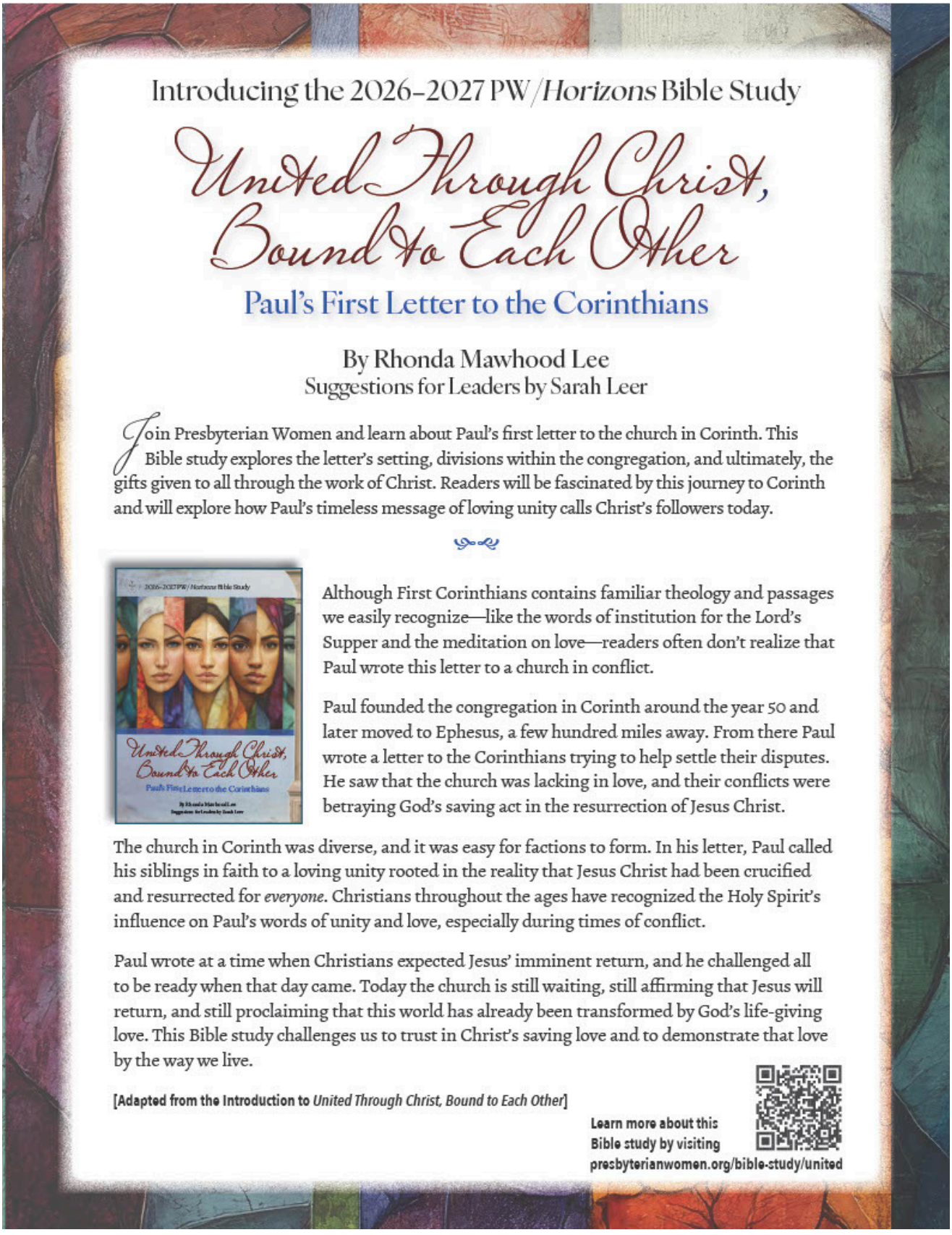
Men's Fellowship Group

Gather with us on Thursday, November 12, at 9:30 am in the church library. Enjoy lively stories, discussions, devotional, and prayers. Doughnuts and coffee will be provided.
All are welcome.



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!



Congratulations, Renee Nestor!

On Sat., Oct. 3rd , the Presbyterian Women of FPC Bentonville held their Fall Kickoff Luncheon.

All who attended had a wonderful time. We enjoyed great food & visiting with friends. We shared information about upcoming Bible studies and other events.

The highlight was when Renee Nestor received her Honorary Lifetime Presbyterian Membership. She greatly deserved this honor for her dedication to Presbyterian Women, her service to the church & her mission-mindedness.

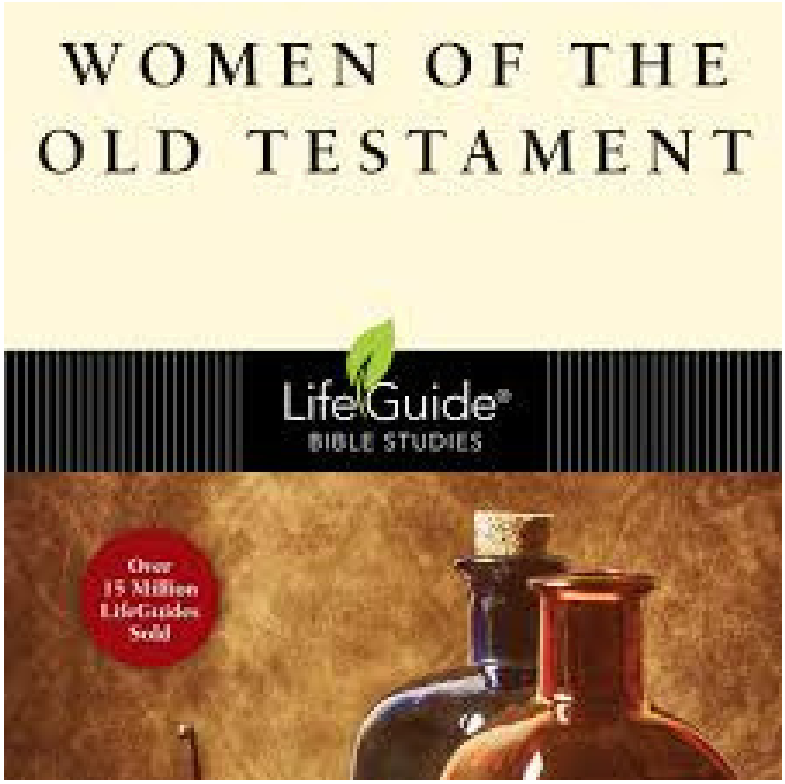
Congratulations, Renee! We are so proud of you!

For more information on the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Lifetime Membership, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org.



W.O.W (Women of the Word) Bible Study

WOW Bible Study will meet Nov 5 and 19 from 9:30-10:30 in the Birds Eye room. We are starting *Women of the New Testament* by Gladys Hunt of Life Guide Bible Studies on Nov. 5. Books are available for $8 from Carol Ritchie. All women are invited to join in this group study.



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



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

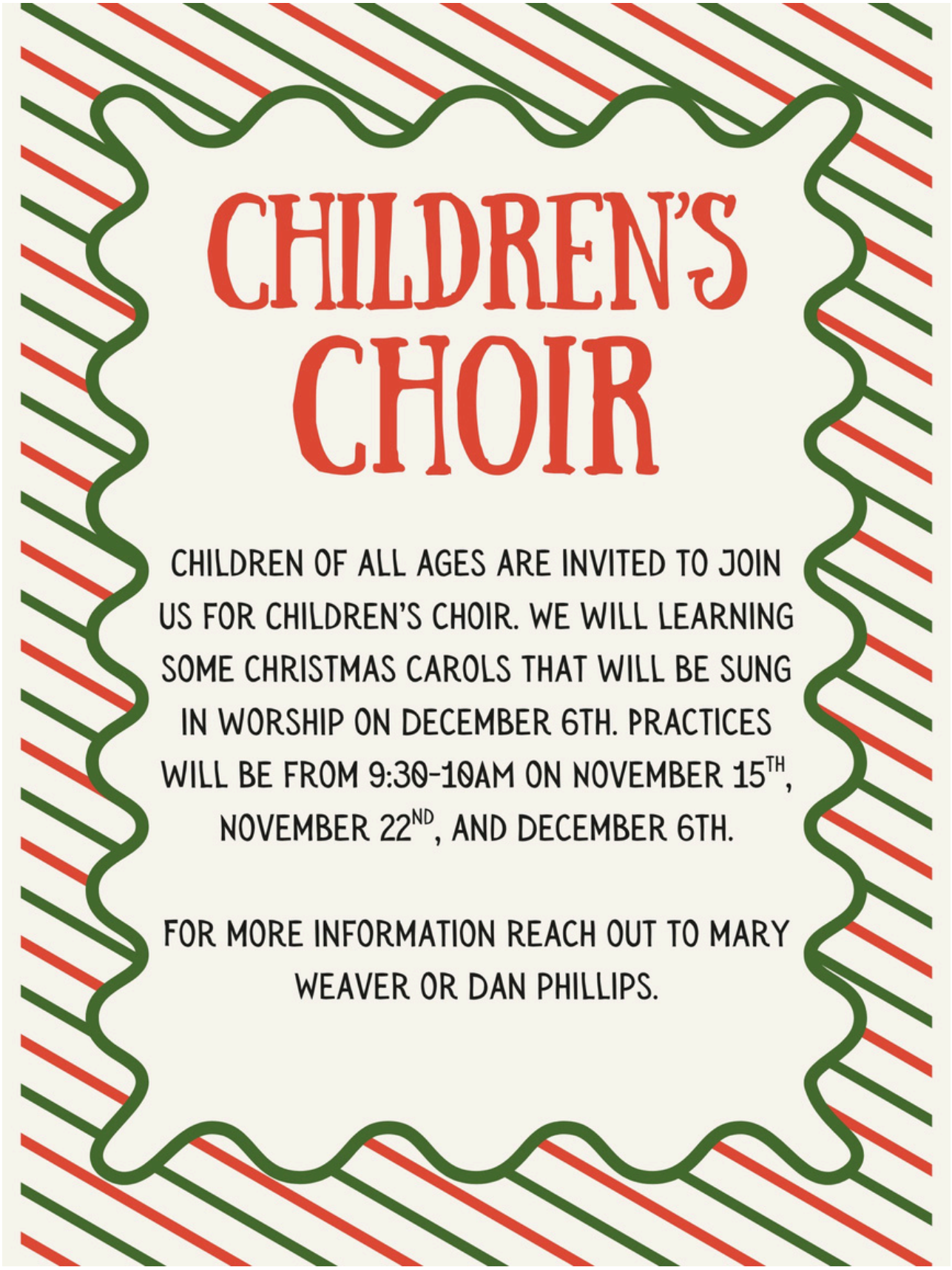
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

November 1st- Baby Moses
November 8th- The Burning Bush
November 15th - The Red Sea
November 22nd- Christmas Decorating!
November 29th- Advent

During the month of November Children's Church will be learning some of the stories in Exodus and transitioning into the season of Advent. Children's Church is faith formation for children ages 3-2nd grade and takes place directly after the Children's Message. Children return to the sanctuary for Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month.



Children's Choir



Youth Group- Faith Formation for 7-12th Graders



Children and Youth Ministry Fundraiser

The Children and Youth ministries are hosting a fundraiser to raise money for their Sharing and Caring shopping. Sharing and Caring is a local organization that helps provide Christmas presents for children.

This year, the children and youth will be selling ornaments and hot chocolate kits after church on December 1st and 8th to help reach our goal of shopping for 6 children ($900). Donations can be made in person with cash, check, or credit card, or online by selecting “Child Ministry Fundraiser” through the drop-down box on our website. Thank you so much for helping support this meaningful cause!

J.O.Y. GROUP
Next gathering: Thursday,November 12th 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: Andy Charles with Camp War Eagle
The holidays are coming, and our meeting dates have been adjusted. Please add the following dates to your calendar:

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

January 28th - Tiffany Trump-Humbert (Spain and Protugal)



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

Give the Gift of Life - Blood Drive Monday, November 16



Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall (gym)

901 NE J St
Bentonville, AR 72712

Monday, November 16, 2026
1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To reserve your spot, click here

Congregation Thanksgiving Dinner
Wednesday, November 18



FPC Food Pantry Turkey Day
Saturday, November 21, 2026

The countdown is on…our Food Pantry Turkey Day 2026 is coming up fast! We anticipate serving 345 families on Saturday, November 21st; an increase of 20% over last year. As with any mission, volunteers and funds drive the cause. The volunteer commitments continue to come in, and the slots are 90% filled. However, we are about 25% short of the estimated expenditure of $10.5K needed for turkey breasts, holiday meal boxes, and the usual weekly food provided.

If you'd like to help as a volunteer, no previous experience is required! A simple email to cheryl.wright329@gmail.com will receive a quick response. As a donor, please indicate that your donation is to help fund Turkey Day 2026.



Sacred Space:
Our Chapel and Columbarium



There is a special place in our church building: our Chapel and Columbarium, located just to the left after entering the main doors.
Our church's chapel contains beautiful stained glass and a Celtic cross as the focal point. It has been the site of prayer gatherings, preschool chapel story time, renewal of wedding vows, and services of Witness to the Resurrection. Church members are invited to sit and pray in the quiet space of the chapel whenever the church is open. It is also home to the final physical resting place for many of our church family who have passed into the arms of God. The columbarium in our chapel has available niches to reserve for you or your loved ones as you make end-of-life decisions.

A columbarium is a structure with recesses (niches) in the walls to receive and house the ashes of the deceased who have been cremated. Each niche includes a nameplate to memorialize departed loved ones. Generally, there is a service in the chapel when the cremains are interred, and then the chapel is available later for personal visits, to sit in peaceful remembrance and prayer. By reserving your niche ahead of time, you help your loved ones by taking care of final decisions in advance.

For more information on arrangements and cost, you can contact any of the members of our Columbarium Committee, or call Amanda in the church office to pick up a brochure and reservation form.

John Whiting
Ila Blackketter-Wolfe
Blake Hill
Pam DuBois
Ben Fox

Everyone is invited to join in “Hanging of the Greens” on Sunday, November 22 after worship

All ages are invited to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season! We will gather in the Welcome Center after worship on Sunday, November 22, to decorate trees and put up wreaths. Children are especially encouraged to help decorate our Angel tree and Chrismon tree. There will be snacks as we enjoy our time together.











Stewardship & Finance Update

Stewardship: A Place for Faith to Flourish

As we reflect on Dedication Sunday and this year's stewardship theme, A Place for Faith to Flourish, we are grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of our church family.

As of October 26th, **49 households have submitted financial commitments totaling $353,222 for 2027,** including 5 households making commitments for the first time. Among returning households, commitments have increased 9% over last year.

Additionally, **16 households have established recurring giving through Abundant totaling approximately $101,800 annually**, bringing our combined total of commitments and recurring giving to **$455,022 from 65 households.**

Thank you to everyone who has responded and for the many ways you support the life and ministry of FPC. We anticipate hearing from additional households in the coming weeks and welcome commitments from those who haven't yet responded. Your participation helps us plan thoughtfully for the ministries and mission of FPC in the coming year.

2026 Financial Update

Operating Results Through September

Giving & Other Revenue $628,558
Operating Expenses $639,222

Net Operating Deficit ($10,664)

Updated 2026 Year-End Forecast

Giving & Other Revenue $846,502
Operating Expenses $884,555

Net Operating Deficit ($38,053)

Through September, FPC's operating deficit of $10,664 is significantly better than the $107,868 originally budgeted.

As previously shared, Session approved a deficit budget for 2026 to provide financial flexibility during this period of pastoral and staffing transition. Our updated forecast now projects a year-end deficit of $38,053, compared with the original budgeted deficit of $146,111. Much of this improvement reflects temporary personnel savings from staffing vacancies, which have helped offset revenue that is running below budget.

Looking Ahead to 2027

Initial budget requests for 2027 totaled approximately $1.1 million. We are now evaluating these requests alongside stewardship results as we work to develop a financially sustainable budget for the coming year.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee will work with Session, staff, and ministry committees to identify opportunities to reduce expenses and thoughtfully prioritize the ministries and operations we can support. As additional commitments come in, we'll continue evaluating the gap between anticipated revenue and operating costs.

We also anticipate continued conversations with the congregation about 2027 commitments as we work together to support the church's ministries and mission.

It's not too late to make your 2027 commitment! You can submit your commitment through our Online Commitment Form, return your completed card to the church office, or email it to Hannah, our Financial Manager, at financial.manager@fpcbentonville.org.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to making FPC **A Place for Faith to Flourish.**

With gratitude,
Stewardship & Finance Committee

FPC-4-FPC (Flowers and plants crew for First Presbyterian Church)

Dear Church Family:

As we approach the end of 2026, the FPC-4-FPC (flowers, and plant crew for First Presbyterian Church) Landscape Committee wishes to continue to thank the congregation for their support of our work this year with your prayers and financial donations.

2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Installation of the irrigation system for Phase II.(2026 Endowment Committee Grant.)
*Installation of new Bermuda sod on the North side of the church and the front Southeast side of the church.
*Moving forward with new trees, plants, shrubs, and flowers in our Phase II project in November, or in the spring of 2027. (Donation by an area landscape company.)

We are currently installing the irrigation system for Phase II so our investment in future plantings has access to water. We saw the benefits of this for our Phase I plantings, especially with extremely dry conditions that could have been disastrous.

We thank the Endowment Committee for the recent recommendation and our Session's approval of a grant to help cover some of the required expenses for our Phase II irrigation system.

We are currently planting new Bermuda sod in significant bare spots around our newly painted church.

We expect to see Phase II plantings soon, with the schedule contingent on receiving additional groundwater moisture in the coming days.

Once we finish Phase II planting, we plan to see if we can build a landscape maintenance reserve fund to help with plant replacement that may be needed in future years, along with any new landscape plans that may be considered for the church.

We also wish to announce that the Session has approved the use of some of our property on the Northeast side of our property for the Alice Walton School of Medicine to build a new rain garden in the months ahead to help with their drainage issues.

A professionally designed and built rain garden will be a beautiful, attractive addition to both of our properties under a shared-use agreement, using native plants, flowers, and trees.

Our church's Environmental Committee has embraced this project to further support our church's efforts toward a cleaner, healthier environment with this new, attractive garden.

We continue to thank Mike McGinley and Anthony, our custodian, for helping us with the continued maintenance of our landscape projects and maintaining a consistent weeding program during the year. You can certainly tell the difference with their work.

Thank you, Congregation, for a wonderful 2026, and we will stay in touch to keep you informed of our continued progress!

Bob Boehmler/Gail Rogers Co-Chairs

FPC-4-FPC Landscape Committee (Flowers, and plants crew for First Presbyterian Church)

Abraham Aguilar, Nancy Barnes, Roy Horan, Kathy McAlister, Brooke Spenser
Bob Boehmler, Co-Chair, Gayle Rogers, Co-Chair

Helping Hands Work Day: A Place for Faith to Flourish through Service



Our next Helping Hands Work Day is Saturday, December 6, from 9 am to 4 pm.

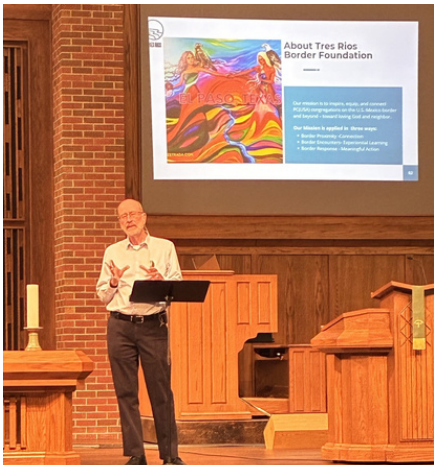
We invite you to join us for any amount of time you can give that day. Volunteers are needed to stock shelves, unload donations, work the cash register, and help wherever needed.

Every helping hand makes a difference! Your time and willingness to serve help keep this vital ministry going and extend a hand of hope to our neighbors.

Thank you for continuing First Presbyterian Church's 50-year tradition of supporting Helping Hands. We hope you will join us for this meaningful day of service!

“We’re not on the *red* team or the *blue* team. We’re on the *Love-Your-Neighbor* team!”

Our 2027 Clabaugh speaker, the Rev. Dr. John Nelsen, emphasized this point several times during his presentations on "Immigration and the Border: A Faith Perspective." In his sermon on October 18, as well as his public presentations and lunch discussion on October 18-19, Rev. Nelsen challenged us to think more deeply about the true human needs of the people he ministers to in El Paso at Tres Rios Presbyterian Border Foundation. We heard the history of Presbyterian border ministry and the current reality of his specific location. Though much of what we learned was heartbreaking, we were also encouraged to consider how we might make a difference going forward. Learn more about Tres Rios at their website: https://www.tresriosborderfoundation.org/home











Trunk or Treat - Sunday, October 25

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make Trunk or Treat happen! The Children's Team greatly appreciates everyone who volunteered, donated supplies, and attended this event! It was a great afternoon of fall fun!













Session Highlights

At the Stated Session meeting on October 26, 2026, regular reports of committees and task forces were received. Alicia Hall was the deacon delegate to this meeting.

The following actions were taken by the Session:

- approved the collection of donations (items & money) for the Food Pantry on 11/18/26, during the Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner
- authorized conclusion of an agreement with the Alice Walton School of Medicine to construct a rain garden along the north property line of the church
- approved a new job description for the MFM Director, revising the position to 25 hours per week
- approved use $6,500 from a designated maintenance fund account to repair our HVAC system due to a faulty geothermal well by re-piping to another well
- approved the recommendation of the FPC Endowment Committee to use the FPC Endowment funds available for distribution in 2026, totaling $22,036, be distributed as follows:

(1)	My Friends and Me	$5,000.00
(2)	Food Pantry	$2,157.00
(3)	Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services	$2,742.50
(4)	FPC-4-FPC (landscaping)	$7,200.00
(5)	Saving Grace	$1,645.50
(6)	United Campus Ministries	$3,291.00

The Session also noted in the clerk's report on the consent agenda that Liam McCann was baptized on October 11, and that the following new members were received by the Session on October 11:

- **joining by letter of transfer:**

Joyce Laverty - United Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas;
Dan and Dawn Phillips - First Methodist Church, Siloam Springs, AR

- **joining by reaffirmation of faith:**

Kevin and Stephanie McCann, with son Liam
Ellie Phillips, with son Kellan
Daniel Wilcox and Jessica Kang Wilcox, with children Isabella and Edward
Windsor Esther and Kaitlyn Bryant, with children Evelyn and Annie
Greg and Tova Bohrer, with children Solveig and Magnus

Minutes were received from a Called Session meeting on October 11 at 9:15 am for the purpose of receiving new members and an electronic (email) vote, in which motions were approved authorizing the Clabaugh speaker (Rev. Dr. John Nelsen) to include a QR code for donations on his handouts, and authorizing the Bentonville High School Chamber Orchestra to use a QR code for fundraising on their printed program when they present their holiday concert in our sanctuary on December 7.

The next Stated Session meeting will be Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm. There will also be two Called Session meetings for the purpose of examining incoming elders and deacons: Sunday, November 8 at 11:45 am, and Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30 pm, just prior to the Stated Session meeting that evening.

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 November 13, 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.