

WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!

FALL 2022 SCHEDULE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Brand new classes planned for this fall! All ages have something to look forward to.

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MUSIC MINISTRIES

Opportunities for musicians and music enthusiasts of all ages! Check out what we have planned for this season.

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CHURCH NEWS

Updates from Properties, Stewardship, Welcoming and Belonging ministries.

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What a joyful start we had to the fall semester on Celebration Sunday August 14! The mood here is definitely “We’re back!” It feels so good to be together again.

Amy McCann has received a well-deserved Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership for her faithful service to FUPC over the past nearly 20 years.

Martha Brewer, Barbara Rutledge, Nancy Waite, and Kay Pickett were honored for their dedicated work in researching, compiling, filing, and designing a space for our historical documents. The new History Room, located across from the Chapel in Upper Witherspoon, was dedicated to the glory of God, and is now available to use and enjoy.

Early worship will continue to be outdoors until cooler weather arrives. When that service moves into Fellowship Hall, we will resume weekly communion. Late service attendance is picking up now that school is starting. We hope to be back in the Sanctuary in November when air conditioning replacement is completed.

We are pleased to announce that a new, less formal worship service will be added soon—once a month on third Sundays at 4 pm, beginning in September. We hope this time will work well for families, including First School families.

The ice cream social (including root beer floats!) was a success and children had a great time splashing on water mats on the Courtyard grass. Fellowship is currently considering a Fall Festival in October.

We were able to purchase a goat through Heifer! If you’ve been watching the livestream, you know that one evening of summer VBS focused on the story of a young Ugandan woman who received a goat that, in turn, provided milk that, in turn, provided money for education and clothing that, in turn, provided money for a home. It’s remarkable what a goat can do! We planned to raise \$120, but the quarters went w-a-y over the top. A member matched the amount of all the quarters, and another added a special gift, so we ended up with over \$850. That’s seven goats and some chickens. What a difference you make in the lives of others!

Canopy NWA is quickly gaining interest and support. We are developing a FUPC team to lead us in welcoming refugees and equipping them with all they need to build new lives. You will hear more about this in a special worship service on October 16.

Spiritual Growth opportunities are in place for all ages for Sunday mornings. We especially look forward to seeing our children and youth after summer vacations and camp experiences.

We’ll be hosting another Look Before You Leap inquiry opportunity for our visitors mid-September. We invite any who are interested in knowing more about the church to attend.

This is a busy time. May you stop to see God in the newness of fall and know Christ’s peace each day.

Blessings,
Phil and Jan



THE VITAL CHURCH

About four years ago, our Session voted to become a Matthew 25 congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In doing this, we endorsed a commitment to embrace at least one of these three initiatives:

- Building congregational vitality through deepening faith and joyful engagement in the community and world.
- Dismantling structural racism by advocating to break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans, and structures that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

Undoubtedly, we are considering how we will be involved with not only one but each of these.

This fall, we will look at the first of these initiatives. Through a sermon series on The Vital Church, we will focus on the seven priorities of healthy congregations that have been drawn up by the denomination. They are:

- Lifelong Discipleship
- Incarnational Presence
- Spirit-Inspired Worship
- Church Health
- Authentic Evangelism
- Servant Leadership
- Caring Relationships

Each message will have questions for us to consider individually and as a congregation. We encourage your interest and involvement.

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE

We are excited to announce a new worship service that will be held on the 3rd Sunday each month beginning September 18 at 4:00pm. This service will be quite different from our traditional Sunday morning worship services. Join us as we explore a variety of music styles such as Multicultural Modern Worship, Jazz, Taizé, Iona, etc. The service is open to anyone who wants to attend but we also hope that this worship experience will be a good fit for those who have been away from church (perhaps due to the pandemic or for other reasons).

SPECIAL THANKS:

Martha Arambel, Interim Youth Leader, is returning to classes at the University of Arkansas full time this fall. She started here 15 months ago (on the heels of Jacob and Brianne Christiansen's move to Montana) and has been a friend and example to our high school and junior high youth. Last year, she intentionally took classes part-time to accommodate the needs of the church. We have been blessed by her joy, her creativity, her experience, and her fresh perspectives. Thank you, Martha! We will miss having you here. Martha's last Sunday is August 21. We will celebrate her work in worship and then she's off to Lake Day—always a high point of the year for our youth and their leaders.

CONNECT

Remind is a one-way texting app that our children, middle school, and youth group ministries use to keep families informed. It is one of the best ways to stay connected. You receive messages to which you can reply directly to the person who sent the message, yet your text inbox will not be filled with the replies of others.



TEXT 81010

Send your age group code below to 81010 and get connected to our **Remind** app to stay current with our family events!

7th-12th grade youth ministry

- text @upyu

5th and 6th grade ministry

- text @fupc56

Children's ministry

Children birth to 4th grade

- text @fupcc

YOUTH

7th-12th grade youth ministry

- A new Sunday Worship opportunity will begin on Sunday, September 18, at 4pm and continue every 3rd Sunday each month.
- United Campus Ministry at the U of A has their annual gathering of area youth groups set for October 9.
- Youthquake, a Presbytery-wide youth retreat for 7th to 12th will take place at Ferncliff the weekend of October 14-16. We register as a church group and travel together by church van or bus.
- We will team up with Bentonville and Springdale Youth Groups at times this fall for some great joint activities.
- We will have our annual Christmas Angel Shopping and Christmas Party in December.

5th and 6th grade ministry

- We will gather this fall for hiking, a cook-out, bowling, and other fun activities beyond the Sunday morning opportunities.
- Watch for exciting special events just for 5th and 6th graders!
- Our exciting new Worship opportunity on the fourth Sunday each month is a perfect place to connect and grow spiritually.
- Our events will allow for a variety of days and times and are intended to make it possible for even the busiest family schedule to join in!



CHILDREN

We have two groups meeting at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for our 3-year-olds to 6th grade

Joy-Us Group

3 years to 3rd grade with Ruth Rodgers and Lora Horne.

Wonder about God's Story with the Joy-Us group! Bible Stories, music, movement, and more! Sunday mornings in Lower Knox building.

Good Neighbors Group

4th, 5th, and 6th grade with Kristi Button and Gayl Lippert

This is the place for our 4th graders to start to see the opportunities ahead for 5th/6th and for everyone to get a peek into what is yet to come in Youth Group.

Our programming will have some of the same elements that youth group has. We will learn more about the Bible, about how to connect to God in our lives, play games, and find ways to serve our neighbors in our outreach activities. Sunday mornings in Lower Knox Building.

We will add a couple special events that include our 4th graders in our "outside of Sunday" morning options.

ADULTS

Thoughtful Christians

Thoughtful Christians is a book discussion group that focuses on theology and current events. The next book is *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis.

When C.S. Lewis set out to write this book, his thesis was "God is love." *The Four Loves* explores four Greek words which are all translated into English as "love": phileo (friendship love), agape (divine love), storge (affection love), and eros (romantic love).

This class has reading assignments, usually one chapter each week. Participants are all ages and a variety of backgrounds. The class is led by Pastor Phil Butin and Derrik Olsen and meets in the Library at 9:30am Sunday mornings.

The Present Word Bible Study

The Fall Quarter, titled *God's Exceptional Choice*, traces the arc of salvation history from Abraham to Jesus and on to the early church. This curriculum covers the entire Bible in a six-year period. Teachers: Dennis Brewer and Jane Steinkraus and meets in Calvin 203 at 9:30am Sunday mornings.

LOOK AHEAD

We will have an Advent Family Workshop on the afternoon of **November 6th**. It will include an activity to make Advent Candle Jars for the Advent Season. *Begin saving glass jars now for your family.*

The Celebration at the Manger is planned to come together for **the first IN-PERSON experience since 2019!!!**

Watch for more information about this event that will take place in **December 2022**. Children come together to tell the story of Jesus' birth as characters in the story.

Open Door

Join us in this relaxed, come-as-you-are discussion group that does not require reading before gathering. *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans is the book for this session. This is a collection of essays by the *New York Times* bestselling author, collected after her death by Jeff Chu. This group begins September 11 in Upper Witherspoon Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Discussion Leader: Pastor Jan Butin.

A Bird's Eye View of the Abrahamic Traditions

a three-week overview of the relationship of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam led by our pastor Phil Butin, Rabbi Jacob Adler, and Imam Abdellah Essalki. The course will meet from 1:30-3:30 on September 7, 14, and 21 at First United Presbyterian Church. Registration is through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and involves a nominal cost. The three topics that will be considered are 1) each tradition's scripture and how they are interpreted; 2) each tradition's understanding of God, and 3) each tradition's understanding of human beings in our relationship with God, including the ideas of sin, forgiveness, and grace.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men's Lunch

Meets at Whole Hog Barbeque on the fourth Tuesday of each month for sharing, prayer, and discussion of a recent or forthcoming sermon and its practical implications for our lives. Fellowship begins at 12:00pm.

Men's Breakfast

Every Wednesday at 6:30am. Come early! Fellowship starts at 6:10am.

DO YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
SMALL
GROUPS?

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women honored Amy McCann Sunday, August 14, with an Honorary Life Membership. This recognizes Amy's faithful service in many areas of the church and community. Amy is very worthy of this honor.

Bible Study

Horizon Bible Study, Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gifts of Rest and Delight, \$12 (payable to FUPC PW).

Meets 2nd Tuesday, starting September 13, Fellowship begins at 10:15am and the meeting and lesson will begin at 10:30am. Meetings will be in the church library at FUPC with Zoom connection available. Study books will be available for pick-up on Sunday morning, August 21. Contact person: Barbara Verdery 479-466-1539

Book Studies

Discuss various books throughout the year. Both groups will be discussing what to read next at their August meetings.

- **Covenant Group:** Meets 4th Tuesday, starting August 23 at 10:30am in the church library. (Zoom connection available) New book every 2-3 months. Contact person: Jessie Koeppe 479-283-4523
- **Evening Group:** Meets 2nd Tuesday, starting August 9 at 6:30pm in member's homes. Contact person: Katie Jackson 479-879-1849

Hooks and Needles

An opportunity to gather for fellowship while working on Prayer Shawl Ministry or personal handwork projects (knitting, crocheting, beading, cross stitch, etc.). Meets weekly, Friday morning from 10:00am – 11:30am in Upper Witherspoon. Contact person: Janet Clausen 479-409-6163

Poetic Conversations

Sometimes we can be refreshed by reading to each other. If you like hearing poetry, you may enjoy joining poets and others. Bring one or two poems to share, something you've written or the work of another. All are welcome! This group meets on Zoom One from 7-8pm on the second Tuesday each month.

MORE SMALL GROUPS

Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory!

A church that prays together grows. Our new online Prayer Group will meet on Zoom One every Thursday at 8 am beginning September 8. We'll spend some time learning about prayer, share prayer concerns, and pray through our Intercessory Prayer List during the week. Any who want to be prayed for or who want to pray for others on any Thursday are invited to participate. Come as you are able. If you plan to attend, please call the Church Office (479.442.4411) ahead so you are on our email list to have the Intercessory Prayer List sent to you each week. This Intercessory Prayer List is public, and any are welcome to receive it, whether in the Prayer Group or not. Thank you for being people who pray.

Marriage Group

There's quite a bit of interest in having a marriage group at FUPC again! Our first gathering will be Friday, September 30, at 6 pm in the Church Library with a quick overview of *The 5 Love Languages* by Gary Smalley. This is always a good starting point for understanding each other. For some, it is brand new and for others, it will be review.

The purpose of this group is not to heal difficult marriages but to encourage each other in strengthening our relationships. Conversations will be honest but non-threatening. If you have children, please bring them with a meal they will enjoy. Please let us know you're coming, too, at least a week ahead so we can hire plenty of adult and teen childcare providers! The church provides these evenings without cost, particularly as support to young families. These evenings include time for a quick dinner date offsite on your own with everyone returning to the church by 8:30 pm.

First Fellowship

A social, inspirational group, made up primarily of individuals over 55, but open to all. We'll be back at the Butterfield Trail Village Lodge on second Tuesdays. Come for fellowship over lunch at 11:30 a.m. Lunch cost to be announced. Programs begin at 12:15 and last until 1. Here's what's in store for us in the next two months:

- September 8 – Circles NWA presented by TJ and Christina Williams. Circles is a community-driven program that works to increase upward mobility for individuals and families in poverty in NWA.
- October 13 – The Jones Center presented by Terri Trotter Wright. Come and learn about all the new initiatives and developments! Hear how you can be involved.



MUSIC MINISTRIES

Chancel Choir

We are excited to resume our music ministry ensembles this fall. Our Chancel Choir is always welcoming new singers and we invite you to join us! Our choir sings anthems for our 11:00 Sunday worship service as well as special services such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. We enjoy fellowship with one another, and we have seasonal choir gatherings that are fun and engaging. Currently, our choir is rehearsing in the Fellowship Hall, at some point in late Autumn (probably November) we will resume rehearsals in the Music Suite in the sanctuary. Please join us on Wednesday evenings for rehearsal.

Children's Choir

Children bring such joy to the life of our congregation. Our children's choir sings in worship throughout the church year. Ruth Rodgers, Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education, and Isaac Thomas work with our children on Sunday mornings during part of the Sunday School hour to prepare songs for the children to sing. Our children have performed in musicals, as well as playing various instruments for worship services. We encourage parents to bring their children to Sunday School each week so that they can participate fully in the life of the church!

Worship Band

Our Worship Band assists in our worship services on a regular basis. The band is comprised of various instruments such as guitar, bass guitar, piano, percussion, etc. Our musicians provide energy and texture for congregational singing and special music. We rehearse immediately following Chancel Choir rehearsal. Please see Isaac Thomas, our Director of Music Ministries, for more information.

Choral Interns

Our choral interns are an integral part of our music ministry. College students who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate music degrees, or singers who are involved in collegiate ensembles such as Schola Cantorum (at the U of A) or Cathedral Choir (at John Brown University) are able to apply for a choral internship. Our interns assist in our 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday worship services as well as special worship services. Interns provide support to the choir by serving as section leaders in the soprano, alto, tenor, and bass sections. One intern is generally selected to assist the Director of Music with conducting duties as needed.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Our youth are active in the life of the church and assist in a variety of ways from serving as liturgist in worship, assisting with the sound and video for our worship services, singing in the youth choir for Youth Sunday, or playing an instrument in worship. Please contact Christopher Verdery, Audio and Visual Coordinator by email (sound@fupcfay.org) if you are interested in helping with our audio/visual team or contact: Isaac Thomas, Director of Music Ministries (ithomas@fupcfay.org) if you are interested in musical participation.

NEW THIS YEAR

Handbell Choir

We are pleased to announce the return of handbells to our worship experience at FUPC! Everyone—experienced ringer, not-so-experienced ringer, thought-you-might-like-to-try bells enquirer—is invited to an organizational meeting on Sunday, August 28th at 12:15pm in Fellowship Hall. (Light snacks will be provided to prevent fainting from hunger.) If you are unable to attend the meeting, but are interested in ringing, please contact Pam Gilbreath (479.283.3707 or ptgilbreath@gmail.com)

Ringling handbells is a fun, engaging, and rewarding experience. Reading music is beneficial, but I have found that being able to count to 12 is essential! :) Handbell choirs provide such a unique, joyful expression of praise to God in worship—we hope that you will consider joining us!



UPDATES AND NEWS

Welcoming and Belonging

Interested in learning more about FUPC? Wanting to become better acquainted with others who worship here? Thinking you might want to become a member?

Look Before You Leap is an opportunity for inquiry. Of course, we'd love for you to join! But this gathering lets you come and see and then take time to prayerfully discern how God is guiding you as you determine if this will be your new church home. The members of the Welcoming and Belonging ministries warmly invite you to lunch on September 18. We'll serve a simple meal in the library right after the late service. Look for the signup sheet at the entrance to Fellowship Hall or contact Tammi Kushner (officemanager@fupcfay.org or 442-4411) so we know to count on you and to include you in meal plans. Then, we'll show a slideshow that highlights some of the ways we serve Christ at FUPC, present a quick overview of what Presbyterians believe, answer questions, and help you know others who are also considering this important step. If you decide you want to join, we'll be receiving new members again in worship on Sunday, October 2. (You may want to mark your calendars now.)

Also, if you've attended Look Before You Leap previously and are now ready to take this step of faith, we welcome you to come to lunch, too, or to simply call and let us know that you want to be received into membership on October 2. Questions are welcome. Contact Jan or Phil or any member of the ministry team.

Properties Ministry

Sanctuary heating and cooling system Harrison Energy Partners has informed us that they expect the final piece of the heating and air-conditioning system to be shipped from the manufacturer in Indiana the last part of September. They will then begin the installation and expect to have it completed by November.

Columbarium

This past spring, FUPC installed its 4th columbarium unit and repaired the walkway in the Columbarium Garden. For additional information about the Columbarium, please contact one of the pastors or Barbara Verdery.

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry Team continues to work on the Legacy Giving Program and is preparing for the annual Stewardship Campaign in November. Lisa and Howard Higgins will be serving as co-chairs of the campaign. Be on the lookout for the date of the Stewardship Campaign luncheon! We are grateful for the congregation's amazing support of First United Presbyterian Church.



Community Meals Update

Thank you to the 20+ volunteers that have helped with Community Meals so far this year. We served an average of 110 meals per month through July at a cost under \$2000. The need for nutritious meals has increased each month. We're looking forward to the rest of the year, volunteers are needed for the following dates:

- Sunday, October 2
- Friday, October 21
- Sunday, November 6
- Sunday, December 4

Barbara Verdery helps volunteers plan, shop for, and prepare the meal. To prepare a meal, takes less than 2 hours. The community is very appreciative of the hot meal they receive. To volunteer, please sign up using the link found in the *Weekly Update* or talk to Barbara Verdery.

FUPC FAQs

What is the Weekly Update?

Our *Weekly Update* is a publication that is sent via email every Friday at noon. This is the best way to get information about what is happening each week here at FUPC. Please contact Tammi Kushner, Office Manager, at officemanager@fupcfay.org to make sure we have your current email if you haven't seen it recently.

How can I access the Church Directory?

If you need a printed copy of the church directory, we're happy to provide it for you. If you prefer to use the online directory, we can send you directions for installing the instant church directory app. Amy McCann, Membership Coordinator, guides this process. She is willing to help you any Sunday after worship or you can reach her at amym409@yahoo.com.

Can anyone help me set up Zoom?

Rosie Haden, Communications Coordinator, will be happy to walk you through this process when you call her (442-4411). Or you can click on the "Zoom Information" link in your Friday *Weekly Update*. It will automatically connect you to our website. From there, it's one more quick scroll down to see our Zoom accounts. Click on the one you need. Enter the appropriate password. And voila! You're in! If this is new to you and you want to practice entering Zoom meetings when no one is using our accounts, you can set up a time through Rosie.

What is the Zoom information?

ZoomOne: <https://zoom.us/j/2420739972>

MeetingID: 2420739972

Password: 695Calvin

ZoomTwo: <https://zoom.us/j/9072200706>

Meeting ID: 907 220 0706

Password: FUPCfamily



First United Presbyterian Church

First United Presbyterian Church has a history of looking forward in our ministry. Encouraged by the work of the Planning Ministry Team, the Session has reaffirmed the following mission and vision:

MISSION

Called to be a light on the hill, we boldly proclaim and serve Christ, the hope of our changing world.

VISION

Reaching out as a visible expression of God's grace, we will meet people where they are, inviting all into Christ's family through engaging worship, fellowship, learning, and service.

There were two ways to power a boat in Jesus's time: by human power, rowing the boat; and by the power of the wind.

Joan S. Gray, in *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*, distinguishes between the rowboat church, powered by the efforts of members, and the sailboat church, powered by the Holy Spirit.

Let's keep sailing to 2030!



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