

How do you say “Welcome!” to a Bahamian?*

Lauren from the Bahamas Arrives in June



From University of the Ozarks to First Presbyterian!

You might want to research the answer to that question before Lauren arrives the first week of June. Lauren is our first intern to have here at First Presbyterian, and we want to welcome her warmly.

Lauren is a student at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, studying finance and business; and she applied for the Community Connection-Based Summer Internship specifically with our church. During this two-month internship, she will get to know us, our church and our mission, and our community and its leaders (with our help). She will have hands-on opportunities to learn and serve with our worship services and church-family time, our community outreach, and activities in our town and county.

What are **our responsibilities**?

Provide housing--Two households have already volunteered, but we need more people to provide housing. What about you? **Provide transportation**--One person has already said she could help. Can you? **Meet with Lauren**--She needs to meet all of us. What day can you meet with her? **Introduce her** to various business/church leaders.--How well-connected are you with the movers and shakers in town? **Show her interesting sites** in our area—the Jacksonville Museum of Military History, city offices, the library, downtown Little Rock, the state capitol, state parks, the zoo are great places to bring a visitor. What else can you think of?

Contact any of the following members of the Intern Task Force to help: MaryLee, Beth, Pam, Amie , and Katie.

* “Welcome.” Lauren speaks English, as do most Bahamians. The Bahamas is an independent country as of 1973, but was a British Territory for 325 years. The Queen’s English and a Bahamian dialect are spoken there.

Thank You!

We can't thank everyone enough for all of the love and support you have shown us through this pregnancy, and our time here in Jacksonville! We are so lucky to have you all in our lives and making us feel like we are home. You welcomed us into your community, and having that community has made our time in Arkansas most enjoyable. We are so grateful for the baby shower and all of the gifts you all graciously gave us and Reims. It is an incredible feeling to know he is loved by so many people and particularly in Christ. We will cherish the memory of the baby shower forever because we were separated for the baby shower with family in Pennsylvania. You all have been such a welcoming congregation, and we will be sure to keep you updated on Reims' progress!

-Travis and Ashton

Graduation Celebration

Jacelynn will graduate on May 12. We will have a reception for her on May 4 after the worship service. Let's all join together as we celebrate her graduation!



Happy Easter from
Haley and Hudson!





Our lay leaders are invaluable as they guide us in worship. These are our three youngest-Denisse, Jacelynn, and Megan.

It's a Girl!

Michael and Taylor had a baby girl on April 5, 2025 at 2:22am.

Her name is Ava Cate. She weighs 8 lbs., 8 oz., and is 20 inches long.

Steve and Pam are the proud grandparents.

Welcome, Ava!



Pictures from the Baby Shower



Welcome, Baby Reims!

A note from Travis: Ashton and I wanted to send an update. Reims decided it was time to hop on out just after Easter. Ashton went into labor on April 21 at about 6pm. Reims David was welcomed to the world after some seriously impressive work from Ashton at 1:32pm on April 22. She did such an incredible job, and we now have our perfect little boy to love and hold.



Come Play!

The Presbytery of Arkansas is partnering with Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center to host a Playology workshop on Tuesday, May 20th, from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM at Ferncliff. This is an event you do not want to miss!



At this workshop, experienced leaders will conduct workshops focused on integrating fun and play into ministry. This workshop will be invaluable for pastors, educators, children and youth leaders, and volunteers. Participants will gain practical tools and ideas on creativity, teamwork, and spiritual growth to implement in worship, Bible study, fellowship activities and more. [Click here](#) to learn more and register!

The church applied for a Mission Initiative Grant from Presbytery and was awarded \$1,500 to continue to fund our snack bag mission. The Outreach Committee is excited and relieved to receive the grant as our supplies and funding are running very low. The committee is still searching for funding for the project. If you have any ideas or sources of funding that you could share with the committee, please let them know.

Presbytery of Arkansas/Travelers Baseball Night!



Friday, May 30, is Presbyterian night at the ballpark when the Arkansas Travelers play the San Antonio Missions at Dickey-Stephens Park in North Little Rock. Tickets are \$20 per person for all ages. This includes dinner, the game, and fireworks afterwards. [Click here](#) for more information and to register by the **Friday, May 16, at 12:00 noon deadline**. Get a group together, or just bring your family and we'll see you there!

Ministers, Scriptures, and Themes for May

May 4	Rev. Elizabeth	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14
May 11	Rev. Elizabeth	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17
May 18	Mary Jane	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6
May 25	Mary Jane	Psalm 67	Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5

Attendance for April

March 30: 29 April 6: 21 April 13: 36 April 20: 35 April 27: 24

Session Update

The session met on April 27 after church. Perla, our treasurer, reported that income for the period of January through April has decreased substantially from last year. She suggested that we offer a cash app link on our website and social media pages to allow visitors to use these sites to contribute to our mission projects. The session agreed with her and will take steps to do so as soon as possible. The session received and approved two recommendations from the Outreach Committee. The first was to hand out excess Bibles to any Community Room patrons who request one. The second was to allow access to one exterior electrical outlet and cover the rest. The session decided to use WhatsApp to communicate among session members. Pam will be our commissioner to the May 31 Presbytery meeting at Ferncliff. The Jacksonville Unsheltered Committee was approved to continue to meet at the church and also to conduct a Narcan training on May 14. The next session meeting will be June 1.

Summer at Ferncliff

Ferncliff Overnight Camp options range from a traditional week of camp like Pathfinders and Trailblazers to themed weeks that get all the traditional activities PLUS some extra fun thrown in. Some of those themed weeks this year are Night Owl, Watercraft Adventure, and the brand new Summit Camp that offers an off-site camping experience! These spots are filling fast so head to their website at: ferncliff.org/about-camp

Announcements

Jacelynn will graduate on May 12 from Vilonia High School. Congratulations, Jacelynn! Join the Graduation Celebration on May 4, after the worship service.

Our Community Potluck will be on May 18. Please join your church family and community as we enjoy food and fellowship together.

The Community Care Room is in need of chicken and tuna kits, granola bars, peanut butter and cheese crackers, and men's and women's underwear in all sizes.

Bible Study will continue during May on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing the book, "The Lord's Prayer" by Adam Hamilton.

We will have Narcan training on May 14 at 11:00 am at our church. The training is open to everyone.

The women's circle will meet on May 20.

The Presbytery of Arkansas will meet on May 31 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

April Report from the Community Care Room

In the month of April, we gave members of our community:

- 321 snack bags and 8 MREs
- 82 pairs of pants, shorts, or sweatpants and 104 shirts
- 136 pieces of clothing such as socks or underwear
- 8 accessories such as gloves, scarves, hats, jackets, or belts
- 4 pairs of shoes
- 32 hygiene packs/individual hygiene items
- 6 bags/backpacks
- 4 blankets, sheets, or other bedding items
- 5 pet items such as dog food or leashes

Thank you for giving to this ministry—your donations make a difference!

Prayer Requests from April

Ann S
Beth B
Cheryl S
Dylan W
Frank C
Jill H
Judy R
Kaison C
Karen F
Keith and Katie
Latora
Louise W
Magdalena R
Pam M
Pat H
Raquel N
Toni H
The people of Myanmar and
Thailand

Prayers of thanks and praise for

Prayers of thanksgiving for the
new baby, Ava Cate
Prayers of thanksgiving for the
new baby, Reims David

*"I will give to the Lord the
thanks due to his
righteousness, and I will
sing praise to the name of
the Lord, the Most High."
Psalm 7:17*



Nothing Can Separate
Us From the Love of God
Romans 8:31-39

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*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out
your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your
heart to love.
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ on you.*

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!