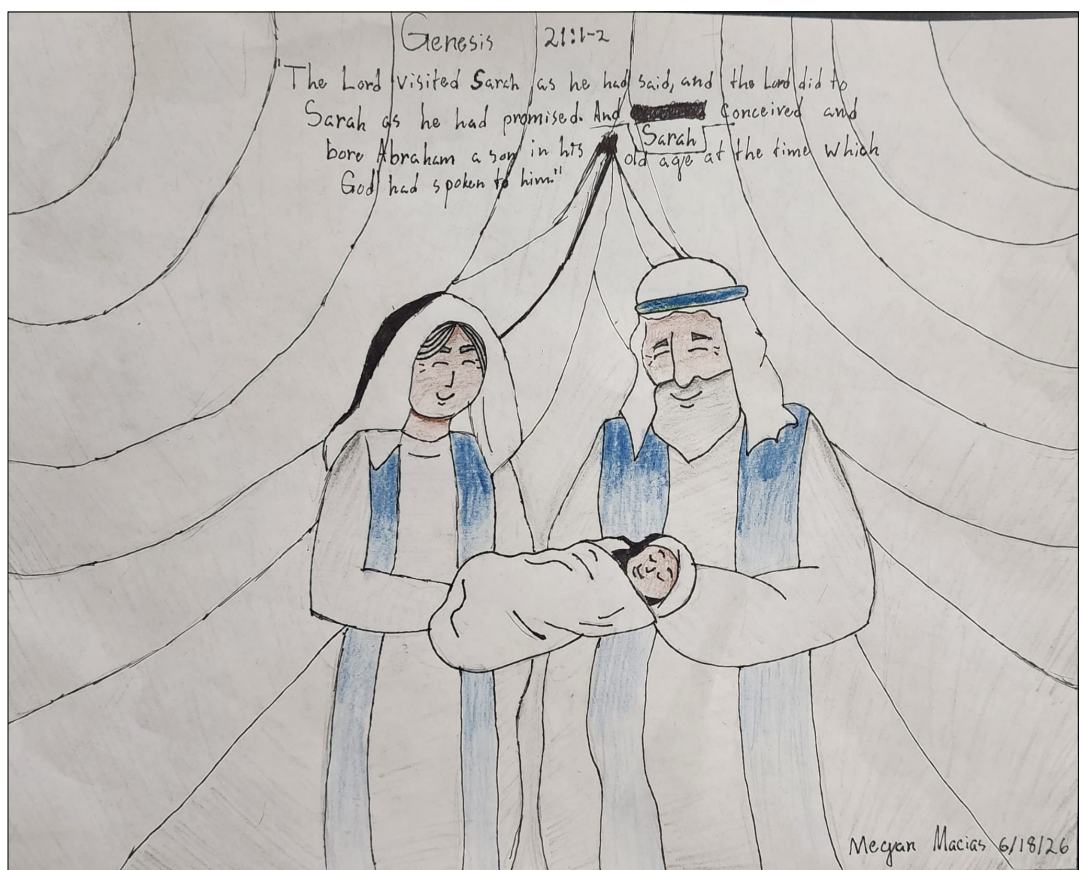


In our worship services during the summer we have been focusing on the patriarchs of our faith: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The way God interacted with them informs our relationship with God. Through these stories we see the way God cares, protects, forgives, loves, and connects all people.

God makes a promise to Abraham: as many as the stars, so shall your descendents be. After Abraham and Sarah wait many years, God fulfills the promise. Isaac is born. Thank you, Megan, for this beautiful depiction.



## June's Joyful Celebrations

Welcome, new members! Lauryn and Pat joined the family of First Presbyterian Church on June 7, and Dawn was joyfully received on June 14. We are so happy to welcome these new members!



Happy Golden Anniversary! Barbara and Barry celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with loved ones in the Fellowship Hall on June 20 for an afternoon of refreshments, remembering, and fellowship.



## Session Summary

Session met on Sunday, June 28. They were encouraged to hear of all the work currently happening in committees. Mission and Outreach Committee has constructed a manual for procedures in the community room and will be placing one-line messages on our sign on Main Street. These will be changed periodically. The community garden is supplying produce to our neighbors. Hospitality Committee made welcome bags for our new members and are considering doing the same for our visitors. They are also planning a church picnic and game day on Saturday, August 22, 11:00-2:00, at the church. Property and Maintenance Committee continues to keep our grounds looking nice and addressing lighting issues both inside and outside of the building. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is planning many things for our very important milestone on October 10, 1:00-4:00. Invitations will be sent to members who have moved or are not currently attending. The session encourages all members to participate in committee work.

*Interested in joining a committee? Reach out to those listed below:*

Worship and Christian Education: Michael and Karen

Hospitality: Rosie

Outreach: Ivan

Finance: Mary Lee

Property and Maintenance: Barbara

Personnel: Beth

Social Media Team: Perla

Anniversary Celebration Task Force: Beth and Barbara

Online Donation Task Force: Ivan, Perla, Dylan

## First Presbyterian Church Historical Tidbits

### *How was the church established?*

A small group of people went to the Dr. Scott, the head of the Presbyterian Synod Office in Little Rock. With his help a Sunday School was organized and began meeting at Jacksonville Elementary School on October 3, 1926. Dr. Scott taught the small group that all Presbyterian churches belong to each other. "We must not speak of the Presbyterian church in another town," he said, "but as 'our church' in another town." Dr. Scott gathered help from other churches all over the state to help establish the church in Jacksonville. The church was formally organized on December 19, 1926, with 16 members.

And so they decided they needed a building for their congregation. Land for the church building on Oak Street and South Road was donated by the Associated Reform Presbyterian Church. Construction of the church began on October 8, 1927, as members gathered to transport rocks to the construction site. Money was received through the Presbyterian Synod and many people from the community helped. Timber was donated and cut into lumber at the sawmill for no charge. The women sold produce and sometimes even puppies to raise money for the Building Fund. A women's quilting circle was organized (Circle #1) and their work helped to increase the fund. Furnishings for the pulpit, a piano and a family Bible were all donated by the community.

The Presbyterian Church in Batesville offered three antique walnut chairs, but they had no way to transport them efficiently. So the train station agent (who was not Presbyterian) volunteered to ship them free of charge. These chairs are at the front of our sanctuary today.

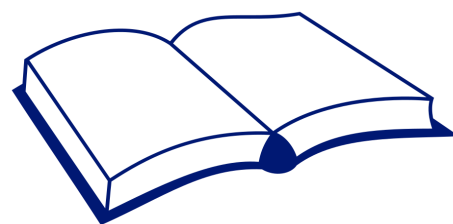
The building was finally completed and they held their first services in the building on March 25, 1928. Services were held there until congregation outgrew the building and a new church was built in 1964.

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville has been around for 100 years. It's amazing to think about the impact this church has had on individuals and on our community. Our church has been committed to teaching and preaching God's word and serving our neighbors.

And to make it more personal, God has used this congregation to inspire, heal, and challenge members and friends throughout the years. What about you? How has God used this church to make a difference in your life? If you would be willing to share some thoughts about our church and what the church has meant for you, please contact Mary Jane. Over the next few months, we would like to highlight the way God has gifted us through the ministry of our church.

The Presbytery of Arkansas is hosting its second annual Arkansas Women's Book Retreat at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center the weekend of October 13-15.



## **Register & Contacts**

Contact Candice Misenheimer, registrar, 501-749-1934, canmisen@gmail.com

If you have questions, reach out to two founding retreat organizers:

Liz Branch, treasurer, 501-944-9743, erbranch@comcast.net

Catherine Lowry, 501-960-7676, colowry@gmail.com

## **Books for 2026:**

Fiction: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Non-fiction/historical fiction: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar

Theology: *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr

Registration forms are in the box outside of the church office.

## Ministers, Themes, and Scriptures for July

July 5	Mary Jane	Ps. 45:10-17	Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49
		Communion	
July 12	Rev. Michael	Ps. 119:105-112	Gen. 25:19-34
July 19	Mary Jane	Ps.139:1-12, 23-34	Gen. 28:10-19a
July 26	Mary Lee	Ps. 105:1-11, 45b	Gen. 29:15-28

## Attendance for May

May 31: 22    June 7: 30    June 14: 27    June 21: 32    June 28: 22

## June Report from the Community Care Room

In the month of June we gave members of our community:

- 356 snack bags
- 82 hygiene packs/individual hygiene items or first aid items
- 123 shirts, dresses, or hoodies and 87 pairs of pants or shorts
- 149 items such as socks or underwear
- 7 bags or backpacks
- 22 pairs of shoes
- 3 single-use packets of laundry detergent and 3 servings of dog food
- 7 blankets and towels

Thank you to all who donate clothing, food, or funds to purchase the items we distribute through our Community Care Room! If you would like to help supply food for the Community Care Room these are items that we need: tuna packets, crackers, peanut butter or cheese crackers, granola bars, and water. Or you can give a monetary donation and the shopping will be done by the Outreach Committee. There is much need in our community and you are helping to meet those needs. Your donations make a difference to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity!

## Announcements

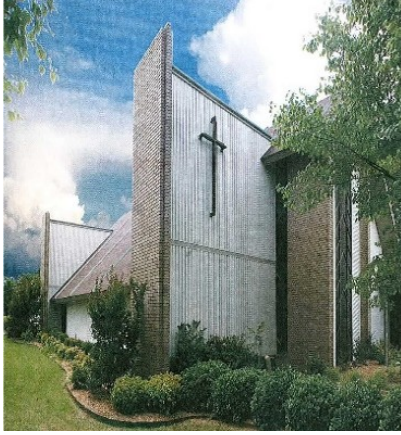
Join the Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1:00 for lively discussion as we grow together as the Body of Christ. Our conversations are currently focused on hope and we are using the book, "Hope: A User's Manual" by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Everyone is welcome.

Presbyterian Women's Circle will be taking a summer break during June and July. We will meet again in August.

Mary Jane will be on vacation from July 20-29. The session members will be available if you have a need or concern.

## Prayer Requests from May 31 and June

Beth H.  
Bill C.  
Connie  
Dale S.  
Dawn A.  
Diane  
Glenn F.  
Greg and Ann S.  
Jamella G.  
Jennifer J.  
Jill H.  
Jouri B.  
Judy J.  
Karyn P.  
Katie W.  
Katina H.  
Laura M.  
Lauryn  
Leeann  
Madison S.  
Marc  
Mark C.  
Michael M.  
Noriko S.  
Pat P.  
R. family  
Rosie  
Samuel and Mani and family  
T. family  
Tom H.  
Toni H.  
Vona T.  
The family of Barbara S.  
The family of Doris Ann P.  
The family of Nehemiah



**Connect with Us**

Sunday School 9:15

Worship 10:00

(501) 982-2876

firstpcjax@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/fpcjax/

firstpresjax.com

**Mission Statement**

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to be disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and service.

**Purpose**

The purpose of First Presbyterian Church is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

First Presbyterian Church  
1208 West Main Street  
Jacksonville, AR 72076

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!*