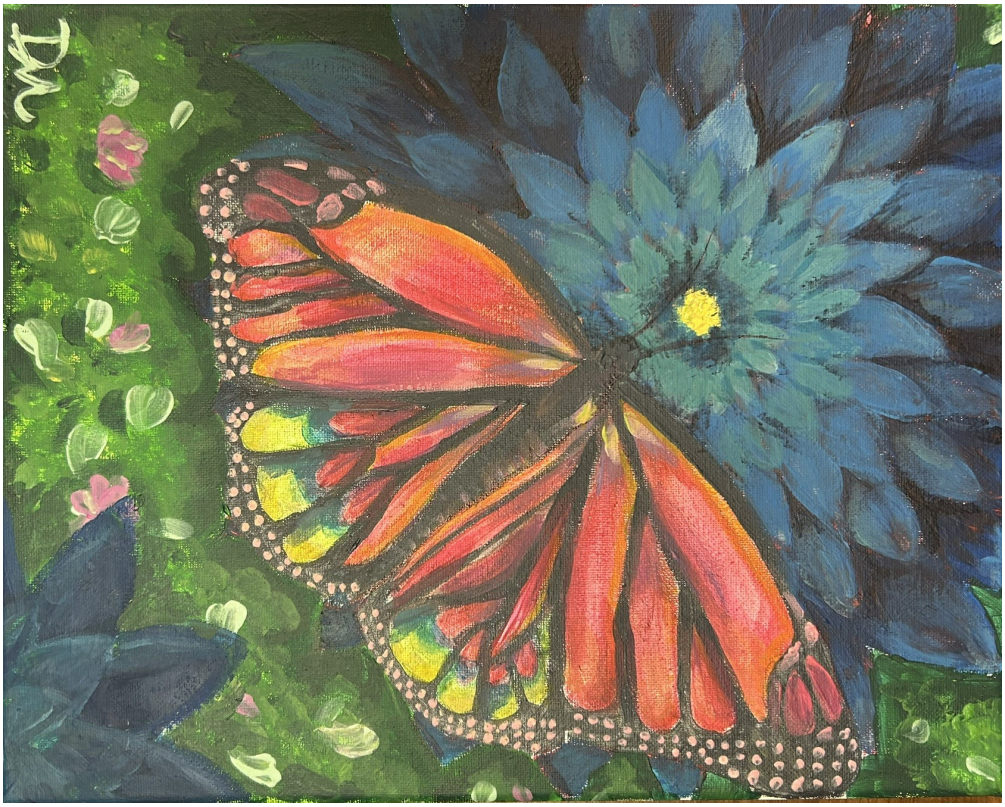
Good News

September 2026



"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

100th Anniversary: Sharing Memories

First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville is celebrating 100 years of ministry. We remember and are thankful for the ways God has been with us in the past and in our lives now. We will set aside a few minutes (3-5) each week in our worship service for sharing of memories or hopes and dreams for our future. If you would like to share, call the office or let Mary Jane know.

Possible thoughts to share:

- How has God used this church to make a difference in your life?
- What gifts and talents were you able to share because you were a part of this congregation?
- In what ways was the church vital for your growth in Christ?
- Tell a story or recall a memory about the church or her members.
- What are the hopes and dreams you have for the future of our church?

Art credit: Denisse M.

First Presbyterian Church Historical Tidbits (1965-2001)

With the move to the new church building in 1965, new initiatives were begun. The “Pass it on Singers” included young people not just from our church but from the community. They shared their beliefs through music in a variety of places including other churches. In 1967 a day care was started which became part of the Head Start program.

In October of 1976 the church celebrated its 50th year. Money was raised for pews and carpeting. The church paid off the mortgage on the building in 1979 and celebrated with a Homecoming and Mortgage Burning.

In the 80’s a Bethel Bible Study program was begun, as well as a clown ministry. We became a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with the reunion of the UPCUSA and PCUSA denominations in 1983. The Vacation Bible School program was expanded to include all ages and renamed “Summer Celebration.”

After recognizing a need for more space, an addition was built in 1993. A children’s playground was added in 1999 and a Children’s Library opened in 2000. Sharing our building with the community, the church extended hospitality to the Girl Scouts, TOPS group, the Nothing To Do Group, the Church Volleyball League, and the Voting Commission to use as a polling place.

The Chancel Choir and its talented volunteer directors were a vital part of the worship services. Organists and pianists, both volunteer and professional, enhanced worship as they encouraged participation by the congregation. A children’s choir and handbell choir added depth and beauty to worship.

The church consistently supported the Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Arkansas. Five of our members participated in the Lay Academy and our youth have been represented at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. During our first 75 years, four of our members became Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

The church remained committed to serving the community. Donations were received for The Mitten Tree program, Thanksgiving boxes and for distribution through the Care Channel. The church participated in the Highway Cleanup Program and the Jacksonville Christmas Parade and provided leadership for the National Day of Prayer. Throughout the years our church has been intentional about participating in sharing the Good News of God’s love.

Fun, Food, and Fellowship

We gathered together on August 22 for an indoor picnic and enjoyed games, delicious food, and time together—away from the heat!

Church Notes

Interested in joining the FPC Ukulele Band?
The band is beginning practices again. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join. Practices are immediately after the worship service. If you would like to try it out and need a ukulele, let Bob know.

Karen, Mary Lee, and Mary Jane will the POAMN (Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network) conference in Knoxville, September 15-18. Please pray for the conference and for travel mercies.

Megan will be attending YouthQuake September 18-20. This event will include Presbyterian youth from throughout the Presbytery of Arkansas. Please pray for her and all those who lead and attend.

Session Report

The session met after church on Sunday the 23rd. The treasurer reported we are still in the black which was very encouraging. There was discussion of the need for a new roof, and the session is waiting to hear the recommendation from the Maintenance Committee after they have reviewed all the bids. Committees are encouraged to begin preparing their budgets and plans for 2027. The Anniversary Celebration task force submitted a report and mentioned that there will be a workday on September 12th. Mike and Ivan were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for the new class of church elders and a Congregational Meeting was set for September 20th after church to elect 3 members from the congregation to also serve on the committee. The next stated meeting of session will be September 27th.

Ministers, Themes, and Scriptures for September

September 6 (Communion) Matthew 18:15-20 Romans 13:8-14
Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.

September 13 Matthew13:21-35 Romans 14:1-12
Refrain from judgment; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's

September 20 Rev. Michael V Matthew 20:1-16
Philippians 1:21-30
Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel

September 27 Matthew 21:24-32 Philippians 2:1-13
Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Attendance for August

August 2: 21 August 9: 20 August 16: 24 August 23: 27

August Report from the Community Care Room

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

- 366 snack bags
- 98 hygiene packs/individual hygiene items or first aid items
- 128 shirts, dresses, or hoodies and 105 pairs of pants or shorts
- 208 items such as socks or underwear
- 11 bags or backpacks
- 13 pairs of shoes
- 3 single-use packets of laundry detergent
- 6 blankets
- 7 hats or belts, and 3 jackets
- 7 servings of produce from our community garden

Announcements

Mark your calendars for September 12, 8:30 to 1. We will have a Work Day to spruce up our church building in preparation for our 100th Anniversary Celebration on October 10.

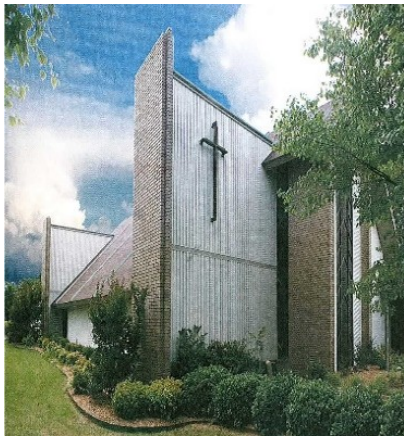
There will be a Congregational Meeting on September 20 after the worship service to elect a Nominating Committee to nominate elders for the class of 2028.

We will celebrate the church's 100th anniversary on Saturday, October 10, from 1:00-4:00. Come celebrate!
We will need finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, veggie trays, and fruit trays or containers of fruit. Please contact Barbara or Beth if you can help with prepared food. And if you would rather donate money for purchasing food, that would also be appreciated! You can put your donation in the offering plate and add a note that it's for the 100th anniversary.

Prayer Requests from August

Alicia
Barbara
Beth
Billie Ann
Brian
Candy
Catherine
Chris and Ella
Donald and Judith
Donna
Eric
Frank
Jamela
Jill
John
Jouri
Judy
Katie and Dylan
Linda
Louise
Madison
Mark
Michael
Tate

C. family
Our Community Care Room
The O. family



Connect with Us
Sunday School 9:15
Worship 10:00

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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

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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!