

FCP 2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE



**BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS
JOSHUA 1:9**

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO: _____



2025 *national* conference

The Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers is a 501(c)6 non-profit organization founded in 1974.

We are a fellowship of creative artists who have a desire to connect with others in our field. We exist to help one another share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through puppetry and the creative arts.

Learn more about us by visiting
www.christianpuppeteers.org

Keep up with us

f Like **Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers** on Facebook
@ Follow **@ChristianPuppeteers** on Instagram

Welcome to National 2025

Dear FCP Family,

Welcome to the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers' **51st** Annual National Conference! We're so excited to be gathering together for our first year in the Midwest to celebrate a new beginning for FCP and a hopeful return to our roots by having National in a different location every couple years.

We're so excited for you to be here with us and pray this week will:

- **renew your mind** through our time in devotions, prayer and worship
- **refresh your spirit** through sweet fellowship with creative Christians
- **ramp up your imagination** with idea-filled workshops and performances

We, the Board and volunteers have all been praying over this week for several month and for each of you in attendance.

This conference is a massive labor of love. FCP is a fully volunteer-run non-profit organization. We don't have offices. We don't receive salaries. We all have day jobs, leadership roles at our churches, and still make time for this.

For over 50 years, this conference has been orchestrated by Christians from across the country who are generously volunteering their time, talent, and expertise to invest in **you** – and the Kingdom. We can't thank each of them enough. We'd also like to thank our hosts, Sondra and Richard Gibson, their Senior Pastor, and Unity Baptist Church for being our most gracious hosts.

This year's theme "Be Strong & Courageous" was inspired by Joshua 1:9. "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

The theme was a suggestion by our President as we all on the Board were feeling a little daunted by the herculean task of moving to a new location after a decade in Maryland. Considering the challenges many of us are also facing in our ministries and lives, the theme still feels appropriate. It may be daunting, but God is with us!

Thank **you** so much for being strong and courageous enough to join us for this special time of fellowship. May God bless you and your ministry this week.

In His Service,

Gabriel, Peter, Lynette, Linda & Kristofer

Your National Board of Directors

Conference Staff & Volunteers

Conference Director

Gabriel Galdamez

Devotions Leader

Brett Belleque

Technical Director

Elijah Knuckles

Main Stage MC & FOCUS Showcase

Linda MacAuslan

Sprouts Kids Program Leads

Vicki Knuckles & Laura Graves

Board of Directors

Gabriel Galdamez, Peter Wray, Lynettee Lee, Linda MacAuslan, and Kristofer Sommerfeld

Programming Committee*

Debbie Streicher (Coordinator), Elizabeth Otero (Support), Lynette Lee (Newsletter), Melissa Knuckles

Conference Volunteers*

Brenda Esterline, Sondra & Richard Gibson, Gary & Barbara Leystra

Conference Registrar

Patsy Coffin & Linda MacAuslan

Worship Leaders

Curtis & Heather Aube

Main Stage Manager

Peter Wray

Facilities Host

Sondra & Richard Gibson and Unity Baptist Church

Branches Teen Track Leads

Brittney Muth & Melissa Knuckles

Scholarship Committee*

Peter Wray (Chair), Andrea Cumberland, Bill Scott and Matthew Miller

Board Support*

Elijah Knuckles (*Member at Large*), Patsy Coffin (*Membership Officer*), Brittney Muth (*Finance Committee*)

**Would you like to become more involved with FCP? Let us know if you'd be interested in joining one of our committees or volunteer teams!*

Exhibitor Information

Kristofer Sommerfeld Productions

onewaysquared.com | playsoup.com | puppedcation.com | creativeartstore.com/

Jim & Bonnie Scott

celebrationpuppeteers.com

Patchwork

macausln@empireaccess.net

Magical Mr. B

belleque1@yahoo.com

FCP Scholarships

christianpuppeteers.org

Conference Information & Policies

Name Tags

Attendees are required to wear their name tags at all times when on-campus. Your name tag serves as your proof of registration and lets facilities staff identify you as a conference attendee. This also allows instructors and fellow attendees to know your name! Please note: there is a \$1 fee to replace your name tag and \$5 to replace books.

Flash Photography

Flash photography is not permitted during any Main Stage or Slam performances, especially during blackout pieces.

Please be sure to review your camera's automatic flash setting to ensure it is turned **off**.

Video Recording Policy

General sessions may be recorded and workshops may be recorded, with permission from the instructor, but recordings may not be distributed.

Photo Policy

Images and videos of attendees from National are used on our website, print materials, and emails. By attending, you automatically agree to use of your likeness in said materials and release the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers from any liabilities.

Cell Phones

Please ensure your phone is on silent or vibrate mode during sessions and workshops to avoid disruptions or distractions.

Construction Class Photo Ops

Please bring puppets and props created in construction classes to Main Stage Sessions after your class. We'd like other attendees to see what you made and to take pictures of your creations!

Special Programs

Ministry Slam

The Ministry Slam is an opportunity for attendees to take the stage and share their ministry with the conference. Space is limited. Individuals and teams may sign-up at Registration.

*Check-in for the Ministry Slam is at Registration on Friday between 9:30-9:45 am and 6:30-7 pm to turn in your CD/thumb drive/audio device and submit your tech requests. We can handle audio playback, video projection, and 1-2 microphones (1 headset, 1 handheld).

Workshop Information

With over 50 workshops offered throughout 12+ sessions, there is an abundance of topics, techniques and ideas for you to explore at National!

The majority of workshops are open to anyone. You do not need to sign up or pay an additional fee, unless noted in the workshop description. Just walk in!

Specialty Workshops

Construction Classes

These classes require pre-registration and a fee to cover materials costs for the project you will create and bring back home with you. They may require you to bring tools or supplies. Please refer to the workshop descriptions for more information.

Classes are also limited in space so we request no more than two people per group per class. If space is still available before the class, you may add it at Registration.

Performance Classes

These classes learn a performance piece that may be performed in a general session. This is a great way to learn new techniques by doing them and getting ideas or a brand new piece you can bring back home to teach your team.

No sign-up is necessary, unless otherwise noted.

Sprouts for Kids Information

Children ages 5-12 get to join the fun at National and spend time in their own classroom with Sprout leaders and guest instructors. They join their chaperones for Morning Devotions, mealtimes, and Evening Main Stage– the rest of their day is tailored to them!

Drop-offs for Sprouts room must happen by 9:45 AM Thurs-Sat morning and 1:45 PM each afternoon (except Wednesday, at 2:45 pm). Pick-ups by 12 PM for lunch / 5 PM for dinner.

* Chaperones are asked to please respect the Sprouts schedule and follow drop-off/pick-up times to keep the group on-time for their activities, workshops and rehearsals – and to allow our staff sufficient time to eat their own meals, take a break, and prep.

Sprouts is not open to observation. All Sprouts staff require background checks.

NEW! Branches for Teens Information

Branches is for teens ages 13 to 17 to connect with others and enjoy workshops together! They meet each day after Devotions for fellowship and to talk through the recommended classes. Teens can participate as much or as little as they like. There is no cost to participate – though they can enroll in the Flo Puppet Construction Class for \$20.

Business Meeting & Membership

Our annual Business Meeting on Friday will provide updates on the state and future of the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers and host elections for board positions and policies. The Business Meeting is our only members only session during the conference.

To check your membership status, please see our Membership Officer, Patsy Coffin. If you'd like to become a member of FCP, visit christianpuppeteers.org/join

To view our Constitution and By-laws, visit christianpuppeteers.org/governance

Voting Information

For 2025, the positions of President and Treasurer are up for election. The Nominating Committee has identified candidates but you may nominate someone by writing their name and obtaining 5 signatures from current members in support of their nomination. Submit nominations with names and signatures to the Nominating Committee by Friday at 10 am.

For the office of President: Elijah Knuckles

Elijah Knuckles has been in puppet ministry since childhood. He was taught and performed at several conferences and was also an intern for One Way Street. He and his wife, Melissa, remain active in creative ministry through FCP, where he has served as Member-at-Large on the Board for 2 years, our Tech Lead for several years, and also co-hosted the FCP Great Lakes Regional Conference. He is an Associate Pastor at Allegan Christian Center.

For the office of Treasurer: Brittney Muth

Brittney Muth has been with the Celebration Puppeteers for 30+ years. A gifted puppeteer, signer and mime presenter, she's performed and taught at several conferences and on missions. Brittney has been serving on the FCP Finance Committee with our current treasurer for the past year. She's helped set up a new budget template for the conference and also researched online banks for FCP to earn better interest rates.

Ray MacAuslan Memorial Scholarship

FCP offers scholarships each year to assist individuals and ministries with attending the National Conference. Selection is based on applications demonstrating involvement in ministry with letters of recommendations. Scholarships are made possible by donations to the Scholarship Fund. If you'd like to make a contribution, please visit us at Registration. Learn more about Scholarships by visiting christianpuppeteers.org/scholarships

2025 Scholarship Recipients

This could've been someone you know! The Scholarship Committee did not receive any applications for registration scholarships for this year's conference. We hope you'll help us spread the year for next year's conference. We'd love to help a ministry attend National!

Wednesday Schedule of Events

8:45 - 11:00 Pre-Conference Registration & Check-In

9:00 - 12:30 Pre-Conference Workshop Session A

Construction: Full Body People Puppet Instructor: Linda MacAuslan	Youth
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Construction: Hat Puppets (9:00 - 12:00) Instructor: Bonnie Scott	Children 3rd/4th

9:45 - 10:45 Pre-Conference Workshop Session B

Adapting Stories Instructor: Elijah Knuckles	Priscilla
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Performance: Sunrise with Flashlights Pt. 1 Instructor: Brittney Muth	Sanctuary

11:00 - 12:00 Pre-Conference Workshop Session B

Fundamentals of Puppetry Instructor: JJ Graves	Esther
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Big Object Lessons Instructor: Brett Belleque	Priscilla

Performance: Sunrise with Flashlights Pt. 2 Instructor: Brittney Muth	Sanctuary

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch at local restaurants

1:45 - 2:15 National Registration, Fellowship & Exhibits

2:15 - 2:45 **Welcome, Worship & Devotions**

3:00 - 4:00 **Workshop Session 1A**

How to Make a (Very) Modest Living as a Digital Missionary Priscilla
Instructor: JJ Graves

3:00 - 5:00 **Construction & Performance Workshop Session 1B**

Performance: Basic Puppet Choreography Esther
Instructor: Jim Scott

Performance: Intermediate Puppet Choreography Sanctuary
Instructor: Melissa Knuckles

Construction: Turning Stuffed Animals into Puppets Youth
Instructor: Patsy Coffin

5:00 - 6:30 **Dinner at local restaurants**

6:30 - 7:00 **Exhibits & Fellowship**

7:00 - 8:30 **Main Stage Presentations**
Gracefull Puppets of Dyer, IN
Knucklehead Puppets of Allegan, MI

8:30 - 9:00 **Balloon Jam Fellowship Social**

Wednesday Workshop Descriptions

—PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSION A—

Construction: Full Body People Puppet | Instructor: Linda MacAuslan

You will construct a full body moving mouth puppet with detachable legs with a pre-sewn kit. Kits will be varying flesh tones. *You must pre-register for this class. Materials Fee: \$60

Construction: Hat Puppet (9:00 am - 12:00 pm) | Instructor: Bonnie Scott

Take a hat, any hat and add a puppet head with moving mouth. Add some big eyeballs creatively placed and few furry embellishments along with your imagination and you've got a "Hat Puppet!" *You must pre-register for this class. Materials Fee: \$25

—PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSION B—

Adapting Stories | Instructor: Elijah Knuckles

Have a story you'd like to adapt into a presentation? Let's talk about the process and different ways you can bring that story to life.

Performance: Sunrise with Flashlights Pt. 1 | Instructor: Brittney Muth

Get ready for a new, creative way to share a deep and meaningful message! We'll learn a movement and flashlight routine to "Sunrise" by Forest Frank. All are welcome to participate or just watch/take notes. We'll perform for the FOCUS Showcase Thursday.

—PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSION C—

Fundamentals of Puppetry | Instructor: JJ Graves

Puppetry can be broken down into 3 basic illusions, I call them the "3 'Sees' of Puppetry." Whether you're a veteran or just starting, these fundamentals are tools you'll need to develop techniques unique to you and take your puppetry to the next level.

Big Object Lessons | Instructor: Brett Belleque

Learn how to use simple objects to make a big impact on your students! We will investigate how easy illusions, props and puppets can be used to illustrate important Bible truths for crowds of a thousand and crowds of ten!

Performance: Sunrise with Flashlights Pt. 2 | Instructor: Brittney Muth

Come back and join us for Part 2 of learning a creative ministry routine with flashlights.

—WORKSHOP SESSION 1A —

How to Make a (Very) Modest Living as a Digital Missionary | Instructor: JJ Graves

Most don't like talking about money, but it's a necessary part of our lives as creative ministers. I'll share the various revenue streams that allow me to make puppet videos full-time. We'll also discuss revenue streams I'm not using (and why) that may work for you.

—WORKSHOP SESSION 1B—

Performance: Basic Puppet Choreography | Instructor: Jim Scott

This is an introduction to some basic moves for puppets to use in creating choreography for songs. We will move on to prepare a choreographed song that will be performed on Thursday for the FOCUS Showcase.

Performance: Intermediate Puppet Choreography | Instructor: Melissa Knuckles

You have your basic technique down but how do you make your puppets move in fun ways? Join us as we explore the creative process of choreographing a song and moving with others to make your puppets look alive! We'll perform Thursday for FOCUS.

Construction: Making Sheep Puppets | Instructor: Patsy Coffin

You will be making a sheep puppet using a pre-sewn kit! The machine sewing is done, so you'll be doing hand sewing and using a hot glue gun. *You must pre-register for this class. Materials Fee: \$25

—MAIN STAGE PRESENTERS—

Gracefull Puppets believes that ministry doesn't just happen in front of the curtain—but behind the curtain as you can pour into the lives of your puppeteers. The team is based in Village Church in Indiana and consists of 14 people ranging from ages 6 to 71. They truly enjoy teaching others about Jesus and have led several teams to Mexico for ministry.

Knucklehead Puppets is the family ministry of the Knuckles Family. Melissa and Elijah Knuckles met in 2001 at a conference as teenagers and it is a joy to serve together as a family in ministry with their children Adelia and Samuel! They love to use their abilities God has given them to reach others through performance, video, technology and teaching.

Thursday Schedule of Events

9:00 - 9:30 Worship & Devotional

9:45 - 10:45 Workshop Session 2

Video Puppetry Instructor: Curtis Aube	Priscilla

Grow As You Go, Don't Wait Till You're Great Instructor: JJ Graves	Youth

Performance: Tale of Three Trees Pt. 1 Instructor: Lynette Lee	Sanctuary

11:00 - 12:00 Workshop Session 3

Exploring Alternative Puppetry Styles Instructor: Peter Wray	Esther

Diving into Devotions: Preparing Devotionals Instructor: Elijah Knuckles	Youth

Performance: Tale of Three Trees Pt. 2 Instructor: Lynette Lee	Sanctuary

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch at local restaurants

1:45 - 2:45 Workshop Session 4

Advanced Lip Sync Instructor: JJ Graves	Esther

Let There Be Blacklight! Instructor: Kristofer Sommerfeld	Sanctuary

Reinventing Your Ministry Instructor: Linda MacAuslan	Priscilla

2:30 - 3:00	Pre-Registration for Express Construction Workshops	
3:00 - 4:00	Workshop Session 5A	
	Introduction to Balloon Ministry Instructor: Brett Belleque	Priscilla
3:00 - 5:00	Construction & Performance Workshop Session 5B	
	Performance: Stretch-a-Belly & Flex-a-Doodle Choreography Instructor: Melissa Knuckles	Sanctuary

	Construction: Making Sheep Puppets Instructor: Patsy Coffin	Youth

	Construction: Making Puppet Eyes Instructor: Jim Scott	Children 3rd/4th
5:00 - 6:30	Dinner at local restaurants	
6:30 - 7:00	Express Registration, Exhibits & Fellowship	
7:00 - 8:30	Main Stage Performances Brett Belleque of Toledo, OR One Way Squared of Greencastle, PA FOCUS Showcase featuring Linda MacAuslan & Performance Classes	
8:30 - 9:00	Fellowship Social	

Thursday Workshop Descriptions

—WORKSHOP SESSION 2—

Video Puppetry | Instructors: Curtis Aube

Let's explore the unique challenges and advantages of puppeteering for the camera. You'll learn about essential tools and ways to share your work on popular video platforms. Whether you're eager to learn or ready to share your expertise, let's connect and grow.

Grow As You Go, Don't Wait Till You're Great | Instructor: JJ Graves

Always strive for excellence but never wait for it. We'll discuss putting yourself (and your art) out there. We'll talk about perfectionism, failure, and God's call on your life as an artist. I'll share mistakes I've made and how they helped me (maybe they'll help you!).

The Tale of Three Trees Pt. 1 | Instructor: Lynette Lee

The Tale of Three Trees is a Max Lucado story presented using dowel rods and movement. This workshop lends itself to multi-generational teams and Sprouts are welcome to attend. Come see first-hand how to work with different age groups to put something together!

—WORKSHOP SESSION 3—

Exploring Alternative Puppetry Styles | Instructor: Peter Wray

Explore various alternative puppetry styles for ministry through hands-on practice, PowerPoint and discussion. We'll dive into styles from around the world like shadows, marionettes, table top, parade style and more!

Diving into Devotions: Preparing Devotionals | Instructor: Elijah Knuckles

Let's dig deep and discuss the importance of devotions in our ministries, no matter the age of your group. Elijah will share from his experience as a pastor, creative ministry leader, and past Devotions Leader for FCP National.

The Tale of Three Trees Pt. 2 | Instructor: Lynette Lee

Come back and join us for Part 2 of learning a creative ministry routine with dowel rods.

—WORKSHOP SESSION 4—

Advanced Lip Sync | Instructor: JJ Graves

There's a lot more to lip sync than just opening and closing your mouth once for each syllable. In this advanced workshop, we'll go deep into how the human mouth works when we speak so that we can take our puppetry to the highest level possible!

Let There Be Blacklight! | Instructor: Kristofer Sommerfeld

Learn how to make your puppets glow and ignite under blacklight! We'll discuss tools of the trade and explore a variety of unique puppets and puppetry styles that shine under a blacklight.

Reinventing Your Ministry | Instructor: Linda MacAuslan

Have you been involved in a ministry for several years and now need to reinvent it due to a changing "season of life?" Has your calling changed? Let's get together and discuss strategies to keep your passion and calling alive. Bring ideas and pictures to share!

—WORKSHOP SESSION 5A—

Introduction to Balloon Ministry | Instructor: Brett Belleque

Sculpting balloons is a unique way to communicate the gospel. Twisting familiar shapes out of latex balloons attracts attention. Learn how to make simple animals and hats and how to combine balloons and scripture for strong impact! Resources will also be shared

—WORKSHOP SESSION 5B—

Performance: Stretch-a-Belly & Flex-A-Doodle Choreo | Instructor: Melissa Knuckles

Come learn some fun choreography with Stretch-a-Bellies and Flex-a-Doodles! Whether you are a propateer or puppeteer, there will be something for every skill level. Be ready to share ideas as we explore how to choreograph a song as a team. Bring black shirts, gloves and hoods as we will perform this for the FOCUS Showcase!

Construction: Turning Stuffed Animals into Puppets | Instructor: Patsy Coffin

Learn how to turn stuffed animals into moving mouth puppets! Bring a stuffed animal with a neck large enough for your arm to fit through (usually in the \$10-15 range). We'll provide supplies to do the rest. *This class requires pre-registration. Materials Fee: \$10

Construction: Making Puppet Eyes | Instructor: Jim Scott

As the saying goes: the eyes are the window to the soul. In this class, we will take you through the process of making half-sphere eyes and cartoon eyes for puppets. Get ready to see new possibilities for your puppet builds!

—MAIN STAGE PRESENTERS—

Brett Belleque is an award-winning Magician, Balloon Sculptor and puppeteer. Outside of his ministry Brett operates a family entertainment company called, "The Magical Mr. B" , doing over 150 a year for festivals, schools, libraries and special events. He has performed all over the United States, Canada and Mexico.

One Way Squared desires to honor the legacy of One Way Street and Creative Ministries Solutions. Led by Kristofer Sommerfeld and his team, they seek to follow God's plans for their lives of service in the creative arts!

Friday Schedule of Events

9:00 - 9:30 **Worship & Devotions**

9:30 - 9:45 **Ministry Slam Check-In**

9:45 - 10:45 **Workshop Session 6**

Developing Puppet Characters Instructor: JJ Graves	Children 3rd/4th
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Music Composition Instructor: Curtis Aube	Youth
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Adding Variety to Your Performance Instructor: Vaughn Martin	Esther
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11:00 - 12:00 **Workshop Session 7**

Basics of Puppetry Instructor: Brittney Muth	Esther
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Advanced Puppetry Technique Instructor: Kristofer Sommerfeld	Sanctuary
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Novelty Puppets Instructor: Brett Belleque	Youth
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12:00 - 1:30 **Lunch at local restaurants**

12:45 - Annual Business Meeting to discuss the state of FCP.
Only FCP members can vote. All are welcome to attend. Sanctuary.

1:45 - 2:45 **Workshop Session 8**

Live Performance Skills: From Scripts to Ad Libs Instructor: Melissa Knuckles	Sanctuary
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Secrets I've Learned from Disney & Pixar Instructor: Gabriel Galdamez	Priscilla
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Tips & Tricks for Directors Instructor: Lynette Lee	Esther
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3:00 - 4:00 Workshop Session 9A

Cartooning Anyone Can Do
Instructor: Brett Belleque

Priscilla

3:00 - 5:00 Construction & Performance Workshop Session 9B

Performance: Wings & Worship Flags
Instructor: Vicki Bickford

Sanctuary

Construction: Sock Puppet (3:00 - 4:00)
Instructor: Linda MacAuslan

Youth

Construction: Flo Puppet Construction
Instructor: Bonnie Scott

Children 3rd/4th

5:00 - 6:30 Dinner at local restaurants

6:30 - 7:00 Exhibits, Fellowship & Ministry Slam Check-in

7:00 - 8:15 Main Stage Performances

The King's Messengers of Presque Isle, ME
JJ Graves of Audobon, IA

8:15 FCP Annual Portrait

Bring the puppets or props you made this week for a group photo with all the Construction classes! We'll also take a photo of the whole group. Come camera ready. ;)

8:30 Ministry Slam

Share your ministry, testimony or work-in-progress on our Main Stage for one of our most popular programs!

Friday Workshop Descriptions

—WORKSHOP SESSION 6—

Developing Puppet Characters | Instructor: JJ Graves

The best technique means nothing without a well-developed character. In this workshop, we'll talk about what makes a great character, and how to develop your own character to effectively engage kids (and adults!) so you can better share the message of Jesus.

Music Composition | Instructor: Curtis Aube

Ever wondered what goes into creating a song? We'll explore the basics of music theory, walk through the key songwriting steps, and might even compose part of a song together! Whether you're new to songwriting or experienced, join us in the creative process.

Adding Variety to Your Performance | Instructor: Vaughn Martin

Adding variety to every song and within an entire production is extremely important. It's necessary to get your message across to everyone in your audience – and it keeps the attention of your audience as they anticipate what's coming next. Come learn how to use variety with puppets, props, scenery, music and your presentations between your songs.

—WORKSHOP SESSION 7—

Basics of Puppetry | Instructor: Brittney Muth

Bring a puppet and learn the basics. Entrances and Exits, Height and Positioning, Eye Contact, Lip Synchronization, and Believable Action and Movement are the building blocks of puppetry. With these foundational skills you will be able to continue to build your puppetry technique.

Advanced Puppetry | Instructor: Kristofer Sommerfeld

So you've got your basic and intermediate puppetry skills down huh? Come ready to stretch yourselves and start to think about more advanced technical skills and considerations to push your puppetry to the max.

Novelty Puppets | Instructor: Brett Belleque

Learn to use simple, inexpensive items to create unusual puppets for your ministry. Turn a knee-high nylon into a fantastic ant puppet! Learn how to put a simple mouth on just about anything! You'll learn how easy to do, fun to make, and simple to operate tips!

—WORKSHOP SESSION 8—

Lufe Performance Skills: From Scripts to Ad Libs | Instructor: Melissa Knuckles

We'll explore how to use script writing and ad lib to create connections between the songs in your performance. We'll also discuss how to use your puppet's character to create a message that flows throughout the show – and how to react when crazy things happen!

Secrets I've Learned from Disney & Pixar | Instructor: Gabriel Galdamez

Come and see what I've learned from my vast collection of books diving into how Disney and Pixar create their films. We'll see what secrets of story, character development and creativity the world's leading storytellers are using and how we can apply it to our ministry.

Tips & Tricks for Directors | Instructor: Lynette Lee

This is a sharing as well as learning class! I'll share what I learned directing my team: how to organize youth, backstage things that worked (and didn't!), the pros and cons of "contracts," and beyond. We'll also open the floor to discuss and hearing from each other.

—WORKSHOP SESSION 9A—

Cartooning Anyone Can Do | Instructor: Brett Belleque

If you can hold a pencil you can use cartoons in your ministry! This class teaches an easy-to-master technique for drawing that allows you to use fun cartoons to share Bible principles. We'll show examples of quick line drawing, trick drawing, lettering styles and doodles that you can use in your ministry today!

—WORKSHOP SESSION 9B—

Performance: Wings & Worship Flags | Instructor: Vicki Bickford

During this class, participants will learn about wings and worship flags, and how to use them in ministry. You will also learn basic choreography to a song that we will perform for a General Session!

Construction: Sock Puppet (3:00 - 4:00) | Instructor: Linda MacAuslan

Learn to construct a sock puppet with a moving mouth plate. Whether a fun audience interactive presentation or for donations like an Operation Christmas Child box, it is appropriate for many uses! *This class requires pre-registration. Materials Fee: \$5

Construction: Flo Puppet Construction | Instructor: Bonnie Scott

You will start with a pre-sewn fluorescent puppet base and select the hair and features you'll add! You will do a small amount of gluing and hand sewing to finish the puppet.

*This class requires pre-registration, with priority for teens in the Branches program (who also receive a \$10 discount). Materials Fee: \$30

—MAIN STAGE PRESENTERS—

The King's Messengers is from Framework Church in Northern Maine. They started doing puppets in kids church but then became their own team that's traveled around the state of Maine presenting the gospel to many churches. Their mission is to tell others about Jesus and help Christians grow in their faith through puppetry and creative arts.

JJ Graves is the creator of Douglas Talks, a YouTube channel seen by children in more than 180 countries! He and Douglas have performed hundreds of shows all over the United States and on six international ministry trips. JJ was a children's and youth minister at a small church for six years before going into digital ministry full-time in 2019.

Saturday Schedule of Events

9:00 - 9:30 Worship & Devotions

9:45 - 10:45 Workshop Session 10

Two-Person Puppet Manipulation Instructor: Linda MacAuslan & Patsy Coffin	Esther

Puppet Emotions & Body Language Instructor: JJ Graves	Sanctuary

Idea Exchange for Directors & Leaders Facilitator: Gabriel Galdamez	Priscilla

11:00 - 12:00 Workshop Session 11

Intermediate Puppet Choreography Instructor: Jim Scott	Sanctuary

Mime and Signing Instructor: Brittney Muth	Esther

Gospel Magic & Evangelism Instructor: Brett Belleque	Priscilla

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch at local restaurants

1:45 - 2:45 Workshop Session 12

1-and-1 Puppetry Instructor: JJ Graves	Esther

Scriptwriting for Ministry Teams Instructor: Brett Belleque	Priscilla

Hand Mime Instructor: Lynette Lee	Sanctuary

2:45 – 3:15 **Final Exhibits & Fellowship**

3:15 – 4:00 **FCP Finale**
Sprouts Theme Presentation
Directed by Vicki Knuckles

4:00 **Dismissal & Tear-Down**
Volunteers are greatly appreciated! We are resetting for Sunday.

See You Next Year for FCP 2026!
Save the date for July 22 - 25.

Saturday Workshop Descriptions

—WORKSHOP SESSION 10—

Two-Person Puppet Manipulation | Instructor: Patsy Coffin & Linda MacAuslan

Let's explore the wonderful world of two-person puppetry – where one operates the mouth and the other a hand or two. Think Cookie Monster style (minus the cookies)! We'll talk technique, how to convert a rod-arm puppet into a human-arm style puppet, and more.

Puppet Emotions & Body Language | Instructor: JJ Graves

Good lip sync is important, but there's so much we can express without ever even speaking. We'll explore how we can convey emotion through our puppet's body language. Our puppets can't only communicate with their mouths – but with their whole bodies!

Idea Exchange for Directors | Instructor: Gabriel Galdamez

There's a wealth of wisdom in our attendees and the Idea Exchange is where we learn from each other! We'll discuss key opportunities and challenges we're facing in our ministries... then brainstorm and share what's worked for us. Come ready to be inspired!

—WORKSHOP SESSION 11—

Intermediate Puppetry Choreography | Instructor: Jim Scott

You have the basics down, you can lip sync and have proper height. But how do you make your puppets move in fun ways for a song? Join us in this class as we explore the creative process of choreographing a song together and moving with other puppeteers in the stage to make your puppets look alive and fun!

Mime and Signing | Instructor: Brittney Muth

What is the difference? Learn how I use a mixture of mime and sign language in my ministry. See some examples of both and learn how to incorporate them into a puppet presentation. Also, you will have the option to see a mime make-up demo.

Gospel Magic & Evangelism | Instructor: Brett Belleque

It's pretty difficult to be allowed to share the gospel in a public school... But you *can* get permission to teach a magic class that whets the appetite of students enough for them to want to attend a clear presentation of the gospel. Come and find out how easy it is to teach a fun 2-hour magic class to public school children and have them beg to see more!

—WORKSHOP SESSION 12—

1-and-1 Puppetry | Instructor: JJ Graves

1-and-1 puppetry is performed with one puppet behind the stage and one person in front of the stage. This style of performance has a lot of advantages, especially when done well! We'll talk about what makes this style amazing and how to execute it with excellence.

Script Writing for Ministry Teams | Instructor: Brett Belleque

In this class we'll focus on creating 2–5 minute scripts that clearly communicate scriptural truth while providing solid entertainment. Special emphasis is put on fun brainstorming techniques you can do as a group to get your creative juices flowing!

Hand Mime | Instructor: Lynette Lee

Participants will use white gloves to build words and images set to music to create a dazzling presentation. Hand mime is a blacklight performance. Please bring blacklight attire for the performance for the Final Session (not just for practice!).

—MAIN STAGE PRESENTERS—

Sprouts is VBS meets creative ministry summer camp! Children from ages 5-12 got to join in the fun at FCP National this week and spent time in their own classroom with their Sprout leaders and special guest instructors while making new friends from across the country. Everything comes together for them today as they put on their own exciting finale theme presentation to close our National Conference.

2025 Workshop Leaders, Staff & Volunteers



CURTIS AUBE

*Worship Leader
Essex Junction, VT*

Curtis Aube is passionate about using creative arts to share the gospel. He first discovered his love for this ministry while serving on his youth ministry team, where he saw the impact of storytelling and visual arts in teaching biblical truths. Since 2016, he has been involved in children's ministry, bringing the Bible to life in engaging and memorable ways.

In 2019, Curtis launched Bible Block, a YouTube channel featuring puppetry and Bible lessons designed to make Scripture fun and accessible for kids and families. Through storytelling, puppetry, and visual media, he strives to teach and inspire others with the message of Christ.



BRETT BELLEQUE

*Devotions Leader
Toledo, OR*

Brett Belleque serves with InFaith, an American Mission. He is the national director of children's ministry resources for InFaith, encouraging, educating, and equipping those in the mission who work directly with children and youth.

He is also an award-winning Magician, Balloon Sculptor and puppeteer. Outside of his ministry Brett operates a family entertainment company called, "The Magical Mr. B," doing over 150 a year for festivals, schools, libraries and special events. He has performed all over the United States, Canada and Mexico.



VICKI BICKFORD

*Guest Instructor
Presque Isle, ME*

Vicki is the Co-Director of The King's Messengers, a creative arts ministry based out of Framework Church in Presque Isle, Maine. She fell in love with puppetry at a young age—thanks to her big brother—and has been hooked ever since.

Over the years, she's expanded her creative toolkit to include sign language, Bunraku, worship flags, stick drama, mime, and dance. After college, Vicki returned to The King's Messengers and stepped into a leadership role, helping to bring even more creative arts into the team's ministry. She also handles all things tech—sound, lighting, and more—and uses those skills at church, summer camp, and even on mission trips to Africa.



PATSY COFFIN

Instructor
Standish, ME

Patsy has been making puppets for over 30 years. For the last 15 years, she has worked with 3rd graders at her local Christian school on their Christmas programs and taught them puppetry. She has also taken her puppet-making skills outside of the US with two mission trips to Honduras.

Patsy has been attending the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers conferences for over 30 years and is currently serving on the Board as Secretary and Membership Officer.



GABRIEL GALDAMEZ

FCP President
San Francisco, CA

Gabriel's been passionately involved creative arts for 20+ years. His heart lies in teaching people the value of pouring their gifts at Christ's feet.

He's taught nationally and internationally at children's and creative ministry conferences and has trained teams throughout Latin America. He was also a contributor for the 20th Anniversary I-Fest resource "It Works for Me!" He leads bilingual creative ministry services for special events at his church and serves on the church board as Secretary.

When he isn't working or volunteering, he enjoys traveling, trying new foods, and flying on the trapeze.



JJ GRAVES

Instructor
Omaha, NE

JJ Graves is the creator of Douglas Talks. Ever since he was a kid, he knew he wanted to work in children's ministry, and puppetry is his absolute favorite way to minister. There's something about puppets that really keeps kids engaged, so it just makes sense that we should use them to teach kids the most important truth they can ever know: the truth of God's Word.

In 2012, JJ decided to start a YouTube channel for Douglas, and those videos have been seen in more than 180 countries! He has a bachelor's degree in Student Ministry and was the children's and youth minister at a small church for six years before going into digital ministry full-time in 2019. JJ and his wife Laura have three wonderful children.



ELIJAH KNUCKLES

Tech Director
Allegan, MI

Elijah has over 30 years of experience in puppetry and creative ministry. He excels in puppetry and videography. He grew up with his church's local puppet team, directed by his mother, Vicki Knuckles, and took interest in the technical aspects of production early on.

He was previously part of the Internship Team for One Way Street (you can catch him puppeteering on "the Hall of Faith!"). He currently serves on staff as an Associate Pastor at Allegan Christian Center and is also serving as Member-At-Large for the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers.



MELISSA KNUCKLES

Branches Co-Director
Allegan, MI

Melissa has been involved in puppetry and creative ministry for over 35 years. She is a gifted puppeteer, puppet builder, clown, signer, face painter, and children's ministry leader. Her career has included being an intern for One Way Street, working at One Way Street as a puppet builder in the Construction Zone and teaching workshops at festivals throughout the country, leading children's and youth ministries at different churches, and teaching English to international students online.

Her greatest joys are Christ, her husband Elijah, and their two children, Samuel and Adelia. She enjoys sparking the world with laughter and purple.



VICKI KNUCKLES

Sprouts Director
Allegan, MI

Vicki Knuckles has decades of experience in puppetry, creative ministry, ministry leadership, and children's ministry. She has trained up puppeteers and leaders throughout the country for regional and international conferences, including for One Way Street and Creative Ministry Solutions.

She faithfully serves at her local church, Allegan Christian Center, where her husband Paul is Senior Pastor and she leads the children's ministry. Vicki is also on the Board of Education for Allegan Public Schools.



LYNETTE LEE
FCP Secretary
Hummelstown, PA

Lynette Lee has been leading the iBlast Creative Ministry at Grace Church in Hummelstown, PA since 2017. She was previously an assistant director and served on the team alongside her son and daughter.

A teacher by trade, she is passionate about equipping the next generation to use their gifts for Christ. Lynette is currently a long-term substitute teacher at a private Christian school and also serves as FCP's monthly Newsletter Editor.



VAUGHN MARTIN
Guest Instructor
Presque Isle, ME

Vaughn has been serving in children's ministry for over 40 years—as a teacher, pastor, camp speaker, and Sunday School superintendent. But his favorite way to connect with kids has always been through puppetry.

About 25 years ago, he started a small puppet group with his middle school Sunday School class, which quickly grew into a traveling team that ministered across Maine, neighboring states, and Canada. Over the years, Vaughn has trained churches in launching their own puppet teams, led creative arts workshops, and spoken at regional puppetry events.

Today, he co-directs The King's Messengers, a multigenerational puppet and creative arts team based at Framework Church in Presque Isle, Maine.



LINDA MACAUSLAN
FCP Treasurer
Gillett, PA

Linda and her husband, Ray, directed the puppet ministry "Patchwork" for over 35 years together. They utilized puppets, props, blacklights and human visualizations to present the Kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ in a variety of settings. She now takes great delight in leading Patchwork Gen 2, a multi-generational creative ministry at her church.

Linda also enjoys directing the choir in their Church, teaching the teen Sunday School Class, and singing on the Worship team. She is a RN and retired as a System Director of Education/School of Nursing in Elmira, NY. She is serving as Treasurer of the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers and enjoys sparkling her world with Joy and Purple.



BRITTNEY MUTH
Branches Co-Director
Noblesville, IN

Brittney was born into a puppet ministry with her parents Jim and Bonnie Scott as directors. From being a member of the Celebration Puppeteers to leading a collaborative ministry team at other churches, creative ministry has been a passion of hers from a young age.

She now co-directs the Celebration Puppeteers. She has a passion for directing mime, God Rods, lightning sticks, signing, and out-front numbers. Brittney started sharing her experience through workshops over a decade ago and is looking forward to sharing more this summer.

By day, Brittney runs a math tutoring business for high school and college students while her husband and 2 boys also keep her busy. She is so proud to be in ministry with her parents and see her boys involved, too.



BONNIE SCOTT
Instructor
New Palestine, IN

Bonnie, co-directs the Celebration Puppeteers with her husband, in Indianapolis. The two have led the ministry of 15 youth and adults for over 40 years.

Bonnie recently retired as Operations Manager of the third largest food pantry in Indianapolis. She now fills her time with her 3 grandsons while still finding time every Tuesday to volunteer at the Pantry along with filling in whenever needed.

Bonnie and Jim also keep busy designing and building all their own puppets! She has worked with her son for the past 15 years building and creating up to 80 different puppets for his class at the end of every school year, while students are learning the importance of building character. Bonnie also makes 60 puppets to donate each year to a ministry in Reynosa, Mexico.



JIM SCOTT
Instructor
New Palestine, IN

Since 1982, Jim and his wife Bonnie have been co-directors of the Celebration Puppeteers at Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. They are also puppet designers and puppet makers for ministries all around the world.

Jim is a long-time workshop leader for regional and national conferences. He co-wrote "The Puppet Director's Notebook" with Dale VonSeggen and his patterns made their way into Christian bookstores through the book "Puppet Patterns" by Children's Outreach. While Jim is "retired" from his television news career, he fills in from time to time on the news assignment desk at local CBS and FOX television stations.



**KRISTOFER
SOMMERFELD**
FCP Past President
Greencastle, PA

Kristofer is the creative mind behind Kristofer Sommerfeld Productions, a company that includes well-known brands like Puppertainment, PlaySoup, the Creative Arts Store and One Way 2. Kristofer has trained under some of the nation's top puppeteers and puppet builders. He counts it a great honor and responsibility to steward the next generation of creative ministry and resource leaders around the world for greater impact.

He is also the director of Evergreen Creative Ministries and has over 20 years of experience in multi-media, puppetry, creative arts, and children's ministry. Kristofer has served FCP in various capacities for 10 years, including Vice President, Conference Director, and President.



PETER WRAY
FCP Vice President
Lochbuie, CO

Peter and his wife Laura have shared a life-long fascination with puppetry. They served on their ministry team, Christ in Action, directed by One Way Street's Construction Zone Chief Puppet Builder, Keann Brown. They had the joy of working alongside their 3 children on the team for several years and ministered in their local community.

Peter is a puppeteer, music procurer, and prop builder with a background in set design. He has been serving as Vice President of the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers since 2022.

