



FREEDOM
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Ozarks chapter of FFRF

Dear James,

Spring is in full swing, and the warmer weather brings us renewed opportunities to get our message out into the community. Having wrapped up the recent legislative session, our politicians seemingly have nothing better to do than create restrictive and overtly religious policies. For those who've been following, the Ten Commandments are now required to be displayed in all Arkansas public school classrooms thanks to SB433, which is now [Act 573](#). HB1705, which requires "*information concerning how the Religious and Moral Beliefs of the Founding Fathers influenced the Founding of the United States to be embedded into existing social studies standards*", is now law as [Act 478](#). And finally, SB223, which is designed to "*create the Religious Rights at Public Schools Act of 2025*", became law as [Act 400](#). So much for the average secular Arkansan! 

Despite the political landscape skewing Christian Nationalist, evidence is showing Arkansans are getting tired of these policies. Let's not forget Arkansans overwhelmingly rejected [Arkansas Issue 3](#) in the 2020 Election, which was a constitutional amendment to change requirements for citizen initiatives and legislative referrals. And again, in the 2022 general election, Arkansans decidedly shot down [Arkansas Issue 2](#), which would have required a 60% supermajority vote of approval from voters to adopt constitutional amendments (legislatively referred and citizen-initiated) and citizen-initiated state statutes. But even though Arkansans soundly rejected these policies, politicians have simply ignored their constituents, and created legislation that effectively kills the citizen led ballot initiative process.

In times of adversity, **We the People** have a choice: cower to politicians who create archaic laws, or meet the moment and push back. As a 7-time Super Bowl Champion, Tom Brady always seemed to rise to the occasion and was never scared of his opposition. One of his famous mantras is one that can be universally embraced, so in the spirit of TB12 and as we push back against these Christian Nationalist policies....**LFG!!!!**

As the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF ramps up for the outdoor season, we kicked off the spring by celebrating Atheist Day on March 23rd by enjoying the outdoors and picking flowers at the nearby Wildwood Tulip Farm in Springdale, AR. Thank you to the families who came from near and far to participate in this fun activity. This was a wonderful way to come together and celebrate the beginning of spring!



The Ozarks FFRF enjoying the first days of spring at the Wildwood Tulip Farm on Sunday, March 23rd.

In other news, the **Ozarks Chapter of FFRF** is proud to announce we have a new website, which can be viewed at www.ozarksffrf.org. Please visit our website and let us know what you think!

And finally, we're excited to announce the full lineup of our **2025 Secular Speaker Series**, which will include **Kate Cohen** (author/activist), **Forrest Valkai** (science teacher/podcaster), **Mickey Dollens** (Democratic Representative from Oklahoma and FFRF employee) and **Allessandro Ternzoni** (Americans United for Separation of Church and State). Please

see all of the details below. We hope you can join us for this finely curated speaker series! Here are a list of our upcoming events:

April 26th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - our first Farmers Market of the year, come find us on the square!

May 10th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - the improvised layout of the farmers market prohibits informational groups from having a table, but fear not. Keep an eye out for the roving FFRF banners throughout the crowd! ;)

May 12th (Monday) - 6:00pm to 7:30pm

- **[Democratic Party of Benton County](#) Speaking Engagement** - Ozarks Chapter of FFRF President Chris Sweeny will be speaking at the monthly meeting of the Democratic Party of Benton County. This meeting is open to the public and starts at 6:00pm. Location TBD. No registration required.

May 18th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am

- **Sunday Secular Meeting** - our monthly meeting will take place at Ozarks Natural Foods (380 N College Ave, Fayetteville)

May 24th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd for our second event of the year!

June 7th (Saturday) - 11:00am to 7:00pm

- **[2025 Fort Smith Lambda Society Pride Festival](#)** at Riverfront Park in Fort Smith - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be tabling at the Fort Smith Lambda Society Pride event. The address is 121 Riverfront Dr, Fort Smith, AR 72901

June 14th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - our group will be walking through the farmers market promoting FFRF's message.

June 18th (Wednesday) - 6:00pm to 7:00pm

- **2025 Speaker Series with Kate Cohen** @ Bentonville Library - Author of the book "*We of Little Faith*", Kate will talk about her journey towards honesty, and explain the personal and political reasons why our country needs atheists more than ever right now.

June 28th (Saturday) - 11:00am to 5:00pm

- **NWA Pride Festival 2025** (W. Dickson Street) - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be tabling at the NWA Pride Festival on West Dickson Street.

July 13th (Sunday) - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

- **2025 Speaker Series with Forrest Valkai** (YouTube: [Renegade Science Teacher](#)) @ Fayetteville Library - More information to come!

August 17th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 5:00pm

- **2025 Speaker Series with Mickey Dollens** (Democratic House Representative from Oklahoma) - join us for a full day event in West Siloam Springs, OK. More details to follow.

October 12th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am

- **2025 Speaker Series with Alessandro Terenzoni** (Americans United for Separation Between Church & State). More details to follow.

As the Ozarks Chapter works hard to coalesce the secular community, please consider becoming a member of both [FFRF.org](#) (National Organization) and the [Ozarks Chapter of FFRF](#) (a non-profit in Arkansas). Your membership dues help support the organization by underwriting the events we host, bringing speakers to Northwest Arkansas, and furthering our mission to protect the separation between church and state. Check out both links to see what is included with

membership, and how your support makes an impact. Thank you for your generosity! We hope to see you soon!

Best,

Chris Sweeny

Ozarks Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation

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