



Hello James!

Whew!! I'm still coming down from this past weekend where we hosted a SOLD OUT speaking event with **Hemant Mehta**! What a super nice guy, an awesome speaker and so cool to see 75+ secular folks coming out to support our mission! People from Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and throughout Arkansas joined us to hear Hemant speak about Christian women perpetuating Christian Nationalist ideology. This event was recorded so if any members were unable to attend and would like a copy, please reach out!



Hemant Mehta presents to the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF on Saturday, August 22nd.



Ozarks Chapter of FFRF with Hemant Mehta.

2026 SECULAR SPEAKER SERIES

Wow! What. A. Turnout. With tickets having sold out 8 days in advance, our second installment of the 2026 Speaker Series was standing room only. We had over 75 in attendance to listen to Hemant Mehta. Thank you for everyone who joined us on this wonderful afternoon!



Before the speaking event, Hemant Mehta stops by the FFRF table at the Fayetteville Farmers Market.

Ozarks Chapter of FFRF Monthly Activities:

- A representative of our chapter worked the Rogers Farmers Market on August 1st.
 - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF tabled at the Bentonville Farmers Market on Saturday, August 8th.
 - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF hosted Arkansas House candidate Mitchell Smith at Best Friends on Sunday, August 16th.
 - We tabled at the Fayetteville Farmers Market on Saturday, August 22nd.
 - Our chapter hosted Hemant Mehta for the second installment of our 2026 Secular Speaker Series at the Fayetteville Public Library on Saturday, August 22nd.
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The Ozarks Chapter tabling at the Bentonville Farmers Market on Saturday, August 8th.



The Ozarks Chapter on a lovely morning at the Fayetteville Farmers Market on Saturday, August 22nd.

2026 Secular Speaker Series

We are halfway through with our speaker series! Thank you to everyone who has joined us at one of our first two events! Our next speaking event is just under one month away. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to make these events available to the general public for only \$10 per person per event. Please join us for these remaining events:

- **Saturday, September 26th at 2pm - Sam McGuire** ([American Atheists](#)) @ Fayetteville Library (Ziegler Reception Room). Get tickets [here](#)!
- **Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm - Fish Stark** (Executive Director for [American Humanist](#)) @ Bentonville Library (Walton Foundation Community Room). Get tickets [here](#)!

Our speakers will discuss issues relevant to our area, like Ten Commandments in schools and Christian Nationalist policies our representatives embrace. We've also got some cool guest interactions planned with our members so stay tuned to our website, newsletter and social media for the latest and lock in those dates!



Sam McGuire, American Atheists, will be speaking with the public on Saturday, September 26th at 2pm at the Fayetteville Public Library.

Community Focus

This month, we'd like to highlight the [Secular Coalition of America](#), a group of diverse organizations representing atheists, agnostics, humanists, and other nonreligious Americans. The Secular Coalition for America is a dedicated lobbying organization within the Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for the equal rights of nonreligious Americans and defend the separation of religion and government. Their mission is to is to advocate for the equal rights of nonreligious Americans and defend the separation of religion and government.

On behalf of the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF, we applaud the Secular Coalition of America for helping protect separation between church and state.



Here is our official Calendar of events for the next couple of months!

September 12th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 12:30pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - Come join us as we engage the community on secular values. Look for us in the Free Speech area at 2nd Street and A Street Promenade.

September 20th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am

- **Sunday Secular Meeting @ Onyx Coffee Springdale** (100 E Emma Ave, Springdale, AR 72764) - Come join us for our monthly business and social meeting.

September 26th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 12:30pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be at the Fayetteville Farmers Market! Come meet likeminded freethinkers and spend time chatting with fellow citizens of the Ozarks.

September 26th (Saturday) - 2:00pm to 3:00pm @ Fayetteville Public Library

- **Secular Speaker Series with Sam McGuire (American Atheists)** - Come join us for our third speaker series event of 2026 as we listen to Sam McGuire, Director of Grassroots Organizing

& Advocacy, as she discusses the various violations of Church/State Separation that their organization gets involved. Get tickets [here!](#)

October 10th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 12:30pm

- **Bentonville Farmers Market** - Come join us for the final Bentonville Farmers market of the season as we engage the community on secular values. Look for us in the Free Speech area at 2nd Street and A Street Promenade.

October 16th to 18th (Friday to Sunday) - All Day

- **FFRF National Convention** (Milwaukee, WI)

October 22nd (Thursday) - 6:00pm to 7:00pm @ Bentonville Public Library

- **Secular Speaker Series with Fish Stark (American Humanist Association)** - Come join us for our final speaker series event of 2026 as we listen to Fish Stark, Executive Director for the American Humanist, and has been at the forefront of Church/State Separation issues. Get tickets [here!](#)

October 24th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 12:30pm

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - The Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be at the Fayetteville Farmers Market for the final time in 2026! Come meet likeminded freethinkers and spend time chatting with fellow citizens of the Ozarks.

November 1st (Sunday) - 7:30am to 10:00am

- **Adopt-A-Highway Road Cleanup** - Our final road cleanup of 2026 will start at **Onyx Coffee** (101 E Walnut Ave, Rogers, AR 72756) at **7:30am**. We will carpool from downtown Rogers at 8:00am. The 1 mile section of road takes approximately 90 minutes to clean, and we anticipate returning to Rogers by 10:00am. Orange vests and trash bags will be provided. For those able to join us, we recommend wearing long pants, gloves and hat (sunscreen and bug spray, if needed). We have plenty of "grabber tools" to borrow of these can be purchased online separately. Please come support the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF by keeping Arkansas beautiful!

November 7th (Saturday) - 10:00am to 5:00pm

- **Fall Diversity Weekend in Eureka Springs, AR** - the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF will be tabling during this event. More details to come!

November 15th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am

- **Sunday Secular Meeting @ @ Ozarks Natural Foods** (380 N College Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72701) - we're wrapping up a great 2025 so let's get together for a hot beverage & community to observe the Winter Solstice. - Come join us for our monthly business and social meeting.

Movies / Books / Entertainment:

Calling all Bookworms! Did you know the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF has started a monthly secular book club? Feel free to join the [Meetup group](#) as they meet monthly to review various pieces of literature.

And don't forget about Final Friday held the last Friday of each month (tomorrow!), hosted by [NWA Freethought](#). This is held at City Park restaurant and bar in Fayetteville with outside seating under covered patios. The event starts at 7pm and is open to the general public. Come out and enjoy an ice cold adult beverage with the secular community of Northwest Arkansas!

Respectfully,

Chris Sweeny
Leader - Ozarks Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation
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