

A Publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
405 East Corsicana Street  
Athens, Texas 75751

**Mailing Address:**  
**P.O. Box 927**

Phone: 903-675-3530

**Church Email:**  
**Secretary@fpcathens.com**

**Website:**



[www.fpcathens.com](http://www.fpcathens.com)

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firstpresbyterianchurchathenstexas/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchathenstexas/)  
**First Presbyterian Church  
Athens, TX**

# JULY 2023



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

My ponderings this month center around our country and the direction it seems to be headed. I believe it's time to focus our attention on God's leadership and not ours.

The Lord is sovereign over all things, and He's the one who establishes nations and uproots them. In His eyes, they are as influential as "a drop from a bucket" or "a speck of dust on the scales" (Isa. 40:15). Have you ever thought of our country like this? From our perspective as individual citizens, nations wield great power and authority, and it seems as if one person would be unable to bring about any change.

But Christians can impact a nation with their prayers. In fact, the way we can play a part in reversing the downward trajectory of the nation is by interceding for those in authority. Paul urges the church to pray "for kings and all who are in authority, (in order to) lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Tim. 2:2-4).

The Lord has the power to turn a nation back to Himself, and amazingly, He often uses the prayers of His people to accomplish His will. As James 5:16 tells us, the prayers of a righteous person can accomplish much. Let's use this month to pray for our leaders and our country.



Pastor Woody

# SESSION REPORT


## *June Stated Session*

- *A letter was received from Men for Him, written by Ted Schroeder, thanking Session and the congregation, for the use of the Fellowship Hall for practice sessions. Ted is stepping down as the director. MFH will notify FPC when they choose a new director.*
- *There will be a gathering on Tuesday, June 20th to review instructions on how to use the two AEDs purchased for the church. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. for anyone interested in learning how to implement them.*
- *VBS will be held July 11-14, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00.*
- *Community Concerns and Missions still needs fans. They can be purchased at Walmart for under \$25.00.*
- *Session approved the employment of Kara Davis to lead the music at the 8:30 service.*
- *Session approved the purchase of a second iPad for the 8:30 service.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Ward, Clerk*

PW - Presbyterian Women  
 CFB - Cain Family Building  
 FH - Fellowship Hall  
 FHC - Fellowship Hall  
 Classroom  
 CB - Children's Building  
 YH - Youth House  
 CR - Conference Room  
 FC - Friendship Classroom

# JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> <b>**Communion**</b>  8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Office Closed</b>   12:00PM ETCADA (CR)  6:00 pm—Christian Education Committee	<b>5</b> 12:00PM ETCADA (CR)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
<b>9</b> 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)	<b>10</b> 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 12:00PM ETCADA (CR)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
<div>CASTLE OF COURAGE—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9AM -12PM</div>						
<b>16</b> 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)	<b>17</b> 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:00PM ETCADA (CR)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
<div>~~~~~Day Camps for Kids ~~~~~</div>						
<b>23</b> 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)	<b>24</b> 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 12:00PM ETCADA (CR)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>LOVE IN ACTION</b> <b>Meal Served</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
<b>30</b> 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)	<b>31</b> 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	<b>August 1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:00PM ETCADA (CR)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)

# PRAYER LIST

## Those In Our Church Family

Kelly Ketelboeter, Burt Lively, Roberta Ferris, Sharon Chasey

## Those Who Are in Need of Our Visits & Prayers

### Lakeland Assisted Living:

Fred Davies

### Oak Wood Assisted Living:

Fran Jones (Hospice)

Susan Underkofler

Mark Carlson

## Those Who Are Grieving

Family of Lou Scott

Family of Wayne Webb

Family of Richard Cunyus

Family of Lavelta McVicker

## Prayers For Those Serving In The Mission Field

*Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee* - Missionaries in Korea

## Prayers For Church & Country

Our church and its leaders

Our community and its leaders

Our nation and its leaders

## Those We Love Needing Prayer

Evelyn Jackson (cousin of the Lively's)

Kay Johnson (mother-in-law of Monique Fisher)

Joe & Jen McSweeney (family of Sandy Perkins)

Wes Johnson (friend of Sandy Perkins)

Beau Justice (friend of Susan Sparkman)

Colleen Randel, Kay Courtney, Melva Taylor (friends of Sharon Harding & Cathy Scarborough)

Bill Caldwell (brother of Mary Hortman)

Sebastian (Sebe)

Vicki Grady, Anthony Chiles, Stephen Helf, Randy Daniel, Mike & Linda Deen

## Those We Love in the Armed Forces

Si Robson, U.S. Army Ranger, Missouri

## Those Away at School

Chloe Wright

Hannah Davis

Alex Elfarr

Heidi Davis

Elaine Hendrickson

Tate Elfarr

Olivia Whatley

Madison Rhodes

Toby Rhodes

Will Perryman

## Session Members and Where they serve

Mike Babler – Christian Education

Margaret Breedlove – Witness

Kim Scott – Worship

Lolly Smith – Congregational Life

Scott Cruce – Communications

Kathryn Hendrickson – Christian Ed

Rick Stroupe – Building & Grounds

Nancy Williamson – Witness

Kara Davis – Missions/Community  
Concerns

Claire Grant – Missions/Community  
Concerns

Joan King – Congregational Life

Stephen Yarbrough – Personnel



All are welcome! Please join us; you'll be glad you did! Call the church office at 903-675-3530 with any questions.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Disciples Class

The **Disciples Class** makes use of "The Wired Word" or similar materials, which blends national or world events of the previous week and relevant Bible verses to guide our discussion. Come join us. Our class encourages enthusiastic discussion and is led by four different teachers. We meet in the conference room of the main building.

**Disciples Contact Person:** Lacey Ward

**Rotation of Teachers:** Carol McNatt, Sheri Robson, Lacey Ward & Linda Horton

**Location:** Conference Room in the Main Building

**Time:** 9:40 am Sunday morning

### Friendship Class

The **Friendship Class** is currently discussing the book "How to Study the Bible Through the Jesus Lens" by Michael Williams. Come join us if you want to explore more of God's Word. For more information, please contact Donna Meredith at (903) 286-2085 or donnafoftermeredith@gmail.com.

**Friendship Leader:** Mike Babler

**Location:** Main Church Building, Friendship Classroom

**Time:** 9:45 am Sunday morning

### Seekers Class

The **Seekers Class** started a new study, "For the Hurt, the Blessed, and the Damned" by Rev. Bradley Sullivan. This book explores Christianity as a religion of healing, connection, belonging and love, not as a religion of fear.

We would like to invite you to join in us during our time of study and fellowship. The class meets upstairs in the main church building.

**Seekers Contact Person:** Steve Grant

**Location:** Main Church Building, Upstairs east side; Seekers Classroom

**Time:** 9:45 am Sunday morning

### **Toddler and Baby Nursery Open in the Main Building**

***Sunday Nursery Remains the Same for Older Children in the Children's Building***

In order to accommodate our younger families and visitors with infants and toddlers, the crib and toddler rooms in the main church building are open and staffed with two workers. In addition, we will continue to staff the Children's Building with two workers for children ages 3 and up. Nursery workers are available during both worship services as well as during the Sunday School hour.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

**No Sunday School**

**This month: Child Care only**

- **Ages 3 and up - Teacher:** Phyllis Kidwell

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

All Youth ages **6th - 12th grades** meet for Sunday morning classes in the Youth House located by the Main Parking lot.

**Middle School & High School**

**Teachers:** Ken Lemmon; Claire Grant; Cathie Scarborough  
Substitutes: Jim & Karen Brack

# CHURCH MINISTRIES

## HC FOOD PANTRY

### CURRENT NEED: PET FOOD

The Food Pantry is always in need of donations and volunteers! They are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Food may be dropped off at the church office, or placed in the boxes located at the entrances to the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary. **Questions?** Contact Mamie Downing 903-477-3010 or the church office for more information.



### 821M, The Rebecca Project

Each Saturday morning, the Fellowship Hall is used to prepare and deliver home-cooked meals to the elderly, shut-ins and homeless. Delivery drivers, and others, are needed weekly.

Questions? Contact Deb Reeves at deb.lynn.reeves@gmail.com or Bobbie Fain at blfain66@gmail.com.

## Soup Kitchen ~ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact Sharon Chasey if you can help or for more information 903-292-1639, 903-477-7498 or email skchasey@aol.com.

We are currently only serving 50-100 people each Tuesday or Thursday, providing "take-out" service of soup, sandwich & dessert.



## Love in Action

We will be providing lunch for Love in Action on July 28th. Keep an eye open for the email that will be sent out the week before with the list of items we will be needing to prepare this meal. Questions? Contact Eric Davis: Questions? Contact Eric Davis at ericbdavis35@gmail.com



## Special Collection of School Supplies !



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services<sup>SM</sup>

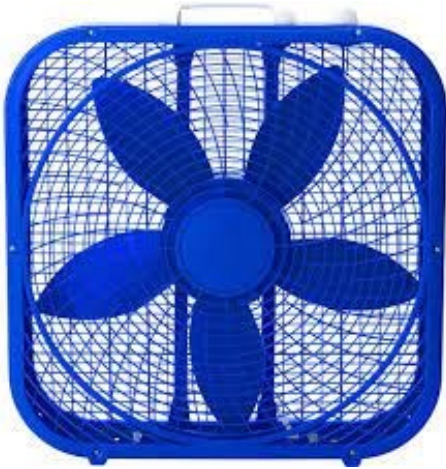


**Collecting  
School Supplies for  
10 Middle & High School Students  
\*Due July 21st @ the Church Office**  
(Contact the Church office if you  
questions)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ABAE29A0FBC52-back5>



# COMMUNITY LIFE SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



## **"Beat the Heat"** **with a Boxed Fan Collection**

We have a new campaign  
to collect more  
fans  
for those in need.  
Fans are available at  
retail outlets with a  
cost of around \$20.00.

Please bring your fan to the Church office soon!

## ~FPC Ministries~

### **Sally Soup Ministry**

Are you new to our church? Have you heard about Sally Soup Ministry and want to know what it is all about?

We would love to have you join us as soon as we get back to our normal meeting time. If you are not a new member, but haven't had the privilege of joining us in the past, please pray about joining us as we get back to the work of this ministry.

Please be watching for an email with the schedule to come soon.

#### **Questions?**

Please contact Claire Grant at [clairewgrant@aol.com](mailto:clairewgrant@aol.com) or Steve Sparkman at [srsparkman@yahoo.com](mailto:srsparkman@yahoo.com) if you would like more information about this ministry or how you can volunteer.

### **AGAPE Quilts**



It's summer time and the AGAPE workshop is going strong preparing for cooler nights ahead.

This 105 degree weather doesn't stay around forever. This past month we have given a dozen sleeping bags to be given out locally. Thanks to our dedicated team who come to work every Monday morning. This would not be possible without you. If you have any questions about how you can help with this ministry, please contact Sofia Yarbrough at 720-936-5225.



Please help us collect these items for VBS:

- toilet paper/paper towel rolls for VBS crafts
- anything that is castle, king or queen related-clothing for costumes, crowns, armor, etc.
- any large sheets of cardboard for crafts & decor

VBS: July 11-14  
Register Early!

**CASTLE OF COURAGE**  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**KING ARDOR, SIR LAUGHSALOT,  
AND LADY WHENIMHERE!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ATHENS, TEXAS

**JULY 11-14**

**AGES 5-10 ~ 9AM-12NOON**

CALL 903-675-3530

TO REGISTER AND FOR INFORMATION



# Special Fun this Summer!

## Check out these extraordinary camps !

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATHENS, TX

# DAY CAMPS FOR KIDS

## JULY 18, 19, 20

JULY 18th; 9am - 11:30am

## SADDLE UP!

Meet us at the McDavitt Equine Center in Eustace, TX, to learn and interact with Mustang horses!

FOR AGES 5 - 12

JULY 19th; 9am - 12pm

## LEGO BIBLE CAMP

Join us to learn more about God's Word through building your own Lego creation!

FOR AGES 6 - 10

JULY 20th; 9am - 12pm

## ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Come hear Sharon Ellsbury read her book about the Spaniel family's Thanksgiving and learn how gratitude is cool in any season!

FOR AGES 4 - 8

\*\*Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from the center.\*\*

(Held at FPC Church)

(Held at FPC Church)

There is limited enrollment for each of the events.  
Registration is required for each camp prior to the first day.  
Please contact the church office between 9:00am to 2:00pm.

## Sunday School Fun!





We are having a



# MOVIE NIGHT

at FPC Athens



**Fellowship Hall @ FPC  
Wednesday, July 19th**



**6pm**

Questions? Contact Church Office  
903-675-3530



**Bring Your picnic dinner!**

~



**Popcorn & Drinks  
will be provided**



## **Community Prayer Box**

Please continue to spread the word about the community prayer box located behind the Cain Family Building. If you have a prayer request, please do not hesitate to ask for prayers from your church family & friends. We are called to pray for one another.

## **CHURCH LIBRARY**

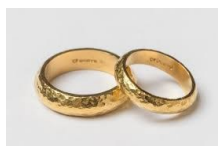
Stop by the library to find some wonderful reads during your summer season. You will not be disappointed in the wonderful selection that you will have.

Easy book check-out instructions are posted. We welcome suggestions for new books, videos or CD's to order, and book donations in honor or in memory of someone special.

For questions or help, contact Emily Carlson ([emily.carlson1976@gmail.com](mailto:emily.carlson1976@gmail.com)) or Kim Scott ([kscott7938@aol.com](mailto:kscott7938@aol.com)).

The library is located in the church office area, past the front desk, 2nd door on the right.

## *July Wedding Anniversaries*



*Paula & Ken Lemmon: 1st  
Steve & Susan Sparkman: 3rd  
Joe & Melanie Whatley: 13th  
Kendra & Marco Gonzales: 24th*

# JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Julie Funkhouser Tara Rhodes Luke Solomon
<b>2</b> Mamie Downing Tristin Catugal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Kim Scott	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Danny Potter Heidi Davis	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Susie House John Smith	<b>10</b> John Smith	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Adele Weber	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Steve Sparkman	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Cathie Scarborough
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Nancy Williamson Mary Hortman	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Debbie Bumbard	<b>28</b> Burt Lively Beth Miller Alec Wofford Lucy Harrison	<b>29</b> Kenn Hornbeck Brent Mossberger Aubrey Heglund
<b>30</b> Bob Herrington	<b>31</b> James Rhodes	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>				

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

**SEND MAIL TO: P.O. Box 927**

Athens, TX 75751

## JULY COMMUNIQUE

### NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE OR VIA EMAIL!

\* Go to [www.fpcathens.com](http://www.fpcathens.com) and click  
on the picture of the **Newsletter**.

\* To receive an email copy, scroll to the  
bottom of the page and fill out the form.

### Join Us On Sundays

**Worship at 8:30 a.m.**

in the Fellowship Hall

**Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.**

see newsletter for locations

**Worship at 11:00 a.m.**

in the Sanctuary

**Child Care**

Main Bldg & Children's Bldg.

(For both services &  
Sunday School)

### **Pastor**

Rev. Woody Meredith

[woody@fpcathens.com](mailto:woody@fpcathens.com)

### **Director of Music**

Janis Capelle

### **Organist & Bell Choir Leader**

Mamie Downing

### **Music Leader**

Kara Davis

### **Business Manager**

Marshall Endsley

[marshall@fpcathens.com](mailto:marshall@fpcathens.com)

### **Office Administrator**

(Facebook/Messenger/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster)

[secretary@fpcathens.com](mailto:secretary@fpcathens.com)

### DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

**Next Deadline: July 21st**

Email announcements, articles,  
information, etc. to

**[secretary@fpcathens.com](mailto:secretary@fpcathens.com)**

### **We Are**

*A family of Disciples,  
touched by God's grace,  
called to share Christ  
through Worship,  
Ministry & Outreach*