

A Publication of
First Presbyterian Church
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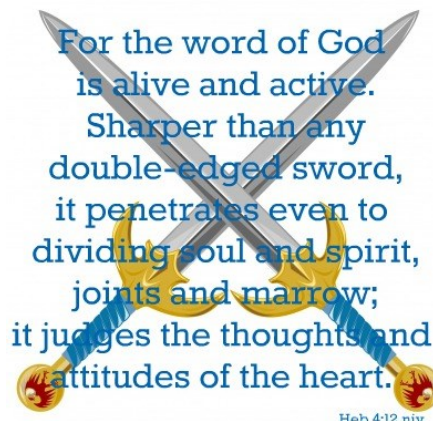
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First Presbyterian Church
Athens, TX

AUGUST 2023



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

It would be so easy to sum up my ponderings for August in one word; "HOT". Then again, you really don't have to "ponder" too long to come to that conclusion. So, I'll share two questions that I've been asked on more than one occasion. "Do you ever doubt whether God wants to speak to you in a personal way? Do you ever question whether you're worthy of His attention?"

I can assure you that your heavenly Father desires to communicate with all His children – no exceptions. And your intimacy with Him is vital to the health and strength of your entire life. One of the best ways to hear His voice is to read His Word, which is "living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit" (Hebrews 4:12). Now, that's powerful!

During the month of August, meditate on the scriptures daily.

And as you do, ask God's Spirit to teach and encourage you – to help you learn the sound of His voice.

I think it's one of the best ways to get your mind off the heat!

Have a great August.

Pastor Woody



SESSION REPORT

July 2023:

The Session approved and welcomed the following new members:

Howard & Sharon Clark

Paul Hartman

Angela St. Valentine

Tim & Beth VanOrden

John & Beth Youngblood

No other report.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Ward - Clerk of Session



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 Kim Scott
(kscott7938@aol.com).

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

AUGUST 2023

		1 5:00PM- Missions Committee (FC)	2 12:00PM—ETCADA (CR)	3 4:30PM—Worship Committee (FC)	4	5 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
Communion 6 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice	7 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	8	9 12:00PM—ETCADA (CR) 6:15PM—Session (FHC)	10	11	12 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
13 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice	14 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	15	16 12:00PM—ETCADA (CR)	17	18	19 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
20 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice	21 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	22	23 12:00PM—ETCADA (CR)	24	25 LOVE IN ACTION Meal Served	26 9:00 am—Rebecca Project (FH)
27 8:30 am—Worship Service (FH) 9:45 am—Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice	28 9:00 am—AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	29	30 12:00PM—ETCADA (CR)	31	Coming Up in September: Family Night Supper: 20th Autumn begins: 22nd Save the date: October 21st: Church Picnic	

PRAYER LIST

Those In Our Church Family

Kelly Ketelboeter, 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 Grace Lively

Family of Bill Caldwell

Family of Danny Novak

Family of Dr. Michael Rossman (Shirley Hornbeck's nephew)

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, Melva Taylor, Beth Pettman (friends of Sharon Harding & Cathy Scarborough)

Sebastian (Sebe)

Erin Trojan (granddaughter of Carol McNatt)

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

Donna Ward—Clerk of Session

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

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

August 6th— Special Fun: IJump in Tyler
Leave 9:45 return 1:15PM

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 & COMMUNITY 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.

Serving time is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..



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



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

Our Church Collected School Supplies for
10
Middle & High School Students this year!

Big thank you to all who participated!

~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 or Steve Sparkman at srsparkman@yahoo.com if you would like more information about this ministry or how you can volunteer.

Agape Quilts

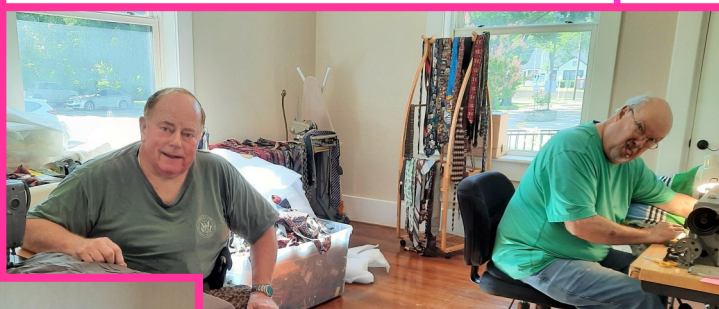
We appreciate the support of Bill & Carmen Hunt at Texas Ragtime for their donations of supplies for our ministry. They are no longer able to supply us due to a change in their business. We will need donations to help us continue our mission.

Needs: Quilts, bedspreads, blankets, fleece throws, sheets, etc. These should all be washed clean and in good enough condition to piece together for sleeping bags..

We donated 28 quilts in July to those in need!

Thank you so much
Sophie and her partners

For more information contact Sofia Yarbrough @ 720-936-5225.





Castle of Courage—VBS 2023





LEGO BIBLE CAMP



Attitude of Gratitude Bible Camp



2023 Summer Children's Programs

As you can see lots of children had lots of fun and learning at FPC this Summer through Vacation Bible School and Bible Camps!

Special thank you to Kathryn Hendrickson , Susan Sparkman & Zoe Koerth for coordinating and implementing the camps along with their special helpers: Elaine Hendrickson, Addison Maytubby, Mitchell Koerth, Sophie Wright, Bel English, Daxton Davis , Jolene Taylor (for snacks) and the many others who contributed through funding , decorations and prayers.

Look for VBS & Camp Slideshow on our FB Page!

Theme verse for the Summer:

Joshua 1:9 NIRV

Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."

*August
Wedding
Anniversaries*



*Erin & Carl Harrison 6th
Willy & Sheri Robson 14th
Glenn & Carolyn Brinkman 15th
Brian & Leslie Jones 16th*

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Mark Scotchmer	3 Claudia Foster	4 Christine Hudson	5 Brian Jones
6	7 Kathryn Hendrickson	8 Blake Bombard	9 Mollie Davies	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Lee Hudson Phillip Lively	17	18	19
20	21 Steve Grant	22 Grace Dollgener	23	24	25 Owen Babcock	26
27	28 Steve Yarbrough Art Hall Phyllis Kidwell	29 Will Velvin	30 Mike Babler	31		

BIRTHDAYS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

SEND MAIL TO: P.O. Box 927

Athens, TX 75751

AUGUST COMMUNIQUE

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE OR VIA EMAIL!

* Go to 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.

Pastor

Rev. Woody Meredith
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

Office Administrator

(Facebook/Messenger/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster)
secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Next Deadline: August 21st

Email announcements, articles,
information, etc. to
secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com

We Are

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

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

Children's Building

(For both services &
Sunday School)