

OCTOBER 2023

A publication of First Presbyterian Church

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

As we enter the wonderful month of October, I have a question. Have you ever had one of those days when you really didn't have much to "ponder"? You know, you wake up in the morning and have this feeling that everything is going to fall into place. It's a great feeling. I highly recommend it.

However, we live in a world that seems to thrive on worry. So many people, before their feet hit the floor, are already concerned about surviving the day. Their "to do" list is before their eyes, and it seems so overwhelming that they just want to crawl back into bed and pull the covers over their head. They've struck out before they step up to the plate.

The Gospel of Matthew touches on the subject of worry. Beginning with Matthew 6:25-ff, we hear Jesus saying, **"...Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.**

Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Now that's something to "ponder".

In the Gospel of Matthew, the sixth chapter, Jesus shares with us exactly how we can avoid worry. **"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you."** (Matt. 6:33) And then; **"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."** (Matt. 6:34). Great advice for everyone. Now, I do have something to "ponder". Maybe you do as well.

Pastor Woody



ENQUIRY
COMMUNIQUE



First Presbyterian Church
405 East Corsicana Street
Athens, Texas 75751

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 927
Athens, Texas 75751

Phone: 903-675-3530

Church Email:

secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com
secretary@fpcathens.com

Website:



www.fpcathens.com

[www.facebook.com/
firstpresbyterianchurch
athenstexas/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchathenstexas/)

PRAYER LIST AS OF 09.25.2023

Kelly Ketelboeter, Kenneth Ferris, Sharon Chasey, Bob & Dolores Herrington

Those Who Are in Need of Our Visits & Prayers

Arabella Assisted Living: Don Geddie Lakeland Assisted Living: Fred Davies

Oak Wood Assisted Living: Fran Jones (Hospice), Susan Underkofler, Mark Carlson

Those Who Are Grieving

Family of Anthony Chiles

Family of Ronald Walker

Family of Pat Bateman

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 in the Armed Forces

Si Robson, U.S. Army Ranger, Missouri

Those We Love Needing Prayer

Evelyn Jackson (cousin of the Lively's)

Joe & Jen McSweeney, Kamryn McSweeney (family of Sandy Perkins)

Beau Justice (friend of Susan Sparkman)

Colleen Randel, Melva Taylor, Beth Pittman (friends of Sharon Harding & Cathy Scarborough)

Sebastian (Sebe), John Baggett and family (friend of Ann & Elliott Boyles), Connie Hanes (friend of Kenn & Shirley Hornbeck),

Vicki Grady, Stephen Helf, Randy Daniel, Mike & Linda Deen, Jim McPherson

Those Away at School Chloe Wright, Elaine Hendrickson, Madison Rhodes, Hannah Davis,
Tate Elfarr, Toby Rhodes, Alex Elfarr, Olivia Whatley, & Heidi Davis.

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

CHURCH 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!

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.

821M, The Rebecca Project

Each Saturday morning at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall volunteers prepare and deliver home-cooked meals to the elderly, shut-ins and homeless.

Delivery drivers, and others,
are needed weekly.



Questions?

Contact Jana at 903-880-2855

If you are interested in volunteering.



HC FOOD PANTRY

The Henderson County Food Pantry is always in need of donations and volunteers!

They are open from 9:00AM to 12:00PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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.

Contact Mamie Downing at 903-477-3010.

Email: mamie.d.downing@gmail.com
or call the church office for more information.



We will be providing lunch for Love in Action on the October 27th (4th Friday of the month).

An email will be sent out the week before with the list of items we will need to prepare this meal.

Questions?

Email Eric Davis at ericbdavis35@gmail.com

Soup Kitchen

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Contact Sharon Chasey if you are interested in helping or would like more information.

903-292-1639 or 903-477-7498

Email: skchasey@aol.com.

We are currently only serving 50-100 people on Tuesdays or Thursdays and providing "take-out" service of soup, sandwich & dessert.

Serving time is from 11AM-1PM

SUNDAY



SCHOOL

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.

Disciples Contact Person: Lacey Ward

Rotation of Teachers:

Carol McNatt, Sheri Robson, Lacey Ward & Linda Horton

Location: Conference Room in the Main Building

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

Seekers Class

The **Seekers Class** is currently studying, "The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to Christianity" by Lee Strobel. This bestselling book is for those who may be feeling attracted to Jesus but who are faced with difficult questions standing squarely in their path.

We would like to invite you to join us during our time of study and fellowship.

Seekers Contact Person: Steve Grant

Location: Main Church Building, Upstairs east side.

Time: 9:45am 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

Teachers:

Kathryn Hendrickson
& Susan Sparkman

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



CHILDREN'S MUSIC CLASS

**Come make a joyful noise unto the LORD
and we will have fun doing so!**

Children of ALL ages are invited!
Every 3rd Sunday in our Children's Building
Begins September 17th . 9:30-10:00am
Children's Sunday School Immediately Follows

 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751
OFFICE: 903-675-3530
EMAIL: SECRETARYFPCATHENS@GMAIL.COM



NEW opportunities for Children of ALL ages!

On Sunday, September 17th
our NEW Children's Music
Class began in the children's
building at 9:30am and will
continue to meet every third
Sunday of the month.

**If you have any questions,
please contact
Kathryn Hendrickson
903-681-2887**



COMING Soon

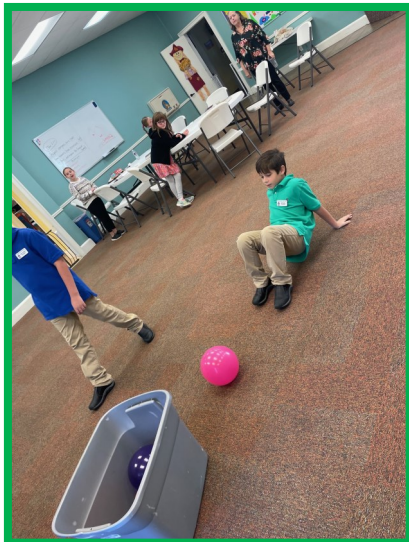

Middle School &
HS Youth Class

Location and teachers to be announced!

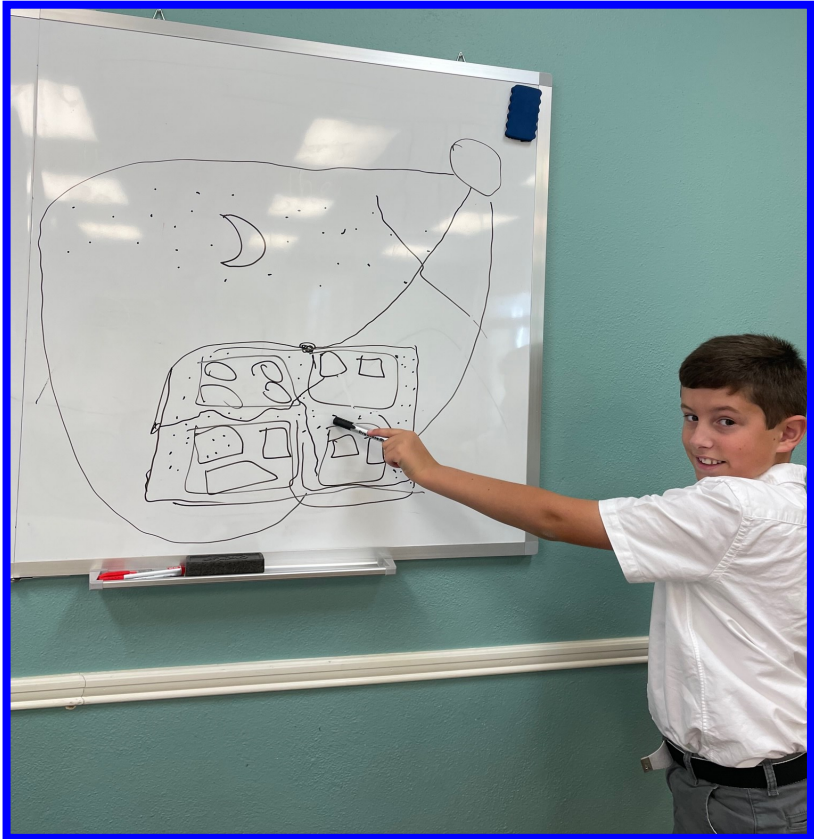


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Children's Sunday School



Children's Sunday School Fun





Henderson County

Food Pantry

The HC Food Pantry is currently in need of pet food donations. Donations can be brought to the church office or dropped off at the pantry location listed below.

Open 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
715 E. Corsicana St.
Athens, Texas 75751
hendersoncofp@gmail.com
903-677-1600



★ **ANNUAL** ★

CHURCH-WIDE **PICNIC**

Catered by Smoky B Barbecue



OCTOBER
21, 2023
4:00pm

The Neill's Home
2419 CR 3800
Athens, TX 75752

BRING
YOUR
FAVORITE
DESSERT

RSUP BY OCTOBER 13TH!
CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
903-675-3530 . SECRETARYFPCATHENS@GMAIL.COM

A Friendly Reminder:
Please visit the church foyer to view the RSVP sign-up sheet.

Ladies Bible Study Thursday Mornings at 9:30AM



"TAKE COURAGE" LADIES BIBLE STUDY

A 7-week study on the Book of Haggai
by Jennifer Rothchild.

Begins September 14th at 9:30am in our
upstairs classroom and meets every Thursday.

Video and Group Discussion.

Study material can be purchased through
Lifeway Christian Bookstore or Amazon for \$16.99.



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Our Ladies Bible Study began a new study on Thursday, September 14th.

A 7-session study on the book of Haggai, learn to walk confidently in your calling, stay motivated despite opposition, and courageously invest your life in God's purposes, trusting Him

for results you may never see in this lifetime.

Study material may be purchased on Lifeway Christian Bookstore or Amazon.

All women are invited to join us each Thursday morning at 9:30AM in the upstairs classroom in the main building.

For questions, please email Kim Scott at kscott7938@aol.com or the church office at secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com



MEN FOR HIM

Men for Him Chorus began meeting again in September for weekly practices on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church. The chorus sings four-part barbershop style religious music and is made up of men from area churches. If God has gifted you with a singing voice, you may want to consider using that gift with the chorus. We invite and encourage you to visit a practice and check us out. We have fun, create lasting friendships with men from other churches and share our witness through music.

If you would like more information, please feel free to call Ken Myers at 903-279-5065.



Agape Quilts

We have been busy building our stock during the hot months of Summer and now have over 50 quilts ready for Winter.

Needs/Wish List:

Please continue to make donations.
Quilts, bedspreads, blankets,
fleece throws, sheets, etc.

Donations should all be washed and in good condition to piece together for sleeping bags.

Thank you so much, Sofia and her partners.
For more information contact, Sofia Yarbrough at 720-936-5225.



CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE PROJECT

MINISTRY OF FPC-ATHENS

- **PROVIDES LOW-INCOME FAMILIES FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS**
- **PROVIDES EACH FAMILY WITH STORY BIBLE**
- **PROVIDES EACH FAMILY WITH A BROOKSHIRE'S GIFT CARD.**

Here we are quickly approaching the Christmas Season and with that comes the Christmas Benevolence Project. Many of you are already aware of how this project affects our community, but for those who are not familiar, here is a brief summary.

Each year letters are sent to local elementary schools, requesting names of families that are in need of a "little extra help" at Christmas. Volunteers then contact the family they are assigned to and set up a time to go shopping with them. This is when the real blessings begin, because we have the opportunity to not only meet "Christmas Wishes" but also have the opportunity to engage with the parents of these children and pray with them and for them all year long.

If you have not volunteered in the past, please pray about it this year.

We would love for you to be included and to witness the many blessings that are received.

For questions or for additional information, please contact Penny Endsley at 903-288-1129.





Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Several church members have inquired about ways to help the victims of the Maui wildfires and also those affected by Hurricane Idalia in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

PCUSA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has funds set up specifically to help the victims of these disasters. As Woody mentioned on Sunday, our church has already sent funds for the victims of the Maui wildfires.

If any individual church member would like to contribute as well, there are three ways to do so.

1. Write a check to our church and put in the memo PDA Maui (DR000165) or PDA Idalia (DR000194; you can also specify an affected state if you choose.)

2. Send a check to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)
P. O. Box 643700
Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700

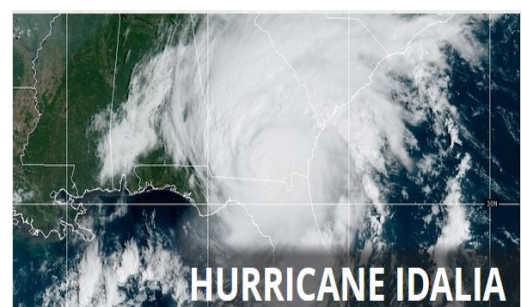
Again, in the memo of your check, write Maui (DR000165) or Idalia (DR000194)

3. Pay online with credit card. Go to [PCUSA.org/pda](https://pcusa.org/pda) and select Maui or Idalia. You may also click on the associated donation links that are supplied by PCUSA.org.

Contribute to Maui: Disaster Relief--U.S. Wildfires Relief (DR000165)
by clicking on the following link:
<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000165/>

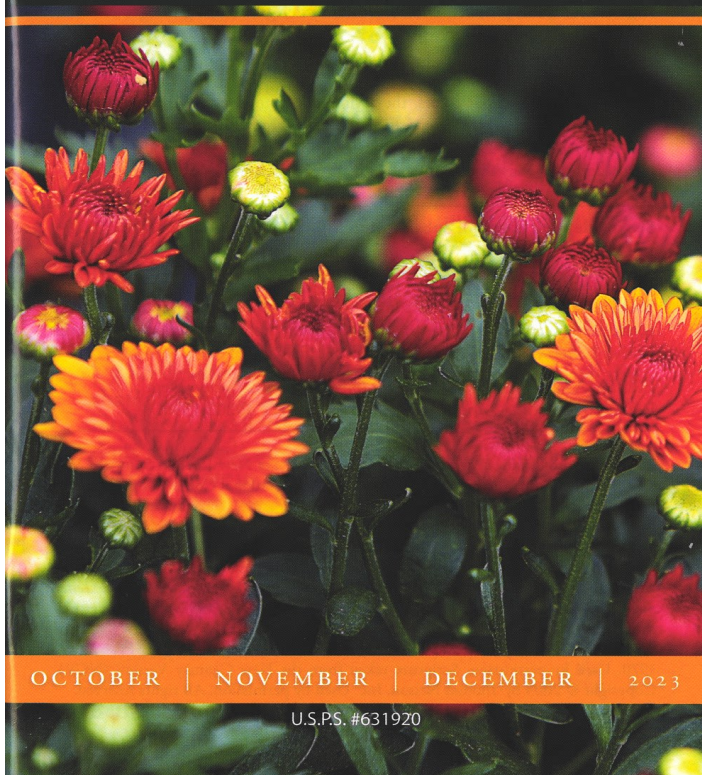
Contribute to Idalia: Disaster Relief--Hurricane and Typhoon Relief (DR000194)
by clicking on the following link:
<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000194/>

We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world who are affected by disasters.



THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith



**These Days,
Daily Devotions
for Living by Faith.**

**Pick up your copy
today!**

**~October, November,
and December~**

**Located in the
church foyer
and fellowship hall.**

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



**Visit the church library today!
You will not be disappointed in the
wonderful selection that is available.**

**We welcome suggestions for new books,
videos or CD's to order, and book
donations in honor or in memory of
someone special.**

**Easy book check-out instructions
are posted.**

**For questions or help email Kim Scott at
kscott7938@aol.com**

Mark Your Calendar...

ANNUAL



Chili

COOK-OFF

Bring your
favorite chili,
toppings &/or
desserts.

JOIN THE FUN!

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 2023

6:00PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP BY
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *World Communion Sunday* 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	2 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	3 4:30pm Worship Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Men for Him Chorus (FH)	4 12:00pm ETCADA (CR) 5:00pm Bell Practice (FHC) 5:30pm Christian ED Committee Mtg. (FC) 6:00pm Sally Soup (FH)	5 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (CR) "Take Courage"- 4/7 wks	6	7 9:00am Rebecca Project (FH)
8 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	9 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	10 6:30pm Men for Him Chorus (FH)	11 12:00pm ETCADA (CR) 5:00pm Bell Practice (FHC) 6:15pm Session Mtg. (FHC)	12 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (CR) "Take Courage"- 5/7 wks	13 RSVP DUE for CHURCH PICNIC (Contact the church office)	14 9:00am Rebecca Project (FH)
15 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:30am Children's Music Class (CB- 3rd Sunday) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	16 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	17 6:30pm Men for Him Chorus (FH)	18 12:00pm ETCADA (CR) 5:00pm Bell Practice (FHC)	19 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (CR) "Take Courage"- 7/7 wks HC Food Pantry Volunteer Luncheon 12:30-4:30pm (FH)	20 Listener's Club 70th Anniversary Luncheon 11:00am-3:00pm (FH)	21 9:00am Rebecca Project (FH) Church Picnic 4:00pm at The Neill's Home
22 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	23 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	24 6:30pm Men for Him Chorus (FH)	25 12:00pm ETCADA (CR) 5:00pm Bell Practice (FHC)	26 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (CR) "Take Courage"- 7/7 wks 10:00am Casa Staff Mtg (FH) LOVE IN ACTION ITEMS DUE BY 2:00 PM	27 LOVE IN ACTION Meal Served	28 9:00am Rebecca Project (FH)
29 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	30 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	31 Reformation Day 6:30pm Men for Him Chorus (FH)				

October Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Sue Francis	3	4 Penny Endsley Carol Morton	5	6 Melanie Endsley	7 Cindy Sanders Pam Douglas
8 David Scotchmer	9	10 Greg Hisey	11	12	13 Coleman Cain Chloe Wright	14 John Baker Betty Foster Sarah Skelton
15	16 Terri Budow	17	18	19	20	21
22 Cody Robson	23 Donna Ward	24	25	26	27	28
29 Glenn Brinkman William Elfarr	30 Will Davies	31 Brandon Smith	We would like to wish the following congregation members & couples a very Happy Birthday and Anniversary.			



October Wedding Anniversaries

Tim & Beth VanOrden
Earl & Judy Locke
Scott & Dianne Cruce
Eric & Kara Davis
Rick & Marsha Stroupe
Ed & Paige Gatlin

October 6th
October 14th
October 19th
October 20th
October 22nd
October 27th



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Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

SEND MAIL TO:

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OCTOBER 2023 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.

Join Us On Sundays

Worship at 8:30am

in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday School at 9:45am

see newsletter for locations

Worship at 11:00am

in the Sanctuary

Child Care

Children's Building

(For both services &
Sunday School)

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 Assistant

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

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Next Deadline: October 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.*