



Member of PC-USA

The Communique: *October 2025*

A publication of First Presbyterian Church-Athens, TX



We are a warm, caring, nurturing, and supportive Church family of deeply committed disciples who are excited about sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world through numerous avenues of ministry.

We are rich in history, having been founded in 1855, but we continue to be actively seeking God's will in the 21st Century. We continue to rely on God's Spirit as we strive to serve God's people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. We would love to have you be a part of this loving and joy-filled family of God.

If you are searching for answers to life's pressing questions, you are welcome here. If you are looking to be a part of a spirit-filled worship experience that can fill you with God's love and power, you are welcome here. If you are seeking a Church home where your individual talents can be shared, you are welcome here.

Please accept my personal invitation to come and experience the love, joy and peace of God that's found at First Presbyterian Church of Athens.

Our doors and hearts are open to you. Welcome! Rev. Woody Meredith

"The Communique"

is a monthly newsletter publication distributed electronically in pdf format to subscribers.

If you are interested in receiving a digital copy, please visit our "About" section of our website at www.fpcathens.com and select the heading "Communique Newsletter".

Simply fill out the form provided and submit.

***Items being submitted for the Communique are due by the 21st of every month to secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com**

COMMUNIQUE HIGHLIGHTS:

◇ PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

◇ CHURCH REPORTS: SEPTEMBER 2025

◇ **SAVE THE DATE:**
10/19: 10AM COMBINED SERVICE, LUNCH, & ACTIVE SHOOTER SEMINAR IN FH (ATHENS PD).
10/25: ANNUAL CHURCHWIDE PICNIC

◇ MINISTRY ACTIVITIES & NEEDS

◇ SPECIAL OFFERING DETAILS: P&GW

◇ SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE

◇ OCTOBER 2025 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



Pastor's Ponderings:

Who do you think lives at 135 West 50th Street in New York, just a block away from Radio City Music Hall? That's Spider Man's address, but he doesn't live alone. Wolverine occupies the same building, and so does the Hulk, Thor, Iron Man, Captain America, Daredevil, Black Panther, the X-Men and the Guardians of the Galaxy. All these superheroes crowd into the 60,000-square-foot corporate headquarters of Marvel Comics on West 50th.

So, what's up with these superheroes? Why is our culture drawn to them? Partly it's fun, fantasy, and entertainment. Who doesn't enjoy watching people fly, leap, morph, melt, swing among skyscrapers, disappear into thin air, and overcome the forces of evil?

But there's something more to it. Somewhere within us we long for a good powerful, and supernatural person who can step into our world and help us overcome the evil we face daily. According to the Bible, such a person does exist. His name is Jesus.

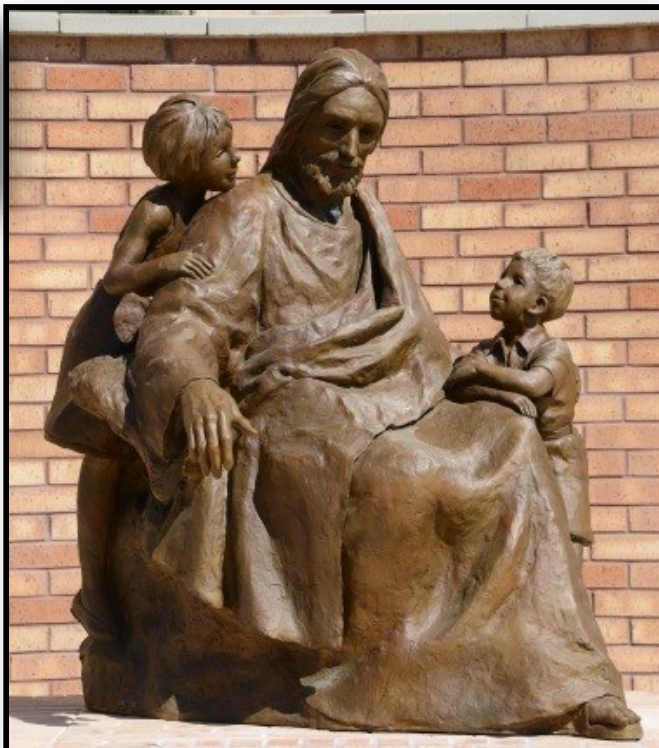
Everything Jesus did was marvelous, because Jesus is the ultimate expression of the power of God. When He lives within us, He brings His power along. This is one of the most underappreciated aspects of our Christian experience.

In a world infatuated with power, most of us feel powerless – powerless to control the destiny of our nation, the climate of our culture, the direction of our lives, or even the details of our careers, families, and areas of personal weakness.

God wants us to be people of strength and courage. He wants to build into our lives a spirit of power, and He has told us to be strong in the power of His might. He wants His energy behind our efforts. Only then will we begin living as He intends, overcoming weakness with an unstoppable strength.

Let's be people who make the world marvel as we point to Him who is marvelous in every way.

Pastor Woody



Mission Statement:

A family of disciples touched by God's grace, called to share Christ through worship, ministry, and outreach.

We strive to live out our Mission Statement by providing worship and Christian Education experiences that allow for personal spiritual growth. As equipped disciples we then go into the world to model Christ's love to others.



Would you like to have the opportunity to become a part of FPC-Athens worship experience?

Contact the church office about Liturgist and Greeter opportunities.

Church Library:

Do you need a new book to lose yourself in or maybe revisit one you haven't read in a long while? Then, we want to invite you to visit the church library and take one home.

The library is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 2:00pm and on Sunday from 8:30am to Noon.

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).

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



Columbarium News:

For many centuries, cemeteries were commonly found in churchyards, allowing churches to minister to the spiritual needs of their members. But there is a modern alternative which churches are offering their members: the Columbarium.

A Columbarium is a collection of niches designed to house urns inscribed with the person's names and dates of birth and death.

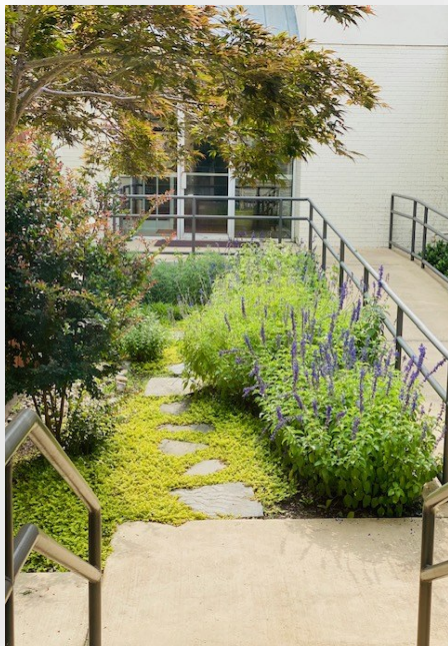
The principal benefit a Columbarium affords church members and their families is the opportunity to select their final resting place in the shadow of the church where their loved ones can visit and meditate at any time.

The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

A Columbarium Committee oversees operation of the Columbarium.

If you wish to discuss the purchase of a niche within the Columbarium, please contact the church office.

Sherry Smith Prayer Garden:



Our church prayer garden (shared in the same space as the columbarium) is a peaceful sanctuary surrounded by blooming flowers and shaded trees.

Whether seeking comfort, expressing gratitude, or simply enjoying the scenery, visitors & members alike feel embraced by the presence of God.

It is a cherished corner of the church, reminding all who enter of the beauty of faith and the power of prayer.

Contact the church office if you are interested in lending a hand in maintaining the prayer garden.

PRAYER LIST



Congregation Members
Who Need Our Prayers

Burt Lively, Jan Capelle,
Judy Locke, Sue Murray,
Willy Robson, Sharron Clark



Those Who Are in Need of
Our Visits & Prayers

Lakeland Assisted Living:
Fred Davies
Oak Wood Place Assisted Living:
Susan Underkofler, Mark Carlson
Arabella of Athens:
Dolores Herrington
Mary Lynn Smith



Those Who Are Grieving

Family of Steve Perkins
(brother of Sandy Perkins)

Family of Charlie Kirk
Family of Earl Locke
Family of Janis Campbell



Those We Love in the Armed Forces

Si Robson,
U.S. Army Ranger, Fort Campbell, KY
Adam King (grandson of Joan King)
Army, Fort Bragg, NC



Prayers For Our Church & Country

Our church and its leaders.
Our community and its leaders.
Our nation, and its leaders
and the nation of Israel.



Prayers For Those Serving
In The Mission Field

Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee
Missionaries in Korea



Those Away at School

Madison Rhodes, Heidi Davis, Tate Elfarr, Sophie Wright



Those We Love Needing Prayer

Evelyn Jackson (cousin of the Lively's)
DeeDee Manton (friend of Sandy Perkins)
Jennifer McSweeney (niece of Sandy Perkins)
Kay Ruiz (friend of Eric & Kara Davis)
Sue Dover (Melanie Whatley's Mother)
Paige Reeves (friend of many)
Grady Chancellor (friend of many)
Eugene Buford (family member of Morrison's &
Cole's, friend of many)
Mike Pulley (friend of many)
Kathy Moser, Dylan Thoor
(friends of The Neill's)

Pam Tischler (friend of Kenn & Shirley Hornbeck)
Dustin DuBose (relative to Nikki DuBose)
Janice Russell (friend of The Grant's)
Cheryl Hartman (cousin of Paul & Diana Hartman).
Randy Daniel (friend of many)
Jackie Heine (friend of many)
Phyllis Lassiter (sister-in-law of Eddie Lassiter)
Rob & Shereia Fulton (friends of The Meredith's)
Stefanie Albright (daughter of Donna Ward)
Eleanor Landrum (Beth Youngblood's mother)

Session Members and Where They Serve

Building and Grounds: Charlie Tidmore

Christian Education: Angela St. Valentine

Community Concerns/Missions/Witness:
Kara Davis/Claire Grant/Nancy Perryman

Congregational Life: Melanie Whatley/Marcy Warren

Personnel: John Youngblood/Steve Yarbrough

Stewardship: Steven Smith

Worship: John Purser

Clerk of Session: Donna Ward

CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

FPC-Athens Christian Education Committee offers educational activities that occur on Sunday mornings to encourage growth & leadership as disciples of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela St. Valentine at 817-271-2211.

BABY & TODDLER

The nursery is open in the main church building. Note: 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.

Nursery workers are available during both worship services & during Sunday School.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Located in the Children's Building for ages 3 and up.
Staffed with at least two workers.**

Teachers: Kathryn Hendrickson, Susan Sparkman, and Phyllis Kidwell.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet in the Youth House located in the main church parking lot at 9:45am.

Our Teachers (Rotating Schedule):

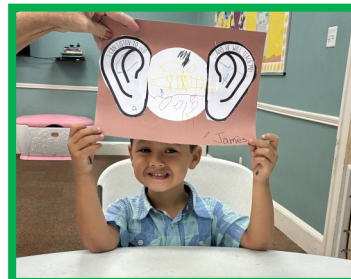
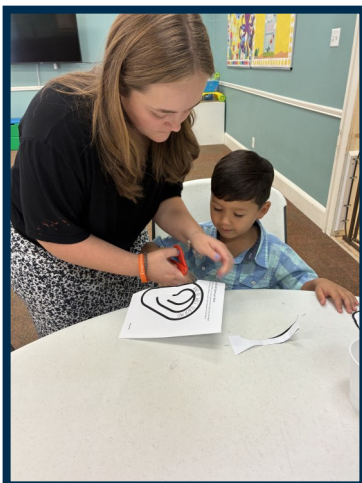
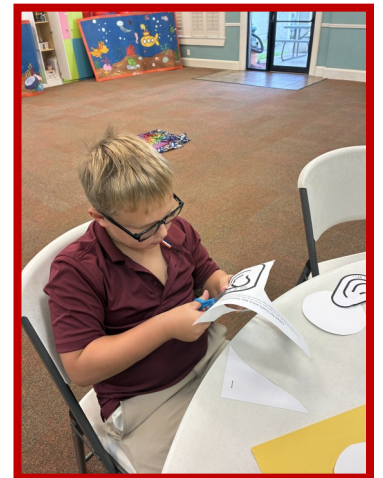
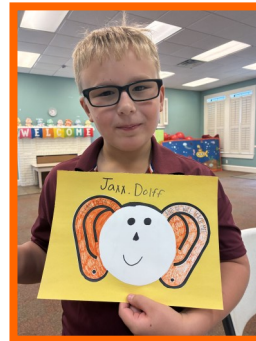
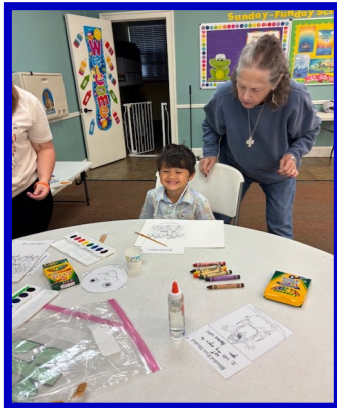
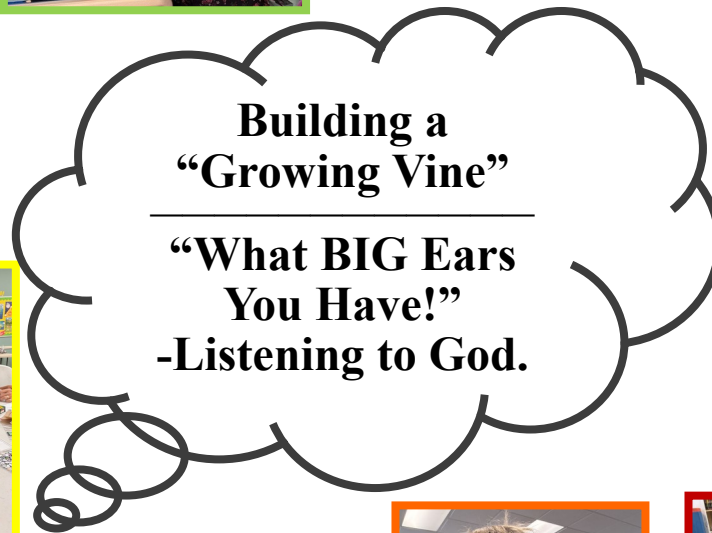
Steve & Claire Grant

Angela St. Valentine & Alex Fernandez

Eric & Kara Davis

Pam Douglas & Tyler Hendrickson

SUNDAY FUN DAY



Adult

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

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

DISCIPLES CLASS: 9:45AM

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 three different teachers.

Disciples Contact Person: Lacey Ward

Rotation of Teachers: Sheri Robson, Lacey Ward, Lou Sutton, & Christy Purser

Location: Main Building-Conference Room .

FRIENDSHIP CLASS: 9:45AM

The **Friendship Class** is currently discussing "The Rapture: Fact or Fantasy" by Dr. Robert Jeffress.

For more information, please contact Donna Meredith at (903) 286-2085 or donnafostermeredith@gmail.com.

Friendship Leader: Mike Babler

Location: Main Church Building-Friendship Classroom.

SEEKERS CLASS: 9:45AM

The **Seekers Class** is currently studying the Book of Titus.

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.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Join Us-All are Welcome!

**9:30am-Upstairs Classroom
on Thursday mornings.**

**"Heaven, When Faith Becomes Sight"
by Jennifer Rothchild.**

***Study books can be purchased through
Amazon for \$21.99.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751**

OFFICE: 903-675-3530

EMAIL: SECRETARYFPCATHENS@GMAIL.COM

Spotlight

OCTOBER 2025

Each month, FPC-Athens highlights a mission, ministry, or community outlet in our Communique newsletter.
Past and present editions can be found on our website at www.fpcathens.com

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE PROJECT

- 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.



Please, prayerfully consider volunteering this year. We would love for you to be included and to witness the many blessings that are received.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Terri Budow at 903-677-4018.

LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS & FPCA MINISTRIES

Join us in ministering not only to our own community, but to the world. The members of FPCA desire to carry out the mission of our LORD, Jesus Christ and to engage the members of our congregation in service to our community, so that they may grow in Christ. In addition to our volunteer work, we also provide financial support to the following ministries and missions.

For more information about the list below, visit our website or call the church office.



Local Mission Partners

- The Ark—Prepare meals for TVCC students.
- Athens Soup Kitchen
- Camp Gilmont
- CASA of Trinity Valley
- The Disciples Clinic
- Family Peace Project
- The Farm (Family Shelter)
- Fuel Fund via HC Help Center
- Henderson County Food Pantry
- Henderson County Young Life
- Labor of Love
- Lila Lane Outreach
- Love in Action (Monthly Meals-4th Friday)
- Meals on Wheels (North Texas)
- Presbyterian Children's Home & Services
- Rainbow Room
- Rebecca Project
- Skiin' with the Galilean Ministry

Other Opportunities within the Church

- Agape Quilt & Bedroll Ministry
- Chancel Choir
- Christmas Benevolence Program
- Hand Bell Choir
- Ladies Bible Study
- Men's Chorus "Men for Him"
- Monthly Family Night Supper
- Mother's Day Out
- PC USA Special Offerings
- Presbyterian Women's Fellowship
- Sally's Soup Ministry
- Vacation Bible School

Special Offering News: Peace and Global Witness



Special Offering Collection is scheduled for **World Communion Sunday, October 5th.**

The offering focuses on peace & reconciliation. 25% stays with our congregation.

It will be decided at the next CC/Missions Meeting how it will be distributed.

Thank you!



**HENDERSON COUNTY
HOMELESS MINISTRY**

October's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 22nd to the main church kitchen. The meal will be served on the 24th.

A Sign-Up Genius will be sent out the 2nd week of the month.

If you would like to be added to our distribution list, contact the church office.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...



Pet food and adult bladder protection is always needed at the Food Pantry.

Items can be dropped off at
715 E. Corsicana St. Athens, Texas 75751



AGAPE Quilts:

If you have or know someone who might have heavier types of fabric & material to donate (quilts, bedspreads, blankets, & fleece throws), please contact the church office.

SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

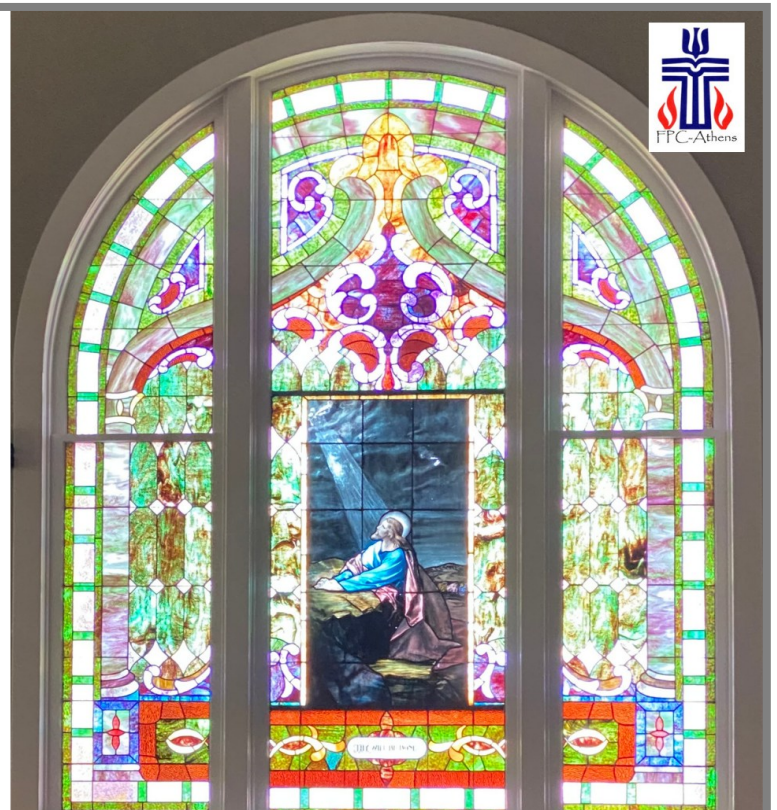
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

10:00AM: COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00AM: A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

12:00PM-2:00PM: THE ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD AN "ACTIVE SHOOTER SEMINAR" IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. WE ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND!

First Presbyterian Church-Athens
405 E. Corsicana Street, Athens, TX 75751
903-675-3530
www.fpcathens.com



**Note: The nursery will be open for all children during the seminar.
The video presentation may be too intense for them.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ATHENS

405 E. CORSICANA STREET ATHENS, TX 75751

903-675-3530 WWW.FPCATHENS.COM SECRETARYFPCATHENS@GMAIL.COM

Annual Churchwide Picnic

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, & fellowship!

Saturday, October 25th at 4:00p.m.
(on church grounds)

Main Entrée catered by
Smoky B Barbeque.

We invite the congregation to
bring a favorite side, appetizer,
or dessert to share.

Fun-Filled Games for the entire family.

All are welcome to attend - RSVP preferred!
Please call or email the Church Office by October 20th!





FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm Christian ED Cmte Mtg (FC) 6:00pm Sally's Soup Cmte Mtg (FHK)	2 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	3 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	4
5 17th Sunday after Pentecost & World Communion Sunday Color: Green Special Offering: Peace & Global Witness Ends. 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	6 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	7 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 4:30pm Worship Cmte Mtg 5:15pm CC/Missions/ Witness Cmte Mtg (FC) 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	8 6:15pm Session Mtg (FHC)	9 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	10 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	11
12 18th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	13 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 12:00pm Book Club (Joan King-CR)	14 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	15	16 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) 12:30pm HC Food Pantry Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (FH)	17 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	18 9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
19 19th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00am Lunch (FH) 12pm-2pm Active Shooter Seminar- Athens Police Dept. (FH) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	20 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	21 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	22 12:00pm Love In Action Meal Items due to kitchen next to the church office.	23 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) 12:00pm CASA Staff Mtg. (FH)	24 9:00am-3:00pm MDO  11:00am Meal served @ LIA Homeless Ministry	25 4:00pm Annual Church Picnic (on grounds) 
26 20th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	27 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	28 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	29	30 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	31 Halloween 7:00am-8:30am Young Life (FHK) 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	

PWF - Presbyterian Women Fellowship CFB - Cain Family Building FH - Fellowship Hall

FHC - Fellowship Hall Classroom FHK - Fellowship Hall Kitchen CB - Children's Building

YH - Youth House CR - Conference Room FC - Friendship Classroom UC - Upstairs Classroom



FPC-Athens Birthday Calendar

October

Happy
Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Penny Endsley Carol Morton
5	6 Melanie Endsley Susan Sparkman	7 Pam Douglas Stephen Grant Cindy Sanders	8 Daniel 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 William Elfarr	30 Will Davies	31 Brandon Smith	



FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

October

Happy
Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Tim & Beth VanOrden	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Eric & Kara Davis	21	22 Rick & Marsha Stroupe	23	24	25
26	27 Ed & Paige Gatlin	28	29	30	31	



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

SEND MAIL TO:
P.O. Box 927
Athens, TX 75751

OCTOBER 2025 COMMUNIQUE

We invite you & your family to join us for worship on Sunday mornings:

Contemporary Worship

8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School at 9:45am

Traditional Worship

11:00am in the Sanctuary

5th Sunday Worship

10:00am in the Sanctuary

Child Care: Children's Building
(For both services & Sunday School)

*Communion is served the
1st Sunday of each month.*

**(see inside this newsletter for
more information)**

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 Manager

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

Connect With Us

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First Presbyterian Church-Athens, TX

FOLLOW US ON *social media*

Find us on Facebook, YouTube, & Instagram.
Use your cell phone camera to scan the QR Codes.



FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.