



Member of PC-USA

The Communique: November 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: OCTOBER 2025
- ◇ SAVE THE DATE ACTIVITIES
- ◇ MINISTRY ACTIVITIES & NEEDS
- ◇ SPECIAL OFFERING: CHRISTMAS JOY
- ◇ SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE
- ◇ NOVEMBER 2025 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



Pastor's Ponderings:

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday marked by good food and family gatherings; it is a sacred invitation to reflect on God's abundant blessings in our lives. As a pastor, I often see how gratitude can transform hearts, homes, and communities. Thanksgiving reminds us to pause, look around, and recognize the grace that sustains us – not just in times of plenty, but also in seasons of challenge.

True thanksgiving goes beyond words – it is an act of worship. When we gather around the table, sharing stories and memories, we honor the Lord by acknowledging His provision. In prayer, we thank Him not only for material blessings but for love, forgiveness, and the hope found in Christ.

As we enter this season, let us remember that thankfulness is a daily practice, not just a yearly celebration. May we cultivate hearts that are quick to give thanks, hands ready to serve, and spirits open to God's leading. Whether surrounded by loved ones or spending Thanksgiving quietly, may each of us experience the deep peace and joy that comes from a grateful heart.

Blessings to you
and your family
this Thanksgiving.

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.

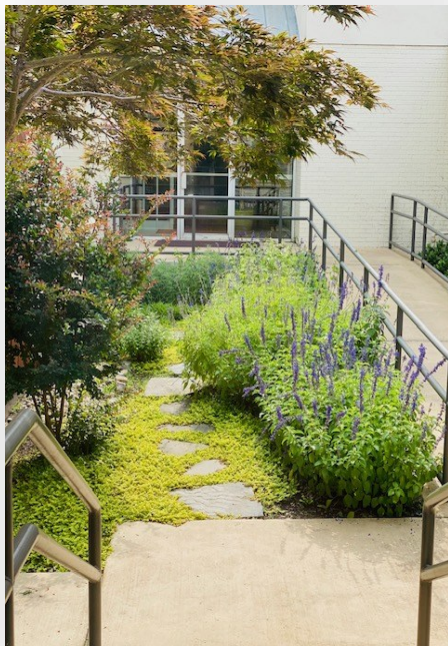
The principal benefit a Columbarium affords church members and their families is the opportunity to select their final resting place in the shadow of the church where their loved ones can visit and meditate at any time.

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,
Sue Murray, Sharron Clark,
Adron Neill, Melanie Endsley



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 Rey Hudson
(brother of Lee Hudson)

Family of Art Hall

Family of Eleanor Landrum
(Beth Youngblood's mother)



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

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)
Laura King (SIL of Lou Sutton)
Brenda (Johnson) Smith (friend of many)
Jill Shockley (former Office Manager at FPC Athens)

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

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.



.In Honor & In Memory of.

Poinsettias

Limited Amount = 20 plants

Size: 6" in Red.

Cost \$10.00 each.

Note: Please make checks out
to FPC Athens. Memo Line: Poinsettia

Deadline to Sign-Up: 12/14/2025

Call or visit the Church Office.

Thank you!



Spotlight

NOVEMBER 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.



We are seeking volunteers to shop with families that need help this Christmas. Sign-up sheets are located in the church office, Fellowship Hall, and posted on the Mission Bulletin Board.

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.

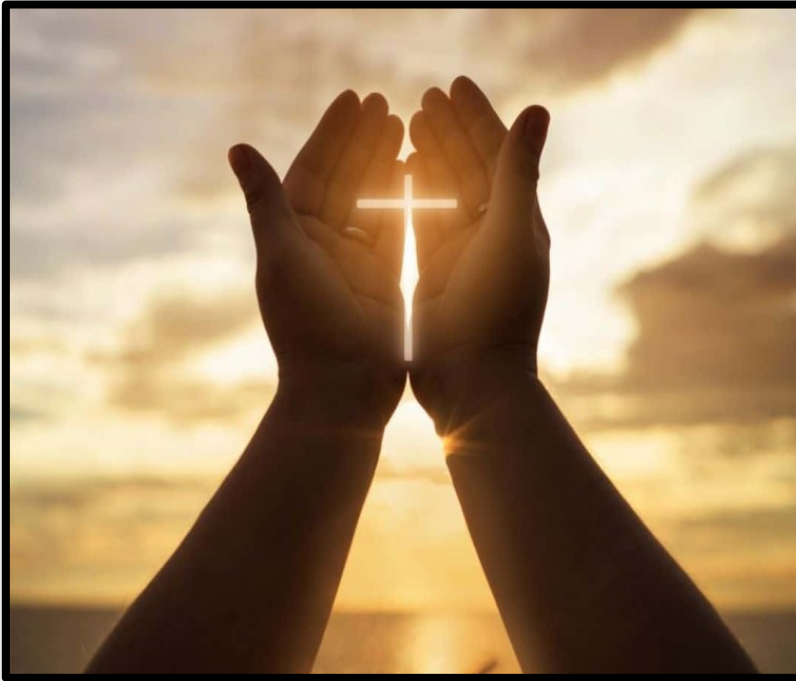
If you have questions or would like additional

information, please contact Terri Budow

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



**HENDERSON COUNTY
HOMELESS MINISTRY**

November's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 12th to the main church kitchen. The meal will be served on the 14th (due to Thanksgiving).

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.



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 Sharon Harding at 903-681-4649 or shar7@suddenlink.net.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH-ATHENS

405 E. CORSICANA STREET ATHENS, TX 75751
903-675-3530 WWW.FPCATHENS.COM SECRETARYFPCATHENS@GMAIL.COM

FPC-Athens
Presbyterian Women's Fellowship

Upcoming Meeting-Mark Your Calendar!

All ladies are welcome to join us!

A meeting is set for 10:30am in the Friendship Classroom on
Wednesday, November 5th.

We will be repairing the Crismon ornaments for the "Hanging of the Greens".
When done, we can consider having lunch together.
Place to be decided by the group.

If you have any questions, please contact Lou Sutton: 903-203-0729.



WISHING YOU A

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
NOVEMBER 27TH & 28TH.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ATHENS

405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751

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

8:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP



MDO NEWS

Mother's Day Out will have
SHARING BOXES located in the
Children's Building & Main Church
Building to collect canned food and
non-perishable items to be given to
our local Food Pantry.

**We will deliver the boxes on
Tuesday, December 16th.**

**Please contact Brenda Tarter if you
have any questions at 903-681-0769.**

**The holidays are
challenging when you're
grieving a loss.**

GriefShare

**Surviving
the Holidays**

provides encouragement, support, and valuable
tools to navigate the season.

Join us for this 2-hour seminar

Location

First Baptist Church Athens
105 S. Carroll
Fellowship Hall

Date & time

Saturday, November 8, 2025
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Brunch at 9:30

Contact info

Registration
griefshare.org/holidays
Questions? 903-675-5135

griefshare.org/holidays

PREPARE THE WAY

ISAIAH 40



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 21

**Additional information will be provided in
our church bulletins on Nov. 30 & Dec. 14.**

THE PERFECT GIFT.

Collection Date: December 21st

Special Offering News: Christmas Joy

OUR GIFTS AT WORK: SUPPORTING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

- \$1.1 million of gifts from the 2024 Offering are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 261 individual recipients, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- Housing supplements from the BOP helped more than 1,366 individual recipients remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- Emergency Assistance Grants from the BOP helped more than 199 individual recipients facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.



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.**



**Pet Food, Adult Bladder Protection and
Plastic Grocery Sacks are always
needed at the Food Pantry.**

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

Save The Date



Sunday, November 23, 2025

HANGING OF THE GREENS

**10AM COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE IN
THE SANCTUARY. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

**Immediately following service, join us as we decorate
the church for the Advent Season followed by a
Chili Lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12 noon.**

Everyone's Invited — No RSVP Needed!

***The main entrée will be provided but
we'd love your help with sides & desserts.***



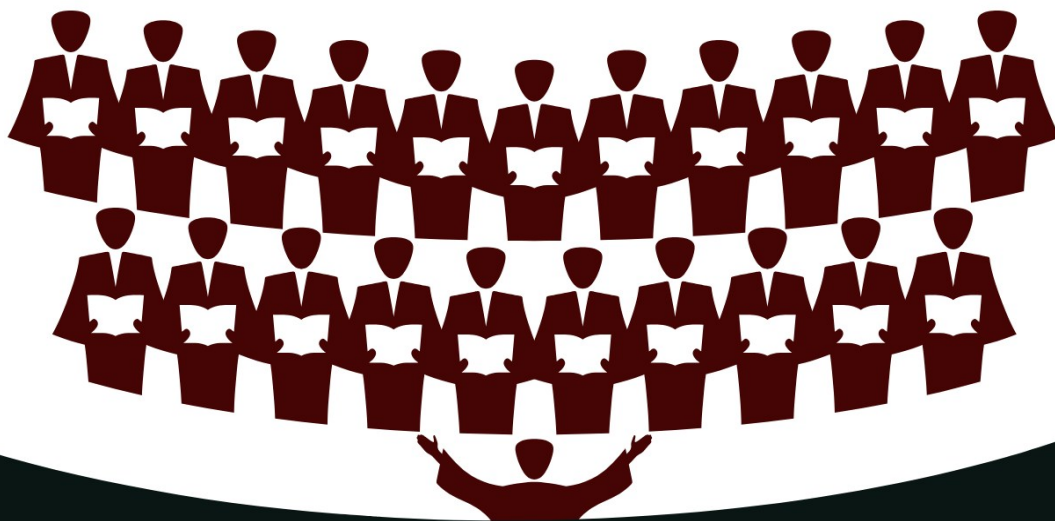
LESSONS & *Carols*

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

AT 6PM-FREE ADMISSION

LOCATED IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY



*Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with
beautiful music, timeless hymns, and community
togetherness as we welcome the birth of Christ.*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATHENS
405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751
903-675-3530**



FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends 21st Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints & Communion. Color: Green	3 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	4 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 4:30pm Worship Cmte Mng	5 10:30am Presbyterian Women Fellowship (FC) 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	6 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	7 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	8
8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir	8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir	9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	5:30pm Christian ED Cmte Mng (FC) 6:00pm Sally's Soup Cmte Mng (FHC)			
9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green	10 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 12:00pm Book Club (Joan King-CR)	11 Veterans Day 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	12 12:00pm LIA Meal Items DUE (MCK) 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH) 6:15pm Session Mng (FHC)	13 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	14 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 	15
8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir	8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir	9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO	
16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green	17 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	18 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	19 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	20 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	21 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	22
8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir	8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir	9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO	
23 Christ The King Sunday Color: White	24 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	25 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	26 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	27 --Church Office Closed--	28	29
10:00AM Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary) Immediately followed by decorating for the Advent season and the Christmas in the FH at 12 Noon. 						
30 1st Sunday of Advent Color: Purple	 Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services™ PCHS Christmas Baskets DUE to the church office on Sunday, November 30th.					
8:30AM Worship Service (FH) 9:45AM Sunday School (Sanctuary) 11:00AM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM Chancel Choir						

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 **MCK-Main Church Kitchen**



FPC-Athens Birthday Calendar

November

Happy Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Paul Hartman Kay Moore Mary Lynn Smith
9 Russ Richardson	10	11 Nancy Perryman	12 Kendra Gonzales Jeffrey Ward Olivia Whaley	13 Scott Heglund	14	15
16	17 Lance Finkhouser	18 Temple Hendrickson	19 Ken Lemmon Traci Veltm	20 Kay Solomon	21 Shirley Ward Shannon Wilcher	22
23/30 30th Dianne Nell	24	25	26	27	28	29



FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

November

Happy Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30 23 Dan & Kay Moore	24	25	26	27	28 John & Beth Miller	29



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

NOVEMBER 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

Office Phone: 903-675-3530
Website: www.fpcathens.com
Email: secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com

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.