



Member of PC-USA

The Communique: *August 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.

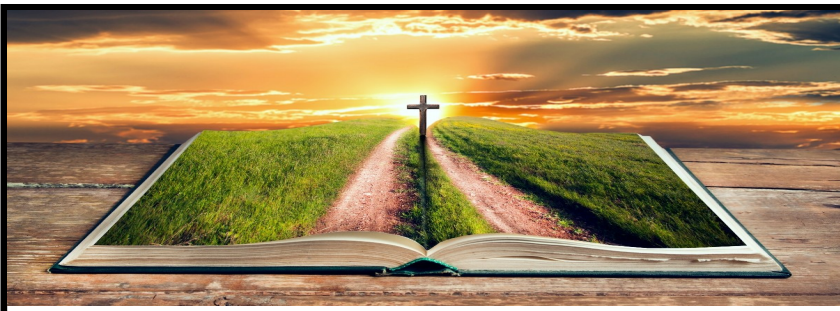
If you are interested in receiving a digital copy, please visit our "About" section of our website at www.fpcathens.com and select the heading "Communique Newsletter".

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
- ◇ MINISTRY ACTIVITIES
- ◇ SPECIAL OFFERING: P&GW
- ◇ 5TH SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP
- ◇ FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER-STD
- ◇ ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR AUGUST
- ◇ BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & RALLY DAY



Pastor's Ponderings:

The Summer is flying by and we're starting to see advertisements for school supplies and everything school related. People are beginning to look at Fall calendars and thinking how they can fit in all the activities a new school year brings. I know, it just seems like we closed the schoolhouse doors but, as they say, "time flies when you're having fun." You are having fun, aren't you?

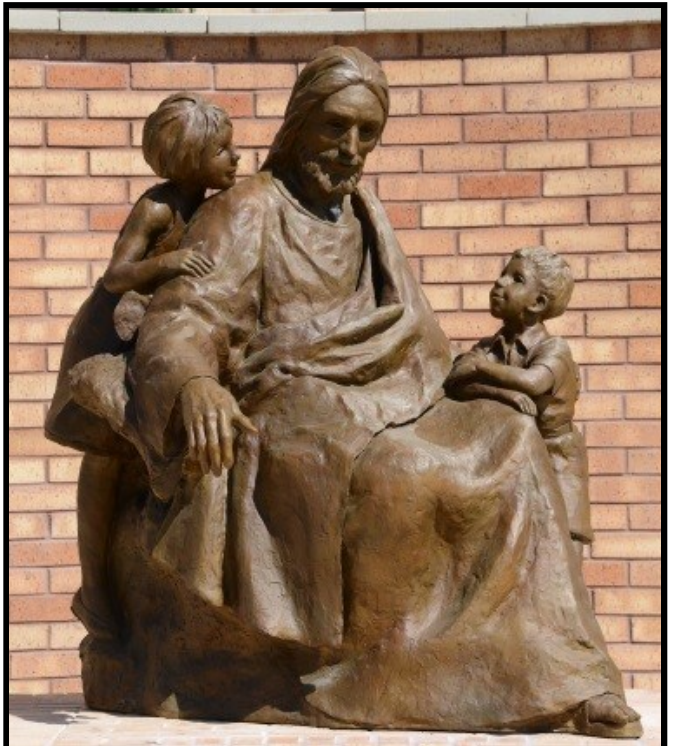
I, for one, am looking forward to beginning our Fall activities here at FPC. It's exciting to see all the smiling faces of family members who are returning from vacation rested and refreshed and ready to begin a new spiritual journey. I can't wait to see where God is going to lead us both through our Sunday School programs and our worship experiences. I have the feeling there are going to be many exciting opportunities for us to receive fresh insights and guidance as we journey through the pages of God's Word in the months ahead.

I know I've suggested this before but I would like to do so again. I would encourage you to bring your Bibles with you on Sunday so you can follow along. I know we have Bibles in the pews but it's a different experience when you can take notes in your personal Bible and then be able to review them later (which I encourage you to do). God's Word is so alive and meaningful that the more time you spend in it, the more powerful it becomes. It's my joy, as your pastor/teacher, to be able to guide you through and share with you the inspirational teachings contained in the pages of Scripture. So, prepare yourself for a wonderful experience in the months ahead.



For those who have been away, welcome home. Let's prepare to begin the next journey together.

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.

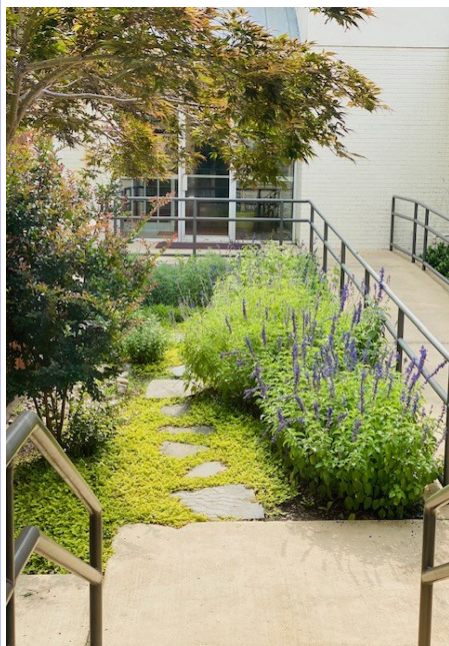
The principal benefit a Columbarium affords church members and their families is the opportunity to select their final resting place in the shadow of the church where their loved ones can visit and meditate at any time.

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.

SAVE THE DATE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH-ATHENS

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

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER



Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 @ 6PM (FH).
More information to come. Be sure to check your
email for an update.

DISCOVER HOPE, FAITH, & COMMUNITY.

JOIN US ON AUGUST 31ST:
5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

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

**LUNCH TO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW IN
THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!!!

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

PRAYER LIST



Congregation Members
Who Need Our Prayers

Burt Lively
Jan Capelle,
Earl & Judy Locke
John Kidwell
Sue Murray



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 Palmer
(brother of Dale Ward)



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)
Belynda Aaron (son's fiancé-Judy Willis)
Eugene Buford (family member of Morrison's &
Cole's, friend of many)
Mike Pulley (friend of many)
Kathy Moser, Carolyn Hood, Dylan Thoor
(friends of The Neill's)
Pam Tischler (friend of Kenn & Shirley Hornbeck)

David Murphy (friend of Bill & Janie Poncik)
Dustin DuBose (relative to Nikki DuBose)
Janice Russell (friend of The Grant's)
Cheryl Hartman (niece of Paul & Diana Hartman).
Randy Daniel (friend of many)
Virgil Feinsod (friend of many)
Owen, Annie, & baby Nora Marie Babcock
(friend of many)
Jackie Heine (friend of many)
Texas Hill Country Flood Victims &
Families of Camp Mystic Campers
Ralph Hallmark (friend of The Brack's)
Don Forester (friend of The Meredith's)

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 and 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

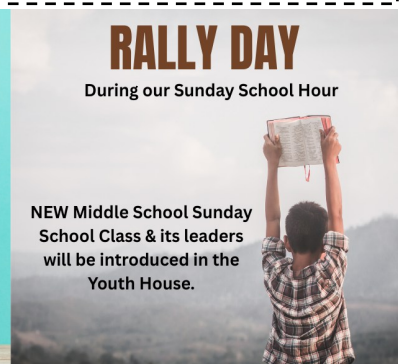
The nursery is open in the main church building.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 2025

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Located in the Children's Building for ages 3 and up and staffed with 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 9:30am.

Our Teachers:

Steve & Claire Grant

Angela St. Valentine & Alex Fernandez

Eric & Kara Davis

Pam Douglas & Tyler Hendrickson

Athens INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT		2025 - 2026 ATHENS ISD SCHOOL CALENDAR	
NO SCHOOL DAYS / OFFICES CLOSED			
July	1 2 3 4 5	July	1 2 3
4 Holiday	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
25-31 Staff Development	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
	27 28 29 30 31	25	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
August	1 2 3 4 5	February	1 2 3
1 Staff Development	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	S M T W T F S	4 5 6 7
4 First Day of School	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
September	1 2 3 4 5	22	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
1 Labor Day Holiday	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	March	1 2 3
5 Staff Development	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	S M T W T F S	4 5 6 7
	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
October	1 2 3 4 5	15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
2 End 1st Nine Weeks	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	22	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
6 Begin 2nd Nine Weeks	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	29	29 30 31
10 Staff Development	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	April	1 2 3
	27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S	4 5 6 7
November	1 2 3 4 5	5	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
1 Staff Development	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	12	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
24-28 Thanksgiving Holidays	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	19	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	26	26 27 28 29 30
December	1 2 3 4 5	May	1 2 3
18 End of 2nd Nine Weeks	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	S M T W T F S	4 5 6 7
19-31 Christmas Holidays	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
January	1 2 3 4 5	22	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
1-2 Holiday	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	29	29 30 31
5 Staff Development	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	June	1 2 3
6 Begin 3rd Nine Weekst	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	S M T W T F S	4 5 6
19 MLK Holiday	27 28 29 30 31	7	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
		14	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
February	1 2 3 4 5	21	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
6 Staff Development	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	28	28 29 30
	13 14 15 16 17 18 19		
March	1 2 3 4 5	Testing Days	Begin 9 Weeks
6 Staff Development	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	*NO SCHOOL*	End 9 Weeks
12 End of 3rd Nine Weeks	13 14 15 16 17 18 19		
16-20 Spring Break	20 21 22 23 24 25 26		
23 Begin 4th Nine Weeks	27 28 29 30 31		
April	1 2 3 4 5		
10 Staff Development	6 7 8 9 10 11 12		
	13 14 15 16 17 18 19		
May	1 2 3 4 5		
25 Memorial Day Holiday	6 7 8 9 10 11 12		
28 End of 4th Nine Weeks	13 14 15 16 17 18 19		
29 Work Day / Graduation	20 21 22 23 24 25 26		
	27 28 29 30 31		
Staff Development / Work Days			
Holidays			
* Calendar Subject to Change *	Board Approved 2/24/2025		

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

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: Conference Room in the Main Building. **Time:** 9:45am Sunday morning.

Friendship Class

The **Friendship Class** is currently discussing the book "The Great Disappearance: 31 Ways to be Rapture Ready" by Dr. David Jeremiah. 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 donnafostermeredith@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,

"Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why" by Adam Hamilton.

Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith.

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

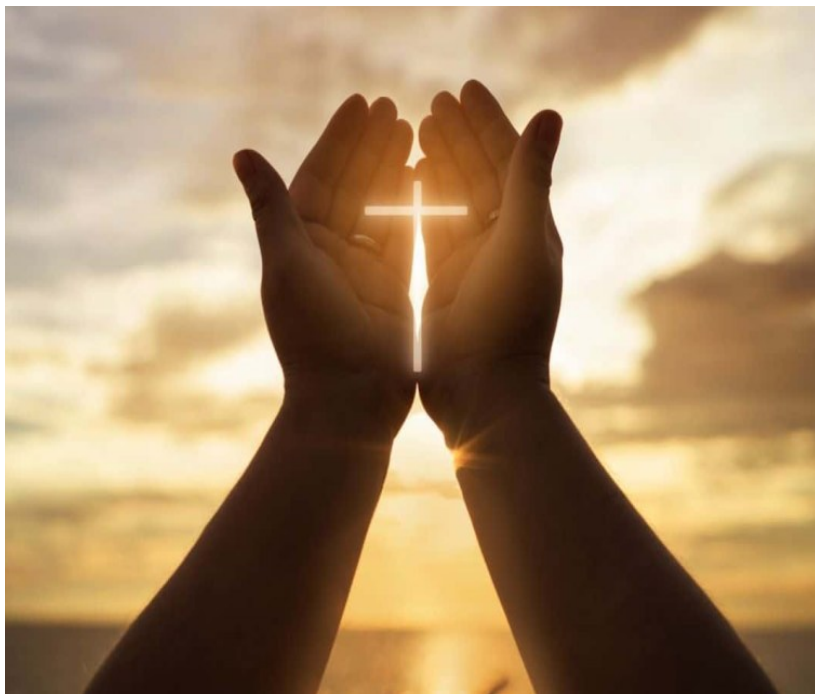
Seekers Contact Person: Steve Grant

Location/Time: 9:45am in the Main Church Building, Upstairs east side. **Time:** 9:45am Sunday morning.

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



Resources will be available in the following bulletins: Sunday, September 14th and 28th. Special Offering Collection scheduled for World Communion Sunday, October 5th. Offerings may be placed in the envelopes provided and given to Marshall in the church office. Thank you in advance!

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

Contact Us Today

Mondays 5:30-7:30 p.m.
August 4 - October 13, 2025
Athens First Methodist
(225 Lovers Lane)
Register at griefshare.org



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

PCHAS Back to School Supply Donation Collection

Thank you to all who contributed to the PCHAS BTS Supply Collection in July.

We are deeply honored that we were chosen to participate along with many other church partners.

This mass collection of supplies will benefit children attending Pre-K thru 12th grade along with 4 college students.

A little bit goes a long way and we hope we have brought joy and smiles to the children in need.

GriefShare will meet in the Athens First Methodist Church Activities Building in Room A2.

Contact Judy Hawn, at 903-681-1565 or call the Methodist Church Office at 903-675-5161. Register at griefshare.org



August's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 20th to the main church kitchen.
The meal will be served on the 22nd.

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, kindly contact the church office.



Thursday Morning
Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study
Thursday Mornings at 9:30AM

**We are currently on
Summer Break!**



**Stay tuned for our next
meeting date.**

**Have Questions? Call or email
Kim Scott at kscott7938@aol.com**



FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	2
3 8th Sunday after Pentecost & Communion Sunday Color: Green Blessing of Back to School Backpacks & Rally Day 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	4 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) Ministry on break 	5 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 5:15pm CC/Missions/Witness Cmte Mtg. (FC) 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	6 5:30pm Christian ED Cmte. Mtg. (FC)	7 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) On Summer Break	8 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	9
10 9th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	11 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) Ministry on break 12:00pm Book Club (Joan King-CR)	12 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	13 6:15pm Session Mtg. (FHC)	14 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) On Summer Break	15 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	16 9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
17 10th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	18 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) Ministry on break	19 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	20 12:00pm Love In Action Meal Items due to main church kitchen by office. 6:00pm FNS (FH)	21 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) On Summer Break	22 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 11:00am Meal served @ LIA Homeless Ministry 	23
24 11th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	25 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) Ministry on break	26 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	27	28 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) On Summer Break 12:00pm CASA Staff Mtg. (FH)	29 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	30
31 12th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 10:00am 5th Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00am Lunch in the FH 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



FPC-Athens Birthday Calendar

August

Happy
Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Mark Scotchmer
3 Claudia Foster	4 Christine Hudson	5 Brian Jones	6	7 Kathryn Hendrickson	8 Blake Bumbard	9 Mollie Davies
10 Scott Cruce	11	12	13	14	15	16 Lee Hudson Phillip Lively
17	18	19	20	21 Steve Grant	22 Grace Dollgener	23
24/31	25 Owen Babcock	26	27	28 Art Hall Phyllis Kidwell Steve Yarbrough	29 William Velvin	30 Mike Babler



FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

August

Happy
Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Carl & Erin Harrison	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Willy & Sheri Robson	15	16 Brian & Leslie Jones John & Christy Purser
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 Paul & Rev. Diana Hartman	25	26	27	28	29	30



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

AUGUST 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
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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.