



Member of PC-USA

# *The Communique: September 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.

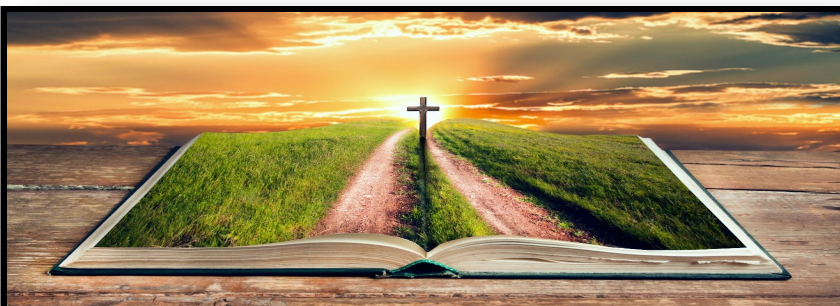
If you are interested in receiving a digital copy, please visit our "About" section of our website at [www.fpcathens.com](http://www.fpcathens.com) and select the heading "Communique Newsletter".

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](mailto:secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com)**

### COMMUNIQUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◇ SEPTEMBER PASTOR'S PONDERINGS
- ◇ CHURCH REPORTS: AUGUST 2025
  - ◇ MINISTRY ACTIVITIES
- ◇ SPECIAL OFFERING DETAILS: P&GW
  - ◇ SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT
  - ◇ ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



### Pastor's Ponderings:

My "Ponderings" this month will be brief. It's not because I don't have topics I would like to discuss or activities I would like to highlight. This month I find myself with more questions and answers.

It seems like everywhere I go people are making statements like: "I don't remember things being this confusing when I was growing up." Or "Why does everything seem to not make any sense?" It's as if more people are walking around dazed and confused about the world around them. I will admit, I find myself in prayer these days trying to get answers to what seem to be unanswerable questions. It's frustrating.

As we welcome the month of September with all the activities that a new school year and church year brings, it's very easy for us to get caught up in the business of living while not enjoying life. We find ourselves relying on our strength and always falling short.

Well, the other day I remembered a passage from Luke 12: 32 says; ***"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*** In this passage Jesus assured His disciples they would overcome, not by drawing on their limited resources or by force, but by relying on the Father.



Occasionally, I need to be reminded who really is in control. How about you?

*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,  
Earl & Judy Locke  
Sue Murray, Willie 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 Linda Horton  
Family of Willetta Jones



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, Carolyn Hood, 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 (niece of Paul & Diana Hartman).  
Randy Daniel (friend of many)  
Jackie Heine (friend of many)  
Ralph Hallmark (friend of The Brack's)  
Phyllis Lassiter (sister-in-law of Eddie Lassiter)

## 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](mailto: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.

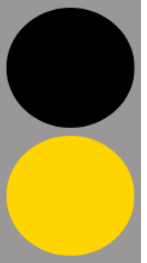
We would like to invite you to join us during our time of study and fellowship.

**Seekers Contact Person:** Steve Grant.

**Location:** Main Church Building-Upstairs East Side.

# Spotlight

SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.fpcathens.com)

## LOVE IN ACTION WEEKEND BAG DONATIONS

If you feel called to lend a hand, Love In Action is seeking donations to fill "Weekend Bags" for their clients. Items should be unopened, unused and in good condition.

**Donation Drop-Off:** Visit the church office to deposit your items in the donation box provided, visit LIA per the address below, or purchase online through their Amazon Registry.

There are so many ways to help... A little bit goes a long way!



501 N. Maple Street, Athens, TX 75751

**Deliveries accepted:**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

And

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Claire Grant at [clairewgrant@aol.com](mailto:clairewgrant@aol.com).

Sincerely,  
The CC/Missions Committee.

FOOD ITEMS FOR FOOD BAGS	HYGIENE ITEMS FOR TOILETRY BAGS	SHOWER AND LAUNDRY NEEDS
Applesauce Cups	Adult Pull-ups (not diapers)	<b>LARGE BOTTLES, please</b>
Beanee Weenee's (pop-top)	Body Lotion (travel size)	Body Lotion
Cereal -- large bags	Chapstick/Lip Balm	Body Wash
Chef Boyardee (pop-top)	Conditioner (travel size)	Deodorant Spray (men & women)
Chicken Noodle Soup (pop-top)	Deodorant (travel size)	Shampoo and Conditioner
Chicken Salad Pouch	Disposable Razors	
Chips	Hand Sanitizer (travel size)	"HE" Laundry Detergent
Cookies -- large packages	Mens and Womens Underwear (no XL)	
Fruit Cups	Mosquito Spray or Wipes	
Fruit Gummies	Personal Wipes (travel size)	
Graham Crackers	Shampoo (travel size)	
Nutrigrain Bars	Tampons (super and regular)	
Peanut Butter (individual cups)	Toothpaste (travel size)	
Poptarts		
Potted Meat		
Pudding Cups	<b>SUMMER ITEMS:</b>	
Ramen Noodles	No-show or ankle socks	
Ritz Crackers	Gatorade packets	
Saltine Crackers		
Spam	<b>WINTER ITEMS:</b>	
Tuna Pouches	Coats and Hoodies	
Vienna Sausage	Gloves and Scarfs	
	Hot Hands hand warmers	

If you need to deliver items other than the times listed above, please call to make arrangements. 903-904-5131.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT CLOTHING OTHER THAN WHAT IS LISTED ABOVE.

[www.loveinactionhmc.com](http://www.loveinactionhmc.com)

903-904-5131

903-904-9595

We have a shopping list on Amazon. You can order from there and have it delivered to us. You can donate items from your recliner!

### OUR AMAZON REGISTRY

<https://a.co/fJuAZ2F>

Have items shipped to us at:  
501 N. Maple Street  
Athens, TX 75751

To donate financially, you can use any of these apps:



PAYPAL



CASH APP



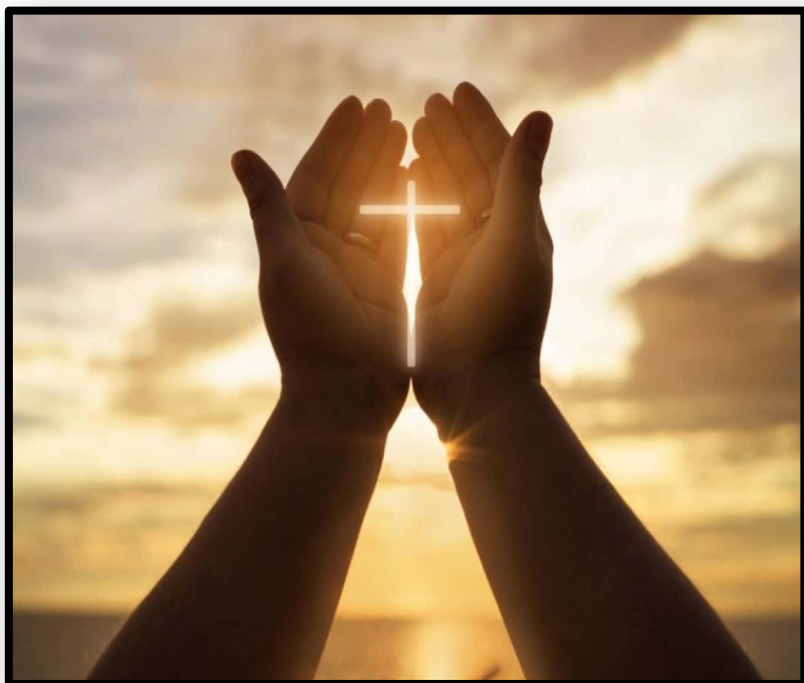
VENMO

1 John 3:18: "Dear Children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." NLT

# 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



### **We are the Peacemakers**

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

**25%**

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

**25%**

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

**50%**

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

*Thank you!*

Resources will be available in the following bulletins:  
**Sunday, September 14th & 28th.**

The **Special Offering Collection** is 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



HENDERSON COUNTY  
HOMELESS MINISTRY

**NOTE:** We are currently seeking a 4th quarter meal team to lead the months of October, November, & December. See Claire Grant for additional information.

September's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 24th to the main church kitchen. The meal will be served on the 26th.

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.



## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

**New Study & Discussion Begins:  
September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**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



**AGAPE Quilts:  
Regrouping Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
@ 9am in the CFB.**

If you have or know someone who might have heavier types of fabric & material to donate (quilts, bedspreads, blankets, & fleece throws), please contact Sofia Yarbrough at 720-936-5225.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH-ATHENS

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

## FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER



Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6PM (FH).  
More information to come. Be sure to check your email for an update.



PMF - 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 Anniversary Calendar

# September

Happy Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Ken & Kim Scott	4	5	6 Bob & Carol Morton Steve & Claire Grant
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Blake & Debbie Burnhard	23	24	25 Calvin & Shannon Wilcher	26	27
28	29	30				



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

# SEPTEMBER 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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Website: [www.fpcathens.com](http://www.fpcathens.com)  
Email: [secretaryfpcathens@gmail.com](mailto: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.