



The Communique: *May 2026*

Member of PC-USA

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"

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**

Monthly Highlights

- PASTOR'S PONDERINGS
- CHURCH REPORTS: APRIL 2026
- MINISTRY ACTIVITIES & NEEDS
- MAY 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR
- COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND
- BEAT THE HEAT BOX FAN COLLECTION
- FNS-FISH FRY: AT TIDMORE'S LAKE HOUSE
- 5TH SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE: MAY 31ST



Pastor's Ponderings:

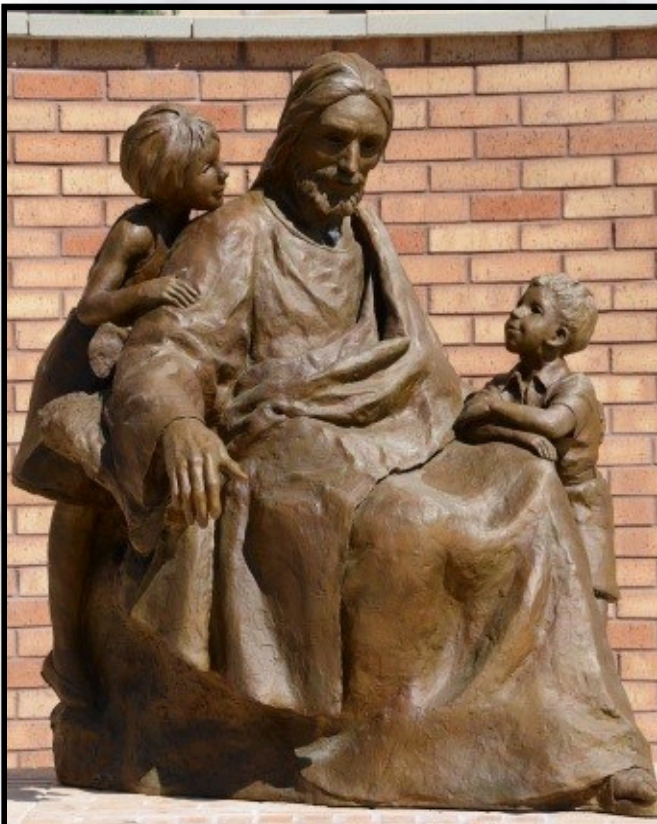
I find it both interesting and amusing when people ask me about my daily schedule. When I tell them I get to the office around 7:00 AM every morning, there is a look of shock and disbelief. Then comes the question; "Why do you get there so early?" It's my quiet time before the phones ring, and the emails start piling up, and Zoom meetings are scheduled, and people start arriving at the office. It's my time to read and listen to that still small voice that guides me every day.

Many of us have discovered that a little quiet time isn't so bad. I never realized just how much pressure I deal with daily as I not only prepare sermons every week but also must prepare for committee meetings both at church and at the Presbytery level as well as preparing for the meetings of the Boards I serve on in the community. So, this "quiet time" is a blessing and has inspired me to make some changes over the years. I would like to make some suggestions for your benefit as well.

Every day, find ten minutes when you can sit quietly, read a passage of Scripture, and reflect on what God shares with you in the passage. Make sure you've closed your laptop and silenced your phone. Think about the verses you've read. Imagine God audibly speaking to you. Meditate on His Word. Then, end your quiet time with a simple prayer. And when you leave your quiet place, you'll be amazed at how much better you handle your day. It's the holy hush that lets us hear the still, small voice of God.



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 church yards, allowing churches to minister to the spiritual needs of the 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.

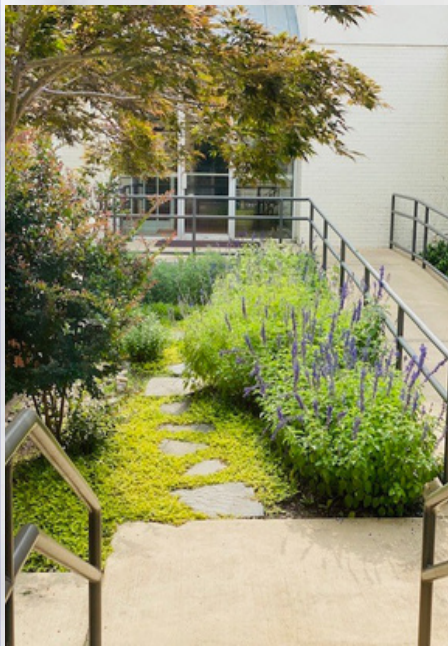
The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

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 for May 2026

Those In Our Church Family

Burt Lively, Jan Capelle, Sue Murray, Sharron Clark, Elliott Boyles, Judy Locke

Those Who Are in Need of Our Visits & Prayers

Oak Wood Place Assisted Living: Susan Underkofler, Mark Carlson

Arabella of Athens: Mary Lynn Smith

Those Who Are Grieving

The Wheatcraft Family

Prayers For Those Serving In The Mission Field

Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee – Missionaries in Korea

Karen & Mark Dawson (Clara, Madeline, & Calvin) - D.R. Congo.

Laura & Jacob Roebuck (Penelope, Maverick, Louis) – On board the Merci Ship.

Prayers For Church & the World

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

Those We Love Needing Prayer

DeeDee Manton (friend of Sandy Perkins), Jennifer McSweeney (niece of Sandy Perkins)

Paige Reeves (friend of many)

Grady Chancellor (friend of many)

Mike Pulley (friend of many)

Pam Tischler (friend of Kenn and Shirley Hornbeck)

Nancy Kissinger (mother of Nikki DuBose)

Greg & Janice Russell (friends of The Grant's)

Rob & Shereaia Fulton (friends of The Meredith's), Bill Johnson (friend of The Meredith's)

Lisa Gordon (cousin of Donna Meredith)

Bobby Hendley (friend of many)

Adalee Grey

George Rawles (friend of many)

Virgil Feinsod (friend of many)

Devon Weatherford (friend of The Neill's)

Matthew Geddie (brother of Angela St. Valentine)

Larry Babb (friend of many)

Kathy Middleton (friend of many)

Randy Ball (friend of many)

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

Those Away at School

Madison Rhodes, Heidi Davis, Tate Elfarr, Sophie Wright

Session Members and Where They Serve

Building and Grounds: Charlie Tidmore, Paul Hartman

Christian Education: Angela St. Valentine, Mike Babler

Community Concerns/Missions/Witness:

Kara Davis, Steve Grant, Nancy Perryman

Congregational Life: Melanie Whatley, Marcy Warren

Personnel: John Youngblood

Budget & Finance: 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

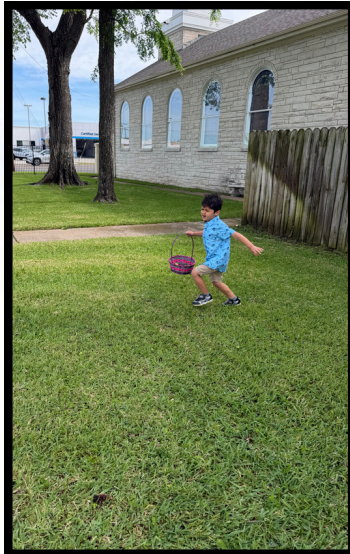
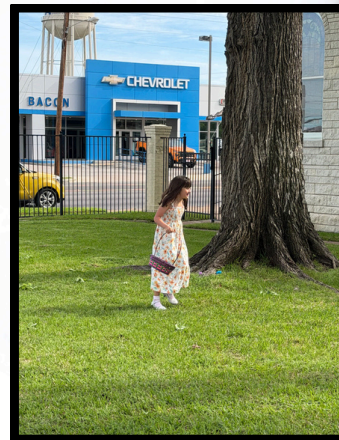
We meet in the Youth House located in the main church parking lot at 9:45am.

Our Teachers (Rotating Schedule):

Steve & Claire Grant
Angela St. Valentine & Alex Fernandez
Eric & Kara Davis
Pam Douglas & Tyler Hendrickson

Children's Sunday School Fun

April 5th, 2026: Easter Sunday-Easter Egg Hunt.



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 *What Was I Thinking?: Things I've Learned Since I Knew It All*. By Rev. Steve Brown.

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.

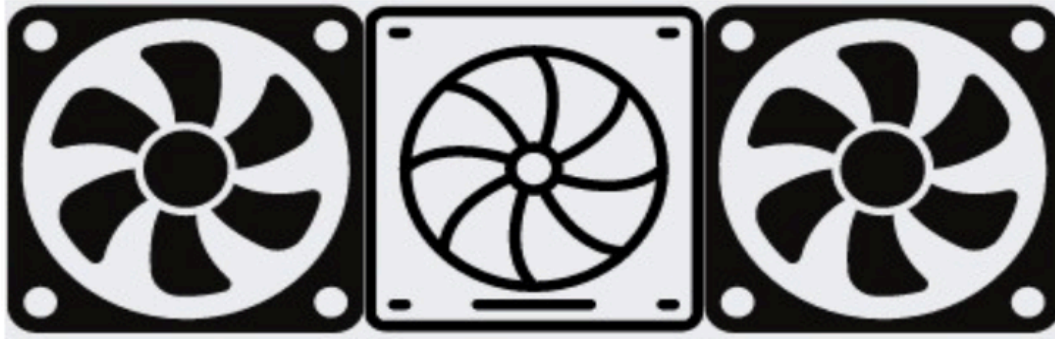
Spotlight

MAY 2026



Each month, FPC-Athens highlights a mission, ministry, or community outlet in our Communique newsletter.

Pastandpresenteditions can be found on our website at www.fpcathens.com



Our May 2026 Communique Spotlight features... **Beat The Heat!**

This coming Summer (2026) will be our fifth community collection for box fans.

With the help of FPC-Athens congregation, folks that that may be without adequate cooling options caused by extreme heat will have some relief and be able to “beat” the heat. In 2025, Terry Mayhall, our Soup Kitchen contact, gladly received the fans and distributed them, one by one.

Our Missions & Community Concerns Committee is now accepting box fan donations in the office.

Fans can be found now at Dollar Stores, Walmart, and most pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS, but they tend to disappear quickly and are often not reordered. The cost per fan is usually around \$20.00.

Last year, **40 fans** were distributed.

Our goal to beat last year's total is to collect 50 fans.

If you do not want to go it alone, get a friend-group to go in with you on the purchase of one or more fans.

Please deliver all fan donations to the church office by Sunday, May 31st
so they can be given before the hottest times arrive and as always,
your help is most appreciated.

And oh, by the way, thank you in advance!

Our members are widely known for our generosity and when a “call is issued,” we step up! We really, really do!

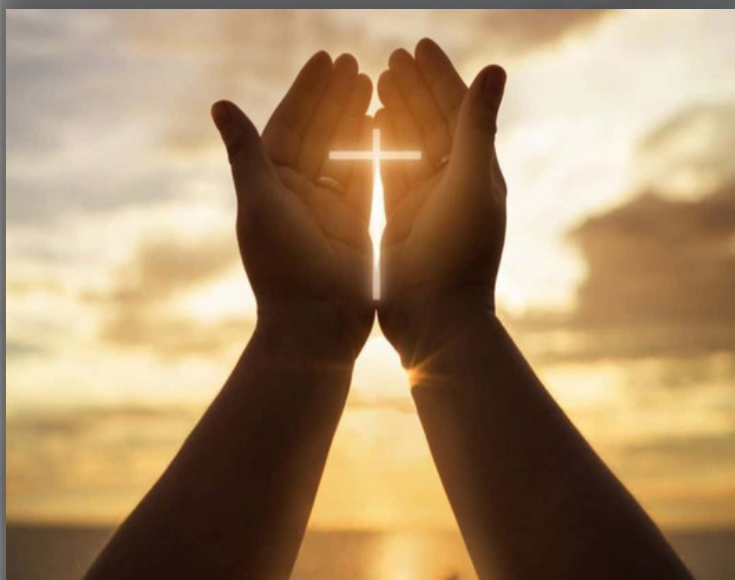
Local Mission Partners & FPCA Ministries

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
- Henderson County Help Center
- Athens Food Pantry
- Henderson County Young Life
- Labor of Love
- Lila Lane Outreach
- Love in Action
(Monthly Meals-4th Friday)
- Matthew 25:35
- Meals on Wheels (North Texas)
- Mo-Ranch
- Padres Place
- Rainbow Room
- Skiin' with the Galilean Ministry

Mission work outside the local community

- Support foreign missionaries.
- Presbyterian Children's Home & Services

Other Opportunities within the Church

- Agape Quilts & 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

Ministry Activities & Needs



Please contact the church office if you would like to be included in the Homebound Communion list as a recipient or would be interested in volunteering to serve those that may not be able to attend church on Communion Sunday.

Note: Communion is administered by two people; one of which must be an ordained Elder.

Those requesting to receive homebound communion do not have to be a congregation member of FPC Athens.



HENDERSON COUNTY
HOMELESS MINISTRY

May'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.



FPC-Athens

405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751

903-675-3530
WWW.FPCATHENS.COM
SECRETARY@FPCATHENS.COM



-STITCHING STORIES TOGETHER- FPC ATHENS AGAPE QUILTS MINISTRY

When you walk into the Cain Family Building on Monday mornings, you are greeted by the hum of sewing machines and the laughter of the wonderful volunteers of this ministry. Quilts are flying off of the tables and getting ready to be delivered to those who need them most.

However, to continue the work we do, we are asking for your help as we are in great need of fabric donations such as heavier quilts, bedspreads, blankets, and fleece throws. All donations should all be washed and in good condition to piece together for sleeping bags.

Items can be dropped off at the Cain Family Building on Mondays 9am-1pm or pick-up can be arranged. Volunteers are welcome.

Contact Ken Lemmon (903) 681-3772 or Christy Purser (469) 261-0830



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	2
3 5th Sunday of Easter & Communion Color: White & Gold 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	4 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 5:15pm CC/Missions/ Witness Cmte Mtg (FC)	5 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	6 3:00pm-4:00pm Music Reading Class (FH-Beth VanOrden) 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH) 5:30pm Christian ED Cmte Mtg (FC) 6:00pm Sally's Soup Committee Mtg. (FHK)	7 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	8 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	9
10 6th Sunday of Easter Color: White & Gold Mother's Day 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	11 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 12:00pm Book Club Joan King-Conf. Rm)	12 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	13 3:00pm-4:00pm Music Reading Class (FH-Beth VanOrden) 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH) 6:15pm Session Mtg (FHC)	14 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	15 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	16 9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
17 7th Sunday of Easter Color: White & Gold 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	18 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) MDO Pre-K Graduation Set Up (FH)	19 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)  12 Noon MDO Pre-K Graduation & Lunch (FH)	20 12:00pm LIA Meal Items DUE (MCK) 3:00pm-4:00pm Music Reading Class (FH-Beth VanOrden) 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)  Family Night Supper Fish Fry ~Arrive by 5:30pm~ ~Eat at 6:00pm~ At Charlie & Zan's Lake House	21 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	22 9:00am-3:00pm MDO  11:00am Meal served @ LIA Homeless Ministry	23
24 Day of Pentecost Color: Red 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	25  Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	27 3:00pm-4:00pm Music Reading Class (FH-Beth VanOrden) 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	28 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) 12:00pm CASA Staff Meeting	29 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	30 2:00pm Hanes Wedding (Sanctuary) 
31 Trinity Sunday 5th Sunday Combined Service Color: White 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00am Lunch to follow (FH) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	 "Beat The Heat" Box Fan Collection Deadline to Church Office: May 31st.					

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

Family Night + Supper
FISH FRY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

ARRIVE BY 5:30PM

FOOD SERVED AT 6:00PM

CARPOOLING ENCOURAGED!

Bring your favorite dessert.

No R.S.V.P. needed.

Enjoy fellowship, fun, & good food.

We look forward to seeing you!

HOST: CHARLIE & ZAN TIDMORE
LOCATED AT THEIR LAKE HOUSE

6098 EAST CIRCLE
ATHENS, TX 75751

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
WITH QUESTIONS AT (903) 675-3530.





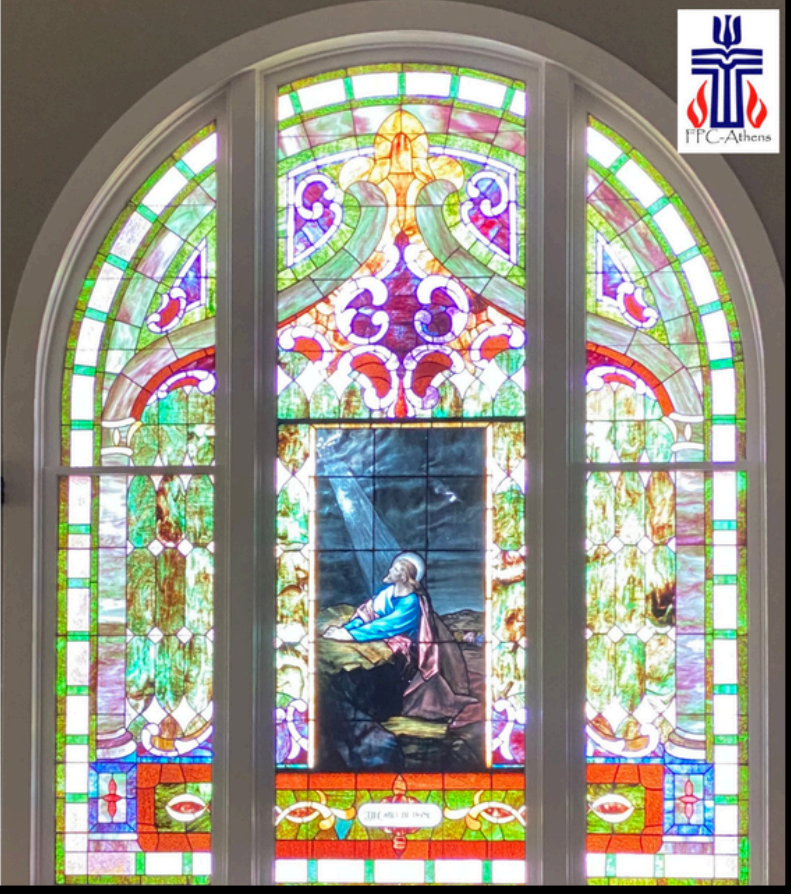
DISCOVER HOPE, FAITH, & COMMUNITY.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MAY 31ST:
10:00AM COMBINED SERVICE.
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

A POTLUCK LUNCH WILL
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL.

**MAIN ENTRÉE: FRIED CHICKEN.
SIDES, SALADS, & DESSERTS NEEDED.**

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH - ATHENS

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

5th Sunday Potluck



**Main Entrée:
Fried Chicken**

No need to RSVP ...
Enjoy fellowship, fun,
and good food!

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR 10AM WORSHIP
ON MAY 31ST IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE POTLUCK DISH, SALAD, AND/OR DESSERT.
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



FPCA NEWEST MEMBERS



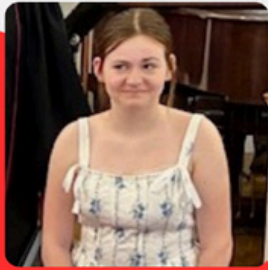
Nacho Solis



Matthew Warren



Michael Warren



Harper Endsley

Welcome



FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

May

Happy Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Marshall & Penny Endsley
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Howard & Sharon Clark
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31 31st Tyler & Kathryn Hendrickson	25	26	27 Kern & Shirley Hornbeck	28	29	30



FPC-Athens Birthday Calendar

May

Happy Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Dale Ward	4 Rebecca McCarry	5	6	7 Janie Ponick Willy Robson	8	9 Don Foster
10 Eddie Lassiter	11 Diana Baker	12	13	14	15 Cindy Lalcock Sherry Baldwin	16
17	18 Kelly Spenstbery (FPCA Office Manager)	19 Jennie Ann Peterson	20 Emily Heglund	21	22	23
24/31 24th Sara Smith	25 Sharon Clark Savannah Joblin Tim Van Orden	26	27 Karrina Johnson	28	29	30



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

May 2026 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 followed by lunch in the FH.

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

Mamie Downing

Handbell Choir Leader

Beth VanOrden

8:30am Music Leader

Kara Davis

Treasurer

Steven Smith

Office Manager

Kelly Sasenbery

(Facebook/Messenger/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster)

Connect With Us

Office Phone: 903-675-3530
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Email: secretary@fpcathens.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.