



Member of PC-USA

A publication of First Presbyterian Church-Athens, TX

The Communique: *August 2026*



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.

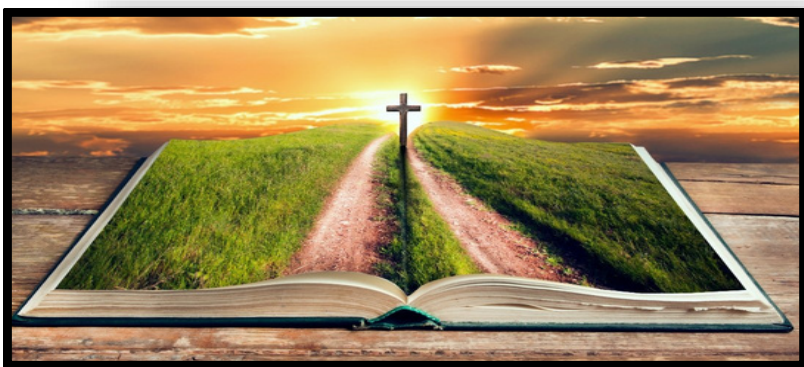
If you are interested in receiving a digital copy, please visit our "About" section of our website at www.fpcathens.com and select the heading "Communique Newsletter".

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: July 2026
- MINISTRY NOTES & DONATIONS NEEDED
- MISSIONARIES
- AUGUST 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR
- SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: June-August
- FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER: AUGUST 19TH
- IMPORTANT AUGUST 5TH SUNDAY UPDATE



Pastor's Ponderings:

The summer is flying by, and we find ourselves turning our attention to the Fall activities at FPC. Yes, I know, it's still blistering hot, and none of us are looking forward to the next electric bills, but what a welcome break to start putting ourselves in the Fall frame of mind. Cooler temperatures, our church family members returning from their Summer activities and sensing the excitement of new and renewed opportunities for service to Almighty God.

I have always enjoyed this time of year because so many people, returning from their vacations, have experienced new and different ways of service as they worshipped with fellow Christians in different parts of the country. For me, it's always interesting and creatively stimulating when people share their experiences with the possibility of putting some of them into practice here in Athens.

So, if you're reading this while still "on the road" I look forward to getting your reports and ideas. If you're at home, start getting excited about what the Fall holds for us as a church family. If you live on Lake Athens, I'll be right over! Hey, it's hot outside. Can you blame me?



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.

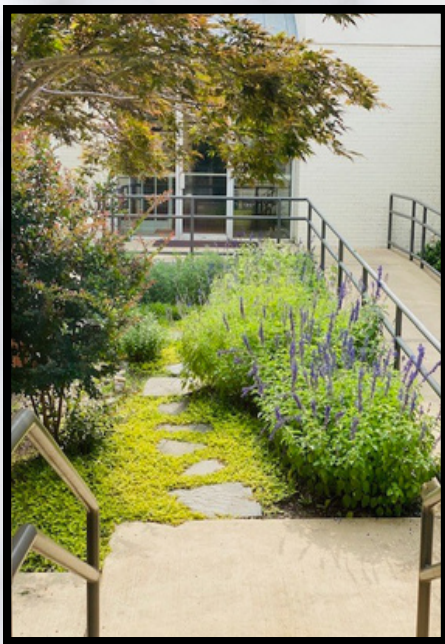
The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

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.

August Worship Information

Important Update for Sunday, August 30th.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH-ATHENS

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

SUMMER

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 7th
thu
August
30th

-NO 8:30 AM SERVICE

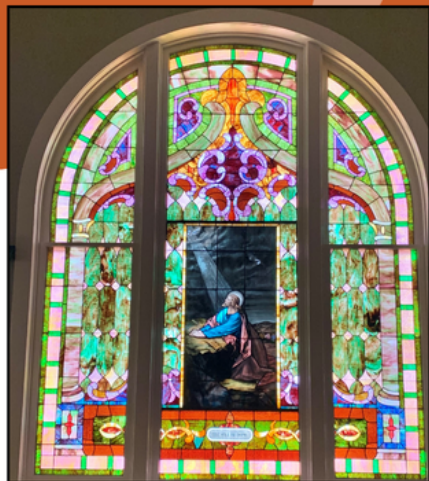
-SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15 AM-10:15 AM

-10:30 AM

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

NEW UPDATE-AUGUST 30TH:
• 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
• 10:30 AM WORSHIP &
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

-IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED
BY LUNCH IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL.



DISCOVER HOPE, FAITH, & COMMUNITY.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, AUG. 30TH:

- 9:15AM SUNDAY SCHOOL.
- 10:30AM COMBINED SERVICE.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW WORSHIP FOR
THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THE
SLATE OF ELDERS FOR THE
CLASS OF 2029.

- 11:30AM A POTLUCK LUNCH WILL
BE HELD 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



Prayer List for August 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

Family of DeeDee Manton (friend of Sandy Perkins)

Family of Bill Breedlove

Prayers For Those Serving In The Mission Field

Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee – Missionaries in Korea

Mark & Karen Dawson (Clara, Madeleine, & Calvin) – DR Congo.

Jacob & Laura Roebuck (Penelope, Maverick, Lewis) – On board the Mercy Ship.

Madison Rhodes - Missionary work/College ministry at University of Kentucky (2 years).

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

Joe McSweeney & Family (nephew of Sandy Perkins). Kalynne McSweeney (great niece of Sandy Perkins)

Barbara Landry (relative 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 & Shereia Fulton (friends 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)

Randy Ball (friend of many)

Matthew Geddie (brother of Angela St. Valentine)

Mrs. Amber (friend of Patrick Wauschek)

Bill Johnson (friend of many)

Rachel Stroupe (Rick & Marsha Stroupe)

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

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 the 10:30am worship service & 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 9:15am.

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: 9:15am

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 four 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: 9:15am

We are currently discussing the book- "The Holy Spirit You May Not Know". By David Jeremiah. 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: 9:15am

We are 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.

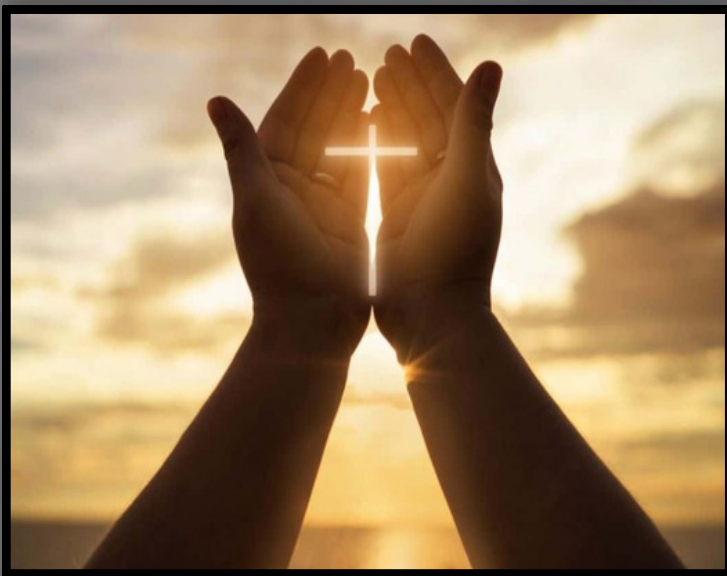
Local Mission Partners & FPCA Ministries

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 Notes



**HENDERSON COUNTY
HOMELESS MINISTRY**

August's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 26th to the main church kitchen. The meal will be served on the 28th.

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.



Thank you to all who contributed to the PCHAS BTS Backpack Collection. The collection will benefit children attending Pre-K thru 12th grade.

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



If you are able, the following items will be collected to assist various ministries & organizations within our community.

Athens Food Pantry:

Diapers for adults and children in all sizes.

Love in Action Homeless Ministry:

Plastic grocery sacks.

FPCA Agape Quilts:

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.

Donations can be dropped off at the church office. For questions, please reach out to Kara Davis at kcatugal16@gmail.com

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 PIZZA



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026
6:00PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

All are welcome... No need to RSVP.

A night to enjoy fellowship, fun, and good food!

We invite the congregation to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you!

FPCA Missionaries

Learn more about the following missionaries by visiting their websites. Please continue to lift them up in prayer as they continue to do the Lord's work.



Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee

Serving Christ together in South Korea

Kurt and Hyeyoung will mentor Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) who spend one year living and serving in Korea. Their goal is to help the YAVs have a clear sense of their call to promote social justice, reconciliation, and evangelism as people of faith. As they guide young adults to reflect on their experience, Kurt and Hyeyoung will seek to prepare them to return to the United States to lead the church in working for God's shalom throughout the global community. They will also work to enhance the fruitful relationship between the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Korean church communities. Kurt and Hyeyoung say their call to this work stems in part from their relationship with each other, which they believe reflects the value of working together across different cultures.

Personal Information

Birthdays

Kurt – March 31
Hyeyoung
September 7
Sahn – March 7

Anniversary

September 12

Accounts

E200496
D507560

"And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

Give: visit pcusa.org/give

For general information about Presbyterian World Mission,
Visit pcusa.org/worldmission

Learn more about supporting Presbyterian mission workers,
Call (800) 728-7228, ext. 5611.

Presbyterian World Mission, 100 Witherspoon, Louisville, KY 40202



Serving in
Bukavu, DR Congo
with LePhare church
(The Lighthouse)

www.ripeforharvest.org/mark-karen-dawson



PRAY
FOR THE
DAWSONS

Mark, Karen, Clara,
Madeleine, and Calvin
With Ripe for Harvest World Outreach

The Dawson Family

Mark, Karen, Clara,
Madeline, & Calvin

[www.ripeforharvest.org/
mark-karen-dawson](http://www.ripeforharvest.org/mark-karen-dawson)



Serving the Lord with Mercy Ships, as they
bring hope and healing to the forgotten poor



Sailing 2026-2028 aboard Global Mercy

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
- Micah 6:8

Follow us at RoebuckReport.com

The Roebuck Family

Jacob, Laura, Penelope,
Maverick, & Lewis

www.RoebuckReport.com



FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

August 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Summer Worship Schedule

No 8:30am service
9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10th Sunday after Pentecost & Communion Blessing of the Backpacks 	9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 5:15pm CC/Missionary Business Cmtie Mtg (FCH)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	5:30pm Christian ED Cmtie Mtg (FC)	9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO	
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green	9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	6:15pm Session Mtg (FTHC)	9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO	9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
12th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green	9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	 6:00PM Family Night Stepper (FH)	9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO	
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
13th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green	9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	 12:00pm LIA Meal Items DUE (MCK)	9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) 12:00pm CASA Staff Meeting	9:00am-3:00pm MDO  11:00am Meal served @ LIA Homeless Ministry	
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir						
30	31					
14th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green						
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanc) *A congregational meeting will immediately follow worship. 11:30am Lunch in FH 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

August

Happy
Birthday

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



FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

August

Happy
Anniversary

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

August 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

8:30am Music Leader

Kara Davis

Treasurer

Steven Smith

Office Manager

Kelly Sasenbery

Connect With Us

Office Phone: 903-675-3530
Website: www.fpcathens.com

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.