



Member of PC-USA

A publication of First Presbyterian Church-Athens, TX

The Communique: *July 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.

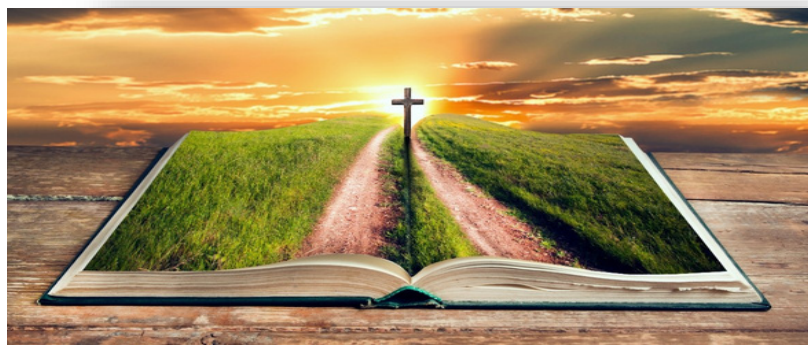
If you are interested in receiving a digital copy, please visit our "About" section of our website at www.fpcathens.com and select the heading "Communique Newsletter".

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: June 2026
- MINISTRY NOTES
- JULY 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR
- SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: June-August



Pastor's Ponderings:

I love July! It's the month that starts out with flags waving on the square, people marching down Main Streets across the country in colorful parades, the sights and smells of freedom all around us. What a way to start a month! I love July! It's the month that starts out with flags waving on the square, people marching down Main Streets across the country in colorful parades, the sights and smells of freedom all around us. What a way to start a month!

July, the month when we remember our common history as a nation. We remember a group of individuals who gathered and, at great peril to themselves and their futures, formed a nation the likes of which has yet to be equaled. A nation whose foundation is God and His teachings.

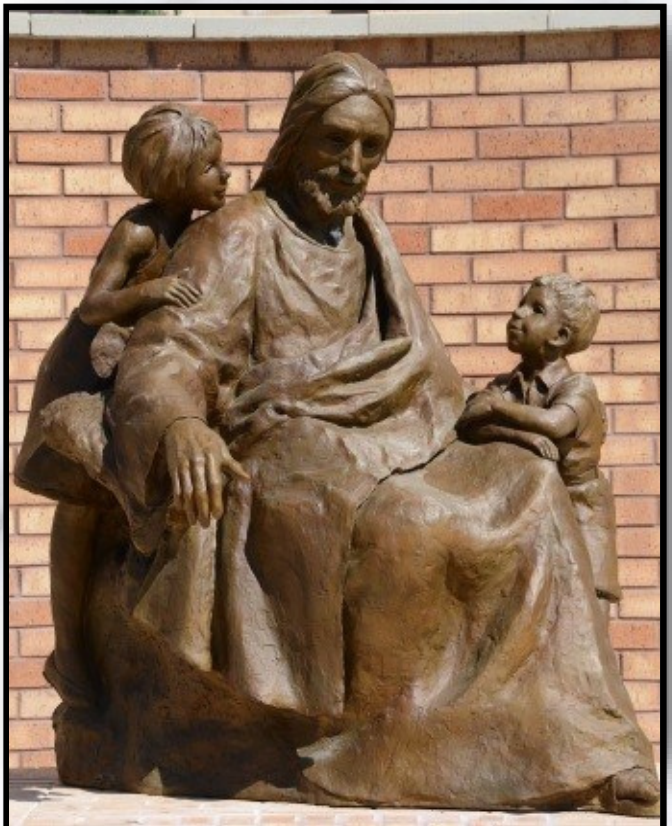
Now, in 2026, we find those principles, indeed the very fabric of everything we hold dear, under attack. Not so much from without but from within. Not from people across the seas but from people across the street. We are a wounded society, and those wounds are self-inflicted. We find ourselves looking toward Heaven and we hear the Biblical question rising again: "How long, O Lord, how long?"

In these times we need to rest upon the foundation we have known since childhood. God is on His throne and He remains in control. Granted, we don't understand what's happening or why it's happening. Our finite minds can't possibly understand the infinite. So, all we can do is rest on our faith in God and His eternal love for His creation.

I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that no one and nothing will ever be able to change the course that God has set for this nation and His people.

So, I'm going to wave the flag and sing the songs and celebrate this land, this holy experiment, this nation under God like never before. God Bless you and God Bless America!

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.

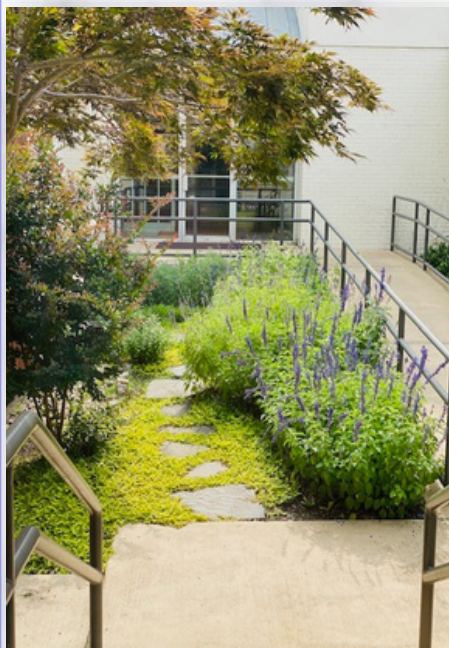
The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ATHENS

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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 7th
thu
August
30th

-NO 8:30 AM SERVICE

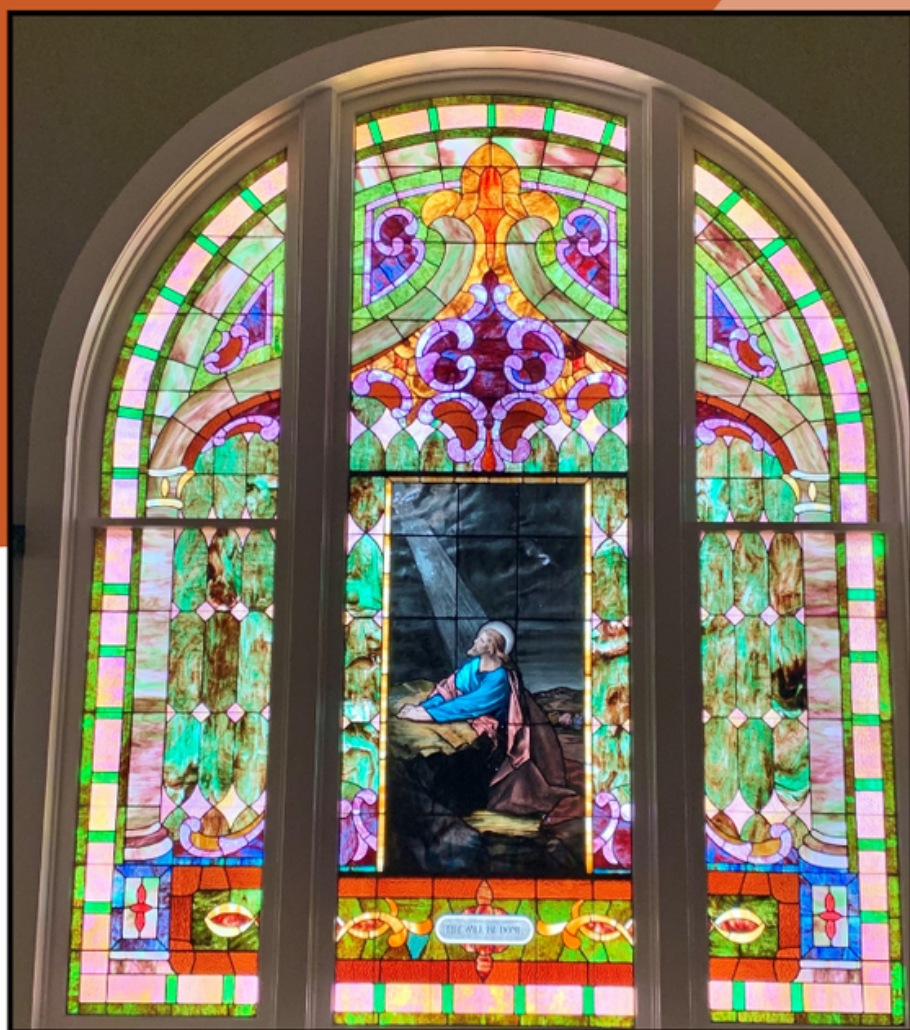
**-SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15 AM-10:15 AM**

-10:30 AM

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

-10:00 AM

5TH SUNDAY WORSHIP





Prayer List for July 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

The Wheatcraft Family

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.

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)

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)

Larry Babb (friend of many)

Randy Ball (friend of many)

Matthew Geddie (brother of Angela St. Valentine)

Mrs. Amber (friend of Patrick Wauschek)

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 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

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 donnafoftermeredith@gmail.com.

Friendship Leader: Mike Babler

Location: Main Church Building-Friendship Classroom.

Seekers Class: 9:15am

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.

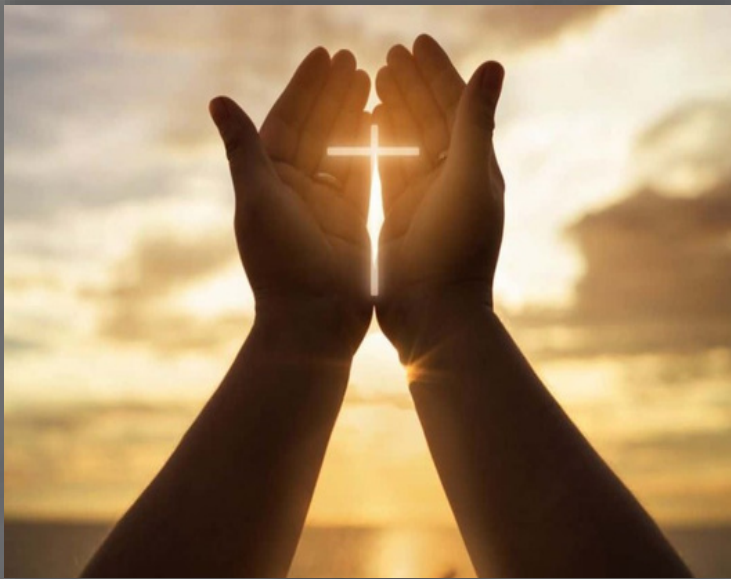
Local Mission Partners & FPCA Ministries

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**

July's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 22nd to the main church kitchen.

The meal will be served on the 24th.

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



FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

July 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



5

6th Sunday after Pentecost
& Communion
Color: Green

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
11:30am Chancel Choir

6

9:00am
AGAPE Quilts (CFB)
5:15pm
CC/Missions/
Witness Cmte Mtg
(FC)

7

9:00am-3:00pm MDO
6:30pm Men for Him (FH)

8

9

9:30am Ladies
Bible Study (UC)

10

9:00am-3:00pm
MDO

11

12

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Color: Green

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
11:30am Chancel Choir

13

9:00am
AGAPE Quilts (CFB)
12:00pm Book Club
Joan King-Cord, Rm

14

9:00am-3:00pm MDO
6:30pm Men for Him (FH)

15

16

9:30am Ladies
Bible Study (UC)

17

9:00am-3:00pm
MDO

18

9:00am
Athens Amateur
Radio Club (FH)

19

8th Sunday after Pentecost
Color: Green

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
11:30am Chancel Choir

20

9:00am
AGAPE Quilts (CFB)
6:30pm Men for Him (FH)

21

9:00am-3:00pm MDO
6:30pm Men for Him (FH)

22

12:00pm LIA Meal
Items Due (MCK)

23

9:30am Ladies
Bible Study (UC)
12:00pm CASA
Staff Meeting

24

9:00am-3:00pm
MDO

25

26

9th Sunday after Pentecost
Color: Green

9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
11:30am Chancel Choir

27

9:00am
AGAPE Quilts (CFB)

28

9:00am-3:00pm MDO
6:30pm Men for Him (FH)

29



30

9:30am Ladies
Bible Study (UC)

31

9:00am-3:00pm
MDO



FPC-Athens Birthday Calendar

July

Happy
Birthdays

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

July 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 Sassenbery

(Facebook/Messenger/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster)

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.