



# *The Communique:* *June 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](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)**

## Monthly Highlights

- PASTOR'S PONDERINGS
- CHURCH REPORTS: MAY 2026
- MINISTRY ACTIVITIES & NEEDS
- JUNE 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR
- SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE: June-August



## Pastor's Ponderings:

Every time you pick up a newspaper or turn on a television news program there is a report of another exotic disease or shooting or hostage situation. One crisis after another. It is getting to the point where you cannot even catch your breath.

Since our world has so many dangers, we have legitimate reasons to be afraid. But Christians should not live in fear as a way of life, because God's awesome promises allow us to be at peace in every circumstance.

For our protection, God has installed some natural apprehensions in us, like a fear of snakes or deep water. He also gave us a warning system so that we could react quickly to danger. For instance, if a car speeds toward us, an instantaneous reaction of an alarm could save our lives.

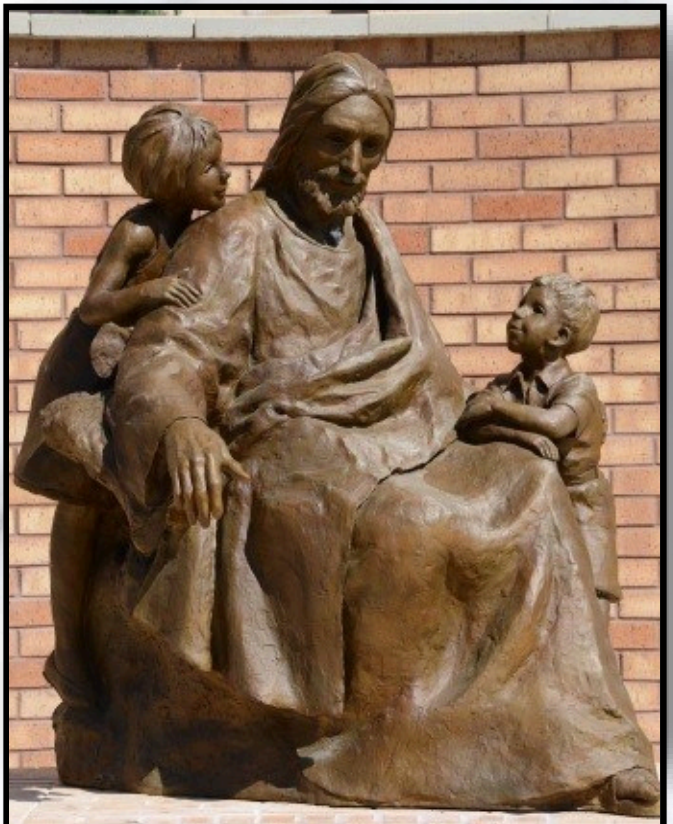
But a constant, all-consuming dread is unhealthy. Most of our fears relate to dangers that might occur, threatening the welfare of loved ones, financial stability, or future security. Our attention is then centered on these concerns rather than on the One who promises to hold us in His hand. As anxiety grows, trust in the Lord weakens, and we become consumed with worry, doubt, and fear.

Instead of going down this route, ground yourself in Scripture, and do not allow apprehension to blind you to God's promises. Ask "the Lord of peace" to "continually grant you peace in every circumstance."

As you browse through this Communique, you will discover opportunities to be of service as well as celebrate life. You have an open invitation during these summer months to join us every Sunday morning for a time of worship, praise, and experience a positive view of life as a family of faith.



*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.

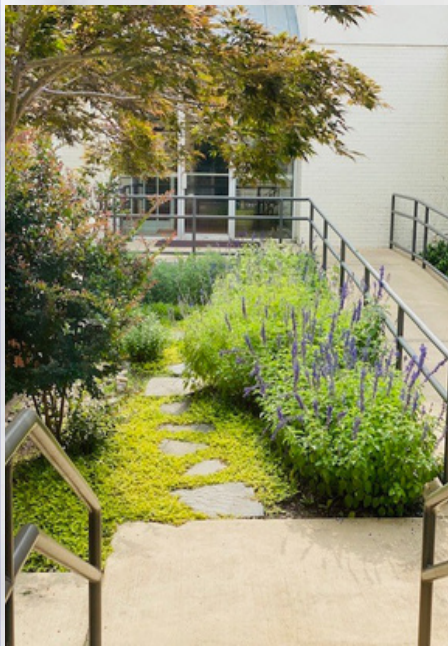
The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

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

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# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 7<sup>th</sup>  
thu  
August  
30<sup>th</sup>

**-NO 8:30 AM SERVICE**

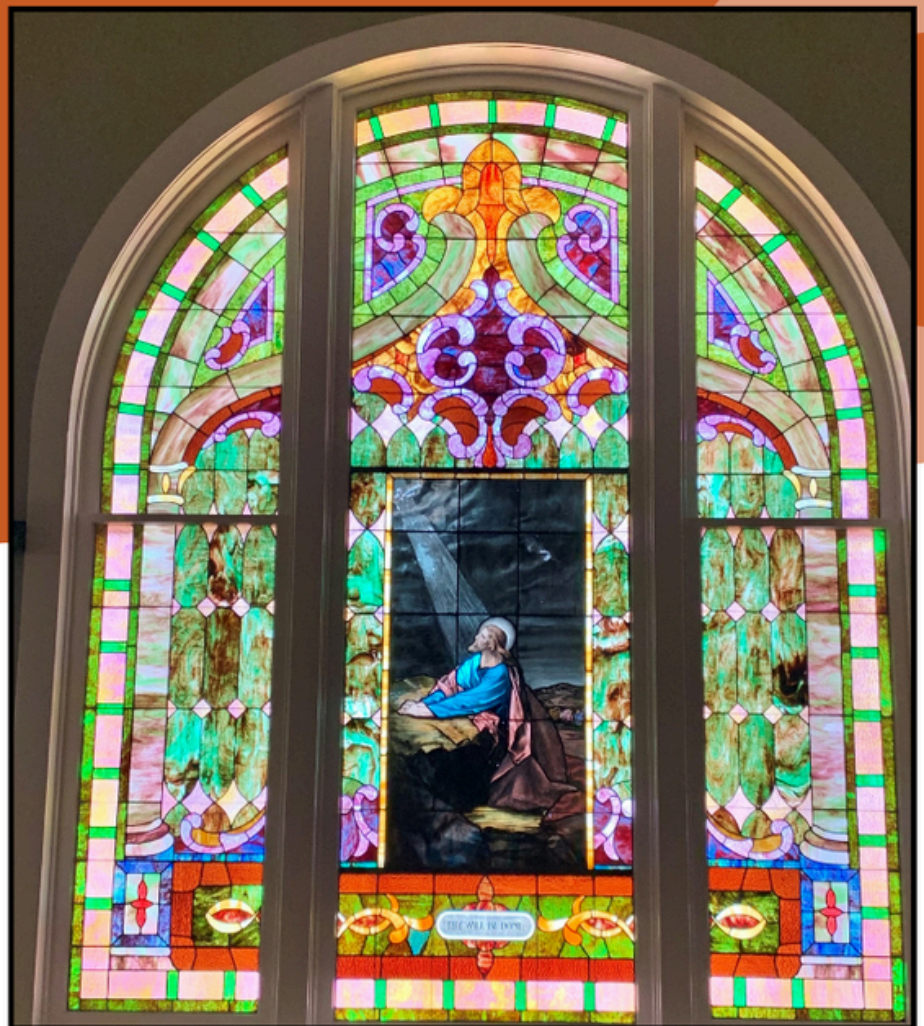
**-SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:15 AM-10:15 AM**

**-10:30 AM**

**WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY**

**-10:00 AM**

**5TH SUNDAY WORSHIP**





# Prayer List for June 2026

## **Those In Our Church Family**

Burt Lively, Jan Capelle, Sue Murray, Sharron Clark, Elliott Boyles, Judy Locke, Penny Endsley, Patrick Wauschek

## **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

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**

DeeDee Manton (friend of Sandy Perkins), 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)

## **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

# 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 *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



**A BIG THANK YOU to ALL**  
who made contributions to our  
“Beat the Heat” Box Fan Collection.

We did it again... Our goal of 50 was met with 53 fan donations!!! What a blessing and huge impact for those who are without adequate cooling options this Summer.

Terry Mayhall picked up the fans on June 4th, 2026.



Having Fun at the FNS Fish Fry.  
~May 20, 2026~

June'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.



Congratulations to our  
MDO Preschool Class of 2026!



Skiin with the Galilean is in need of cookie donations for their Oakwood Event - June 16th thru 18th. Please review the following information if you are interested in helping.

Lake Athens has become a place where thousands of orphans, foster children, and those with special needs have experienced one of the greatest days of their lives by participating in Skiin' with the Galilean (SWTG). This is a fun lake time for them. It provides boating, water sports, great food, and a Biblical message of love. It is non-denominational, non-commercial, non-profit, and free for all.

**Cookie Details:** Homemade cookies are preferred but store bought are great too! Please, no nuts or peanut butter and kindly bring your cookies in a disposable container that doesn't need returning.

We are in need of 6 people to make 2 dozen cookies each. Please respond to this email or call the church office if you are able to assist.

Please deliver all cookie donations to the main church kitchen at FPC-Athens on Monday, June 15th by 12 noon.

Thank you in advance!



Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services™ CARE AND SUPPORT for children & families in need.

Congregation,

We are once again collecting Back to School items for PCHAS. This year we are slated to collect Backpacks - 20 in total. All backpacks are due to the church office by Sunday, July 12th by the end of our 10:30am worship service.

The breakdown is as follows:

PreK-K - 2 boys, 2 girls  
1st-6th - 4 boys, 4 girls  
7th-12th - 4 boys, 4 girls

**PCHAS Backpack Collection -**  
Please reference eblast/email for more information.

Sign up list is available via Sign Up Genius.  
Contact the church office for available slots. Thank you in advance!



# FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

# JUNE 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Summer Worship Schedule Begins!</b> </div>						
1 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	2 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	3 5:30pm Christian ED Cine Mfg (FC) 6:00pm Sally's Soup Committee Mfg. (FHK)	4 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	5 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	6	
7 <b>2nd Sunday after Pentecost &amp; Communion</b> Color: Green 9-15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir	8 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 12:00pm Book Club Jean King-Coat. Rm)	9 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	10 6:15pm Session Mfg (FHC)	11 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	12 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	13
14 <b>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b> Color: Green 9-15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir	15 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	16 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	17	18 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	19 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	20 9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
21 <b>4th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Color: Green 9-15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir	22 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	23 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	24 <b>12:00pm LIA Meal Items Due (MCK)</b>	25 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC) 12:00pm CASA Staff Meeting	26 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	27
28 <b>5th Sunday after Pentecost</b> Color: Green 9-15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Chancel Choir	29 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	30 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)				

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

# JUNE

*Happy Birthdays*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ely Harrison	2 Lacey Hurd McClegg Smith	3 Tyler Hendrickson	4 Sandy Perkins	5 Sue Porter	6 Emily Carlson Shirley Henbeck
7	8	9	10	11 Peggy Galin	12 Sue Porter	13 John Purser
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Bates Bates
21 Harper Endley Melli Morrison	22 Barbara Kimes	23	24	25	26 Marshall Endley	27
28 Matthew Warren Michael Warren	29 Bob Morton	30				



## FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

# JUNE

*Happy Anniversary*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Danny & Sue Porter	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Jim & Karen Brack James & Tara Rhodes	9 John & Phyllis Kidwell	10	11 Randall & Barbara Kimes	12 Don & Claudia Foster Mark & Rachel Scottmer	13
14	15	16 Bill & Margaret Breedlove	17	18	19 Brandon & Amy Smith	20
21	22 Mike & Rosalie Babler	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Bill & Carmen Hunt Woody & Donna Meredith				



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

# June 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**

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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.