Member of PC-USA

The Communique: November 2026

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".

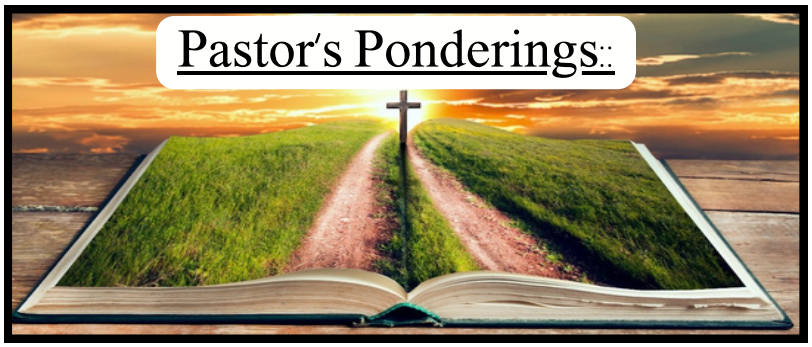
Simply fill out the form provided and submit.

***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: October 2026**
- **MINISTRY NOTES**
- **NOVEMBER 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**
- **MAMIE DOWNING APPRECIATION SUNDAY**
- **CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE**
- **POINSETTIA PRE-ORDER**
- **HANGING OF THE GREENS COMBINED WORSHIP**

Pastor's Ponderings:



It seems as if I am having more conversations these days about the world situation. Let us face it; our world is a changing, dangerous, and uncertain place. Many people are looking for security in wealth, relationships, and power. These things, however, are not guaranteed from one day to the next. Watching the news provides enough proof that any of them, even life itself, can be taken away at any moment. No wonder there is such confusion, despair, and fear.

For believers, reality is not based on what we see or hear. Nor is our foundation found in this world. We build our hope and trust in the Lord, and we believe in the truth in His Word.

Therefore, amid all the battles, and turmoil and trials, we have the assurance that our lives are in the ever-present and loving hands of Almighty God. We can rely not only on His love and presence but also on His faithfulness, and perfect care.

As you prepare to gather around your Thanksgiving table, do so knowing that, amid the chaos and uncertainty of these days, you are secure in the love and presence 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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

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.

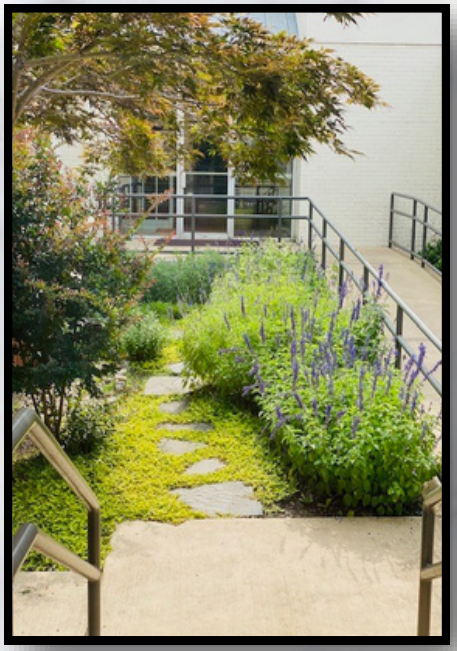
The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

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 November 2026

Those In Our Church Family

Burt Lively, Jan Capelle, Sue Murray, Sharron Clark, Elliott Boyles, Judy Locke, John & Phyllis Kidwell

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 Bill Bloch
Family of Reva Kindsvater.
Family of Chuck Womble.
Family of Tom Hanes (friend of many).
Family of Jim Ogburn (friend of many).

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), Barbara Landry (relative of Sandy Perkins)
Bill Wakeham (friend of Sandy Perkins)
Paige Reeves (friend of many)
Grady Chancellor (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)
Adalee Grey
George Rawles (friend of many)
Devon Weatherford (friend of The Neill's), Dave Weifert (friend of The Neill's)
Randy Ball (friend of many)
Matthew Geddie (brother of Angela St. Valentine)
Bill Johnson (friend of many)
Rachel Stroupe (Rick & Marsha Stroupe)
Sue Dover (mother of Melanie Whatley)
Emily Hartman (daughter of Paul & Diana Hartman), Hannah Hartman (granddaughter of Paul & Diana Hartman)
Stace Smith (friend of many)
Bennett & Gerald Flanagan (cousins of Lou Sutton), The Welty Family (cousins of Lou Sutton)
The Watkins Family (friends of Lou Sutton)
Jensen Kircher (Donna Ward-friend of the family)



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

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 & Sunday School.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Located in the Children's Building for ages 3 and up.
Staffed with at least two workers.

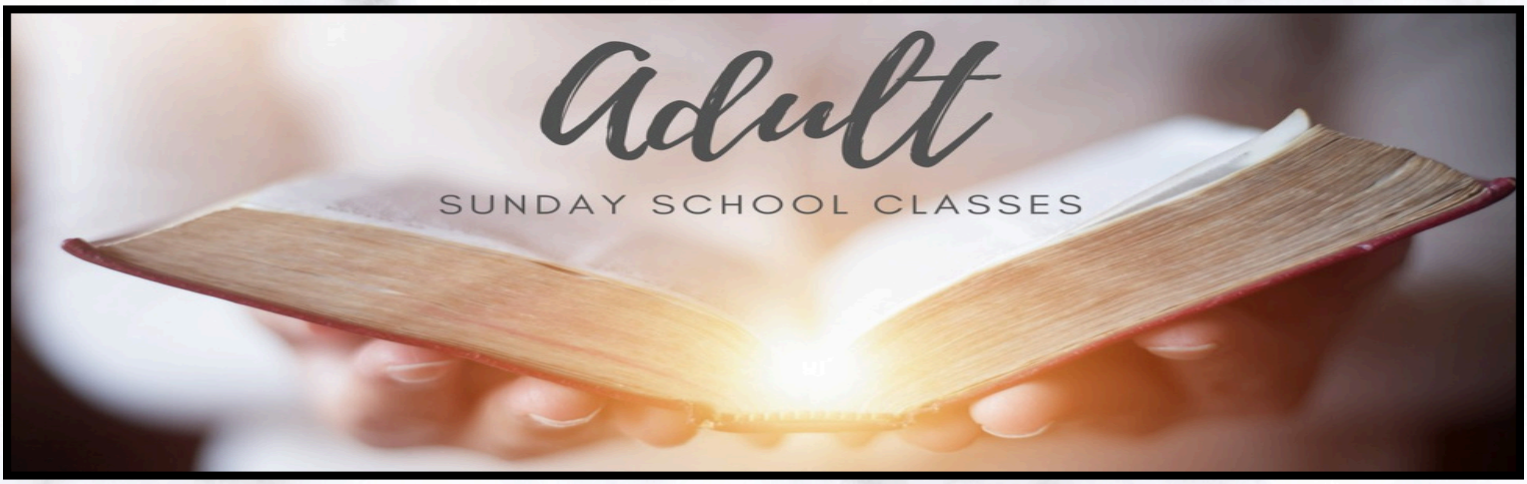
Teachers: Kathryn Hendrickson, Susan Sparkman, and Phyllis Kidwell.

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



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 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: 9:45am

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: 9:45am

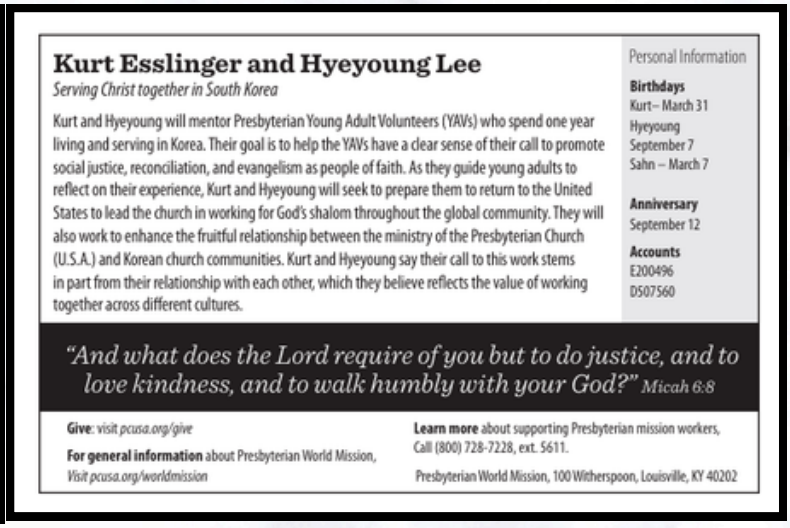
We are currently studying What Was I Thinking?: Things I've Learned Since I Knew It All. By Rev. Steve Brown.
We would like to invite you to join us during our time of study and fellowship.

Seekers Contact Person: Steve Grant.
Location: Main Church Building-Upstairs East Side.

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



The Dawson Family

Mark, Karen, Clara, Madeline, & Calvin

www.ripeforharvest.org/mark-karen-dawson



The Roebuck Family

Jacob, Laura, Penelope, Maverick, & Lewis

www.RoebuckReport.com

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



“The Ark”

Dedicated in supporting college students as they develop their faith. As they transition from adolescence into adulthood, they are discovering what their beliefs truly mean to them. Our role is to encourage and assist them throughout this journey.

This ministry is located adjacent to Trinity Valley Community College, here in Athens, TX.

*Pictured at a recent gathering are Lou Sutton, Jolene Taylor & Beth Youngblood.



FPCA Ladies Bible Study

We meet every Thursday at 9:45am in the main church building conference room.

Feel free to bring your own Bible.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Kim Scott at kscott7938@aol.com

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services℠

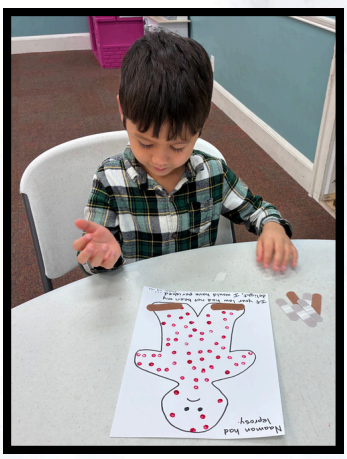
PCHAS Christmas Baskets

See Claire Grant if you are interested in putting together a Christmas Basket.

More information to come - Thank You!









Children’s Sunday Funday!

Putting bandaids on Lazarus the Leper and making a dipping cup for his cure.



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

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE PROJECT

- PROVIDES LOW-INCOME FAMILIES FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
- PROVIDES EACH FAMILY WITH STORY BIBLE.
- PROVIDES EACH FAMILY WITH A BROOKSHIRE'S GIFT CARD.

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL that have graciously signed up to volunteer their time to help shop for our CB Families this year. Packets are ready and can be picked up in the church office.

If you have any questions while reviewing your packet or would like additional information, please contact Terri Budow at 210-204-0375.



.In Honor & In Memory of.

Poinsettias

Preliminary Order

Congregation-Before we place the order for poinsettias this holiday season, we are asking those interested in purchasing to contact Nancy Perryman.

Price per 6" Red Plant: $25.00 ea.

Money is due by November 16th to the church office.

naperryman@gmail.com
214-728-3149

FPC-Athens



MDO NEWS

Mother's Day Out has SHARING BOXES out for those who would like to help support our local food pantry with non-perishable items.

Located in both the Children's Building and Main Church Building.

Contact Brenda Tarter with questions at 903-681-0769.

Pet Food along Adult & Children's Diapers are ALWAYS NEEDED!

WISHING YOU A

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 26TH & 27TH.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ATHENS

405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751

903-675-3530 WWW.FPCATHENS.COM
EMAIL: SECRETARYFPCATHENS@GMAIL.COM

8:30AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

FPC-Athens Birthday Calendar

November

Happy Birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Paul Hartman, Kay Moore, Mary Lynn Smith	9 Russ Richardson	10	11 Nancy Perryman	12 Kendra Gonzales, Jeffrey Ward, Olivia Whatley	13	14
15	16	17 Lance Funkhouser	18 Temple Hendrickson	19 Ken Lemmon, Traci Velvin	20 Kay Solomon	21 Shirley Ward, Shannon Wilcher
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Dianne Neill					

FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

November

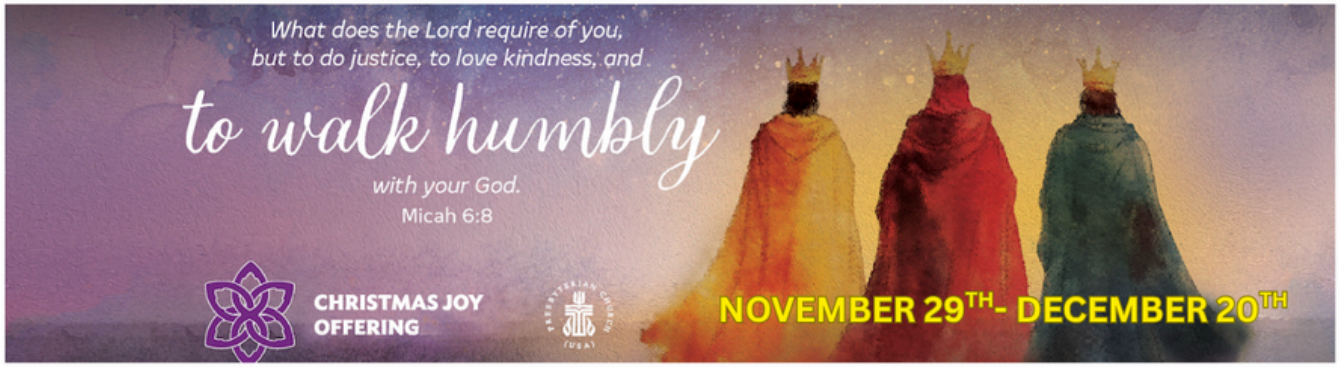
Happy Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Dan & Kay Moore	24	25	26	27	28 John & Beth Miller
29	30					

FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends **23rd Sunday after Pentecost All Saints' Sunday & Communion** **Color: Green** 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	**2** 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 5:15pm CC/Missions/Witness Cmte. Mtg (FC)	**3** 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 4:30pm Worship Cmte. Mtg. 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	**4** 11:00AM National Adoption Reception (FH) 5:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Sally's Soup Cmte. Mtg. (FHK)	**5** 9:45am Ladies Bible Study (CR)	**6** 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	**7**
8 **24th Sunday after Pentecost** **Color: Green** 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	**9** 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 12:00pm Book Club (Joan King-CR)	**10** 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	**11 Veterans Day** 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH) 6:15pm Session Mtg (FHC)	**12** 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	**13** 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	**14**
15 **25th Sunday after Pentecost & Mamie Day** **Color: Green** 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Combined Worship (Sanctuary) Lunch in the FH to immediately follow worship. 1:30pm Chancel Choir	**16** 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	17 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	18 5:00pm-6:00pm Bell Choir Practice (FH)	**19** 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (UC)	**20** 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	**21** 9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
22 **Christ The King Sunday** **Color: White** 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Combined Worship Service (Sanctuary) Immediately followed by decorating for the Advent Season and Lunch in the FH at 12 Noon. 1:30PM Chancel Choir	**23** 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	24 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 5:30PM Christian ED Cmte. Meeting (FC) 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	**25**	**26** HAPPY THANKS GIVING --Church Office Closed--	**27** BLACK FRIDAY	**28**
29 NOT A 5TH SUNDAY **1st Sunday of Advent** **Color: Purple** 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	**30** 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)					



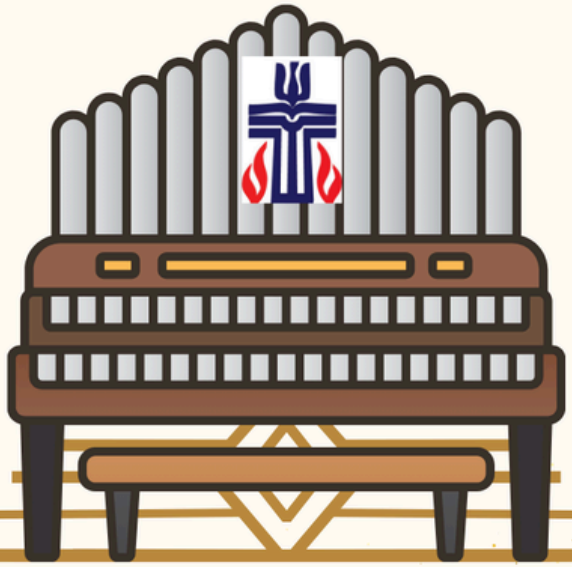
Mamie Downing
Appreciation Sunday

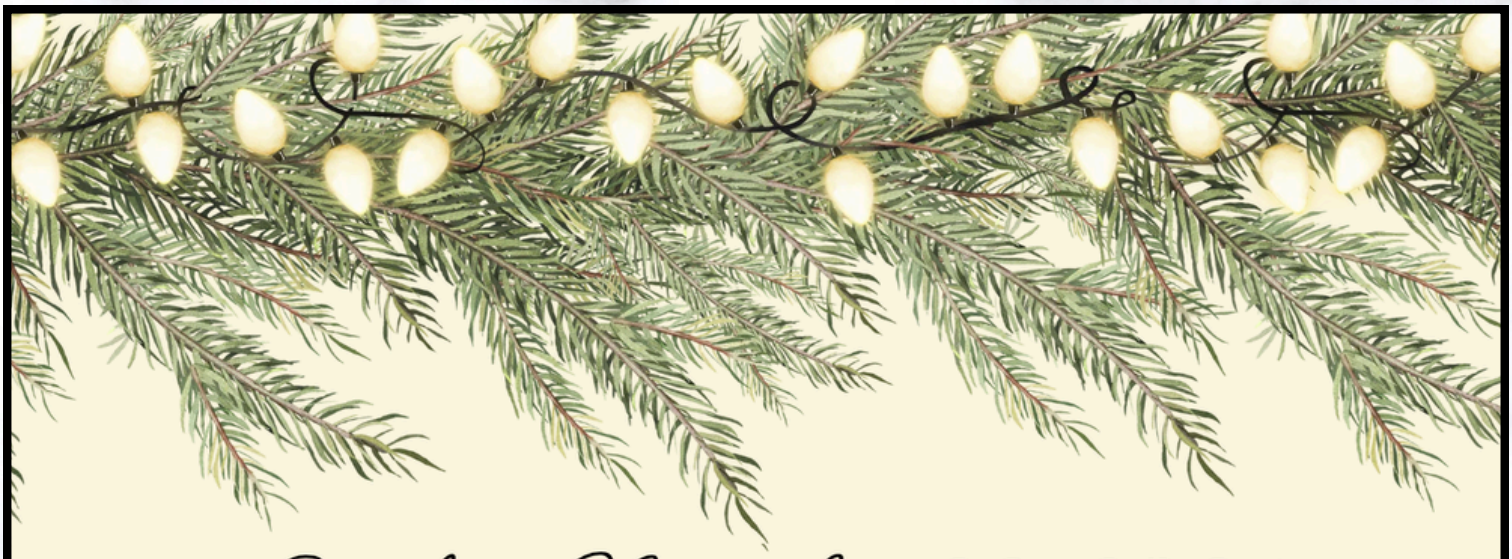
Join us on Sunday, November 15th at 10:30am as we gather in worship to honor our church organist, Mamie Downing for her many years of devoted service at First Presbyterian Church of Athens.

A luncheon will be provided in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-ATHENS
405 E. CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751

OFFICE: 903-675-3530





Sunday, November 22, 2026

HANGING OF THE GREENS

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

Immediately following service, join us as we decorate the church for the Advent Season followed by a Soup & Chili Lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am.

~R.S.V.P. if you plan on staying to decorate & attend the lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

~We do need help with additional items, please see the sign-up located in the church office, thank you.

First Presbyterian Church

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

November 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

NEW ***5th Sunday Worship***
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am in the Sanctuary
followed by lunch in the FH.

Child Care: Children's Building
(For all services & Sunday School)

Communion is served the 1st Sunday of each month.

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

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Website: www.fpcathens.com

Email: secretary@fpcathens.com

