



Member of PC-USA

The Communique: *October 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".

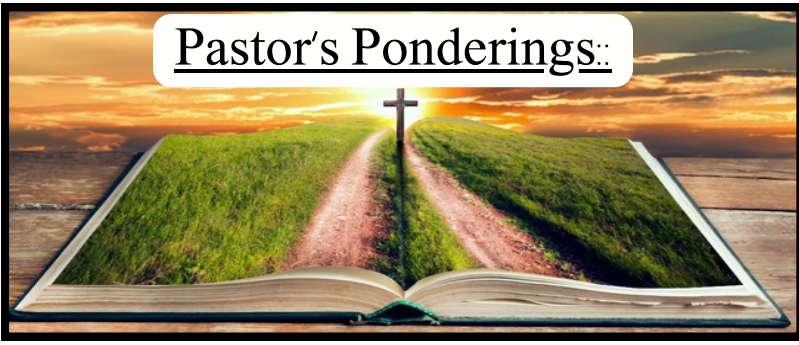
Simply fill out the form provided and submit.

***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: September 2026
- MINISTRY NOTES & DONATIONS NEEDED
- OCTOBER 2026 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR
- LIA MEAL FOR OCTOBER
- CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE FAMILY SIGN UP
- POINSETTIA PRE-ORDER (Deadline: 10/31)
- FNS: October 21st at 6pm (No Church Picnic).

Pastor's Ponderings::



As we enter the wonderful month of October, I have a question. Have you ever had one of those days when you really didn't have much to worry about? You know, you wake up in the morning and have this feeling that everything is going to fall into place. It's a great feeling.

However, we live in a world that seems to thrive on worry. So many people, before their feet hit the floor, are already concerned about surviving the day. Their "to do" list is before their eyes, and it seems so overwhelming that they just want to crawl back into bed and pull the covers over their head. They've struck out before they stepped up to the plate.

The Gospel of Matthew touches on the subject of worry. Beginning with Matthew 6:25-ff, we hear Jesus saying, "...Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Now that's something to celebrate.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the sixth chapter, Jesus shares with us exactly how we can avoid worry. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you." (Matt. 6:33) And then; "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6:34). Great advice for everyone. Now, we have something to celebrate!



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.

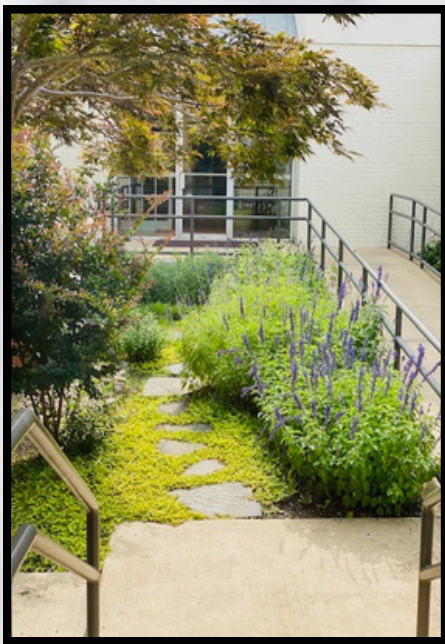
The Columbarium is part of First Presbyterian Church and functions under the authority of the Session.

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 October 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 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)

Kerran, Edwin, & Taylor Link (cousins of Lou Sutton)

Carol Moore (friend of Lou Sutton)

Sue Dover (mother of Melanie Whatley)

Betty Hendrickson (mother of Tyler Hendrickson)

Emily Hartman (daughter of Paul & Diana Hartman)

Hannah Hartman (granddaughter of Paul & Diana Hartman)

Stsce Smith (friend of many)

Angie Womble & 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



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 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



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

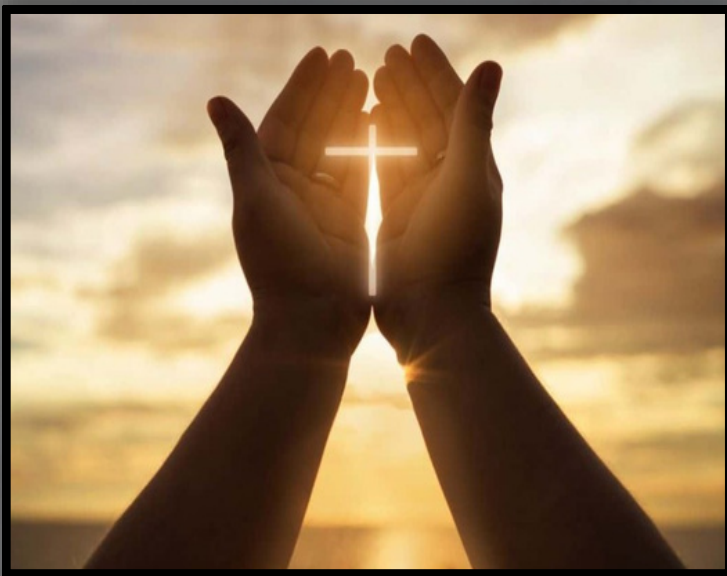
Local Mission Partners & FPCA Ministries

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



October's Love In Action meal items will be due at 12 noon on the 21st to the main church kitchen. The meal will be served on the 23rd.

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.



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

Athens Food Pantry:

Diapers for adults and children of all sizes.

Love in Action Homeless Ministry:

Plastic grocery sacks.

Donations can be dropped off at the church office.

Please reach out to Kara Davis with questions at kcatugal16@gmail.com



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



Baptism



***Congratulations
to Aubrey &
James Brack!***





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 Birthday Calendar

October *Happy Birthday*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Penny Endisley Carol Morton	5	6 Melanie Endisley Susan Sparkman	7 Pam Douglas Stephen Grant Cindy Sanders	8 Daniel Scottcher	9	10 Greg Hisey
11	12	13 Coleman Cain Chloe Wright	14 John Baker Beth Foster Sarah Skelton	15	16 Terri Budow	17
18	19	20	21	22 Cody Robson	23 Donna Ward	24
25	26	27	28	29 William Effert	30 Will Davies	31 Brandon Smith

FPC-Athens Anniversary Calendar

October *Happy Anniversary*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Tim & Beth VanOrden	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Eric & Kara Davis	21	22 Rick & Marsha Stroupe	23	24
25	26	27 Ed & Paige Gatlin	28	29	30	31

Fall Back Reminder

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2026.

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE
HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 2026.

Don't forget to
adjust your clocks for
Daylight Saving Time!



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.

Many of you are already aware of how this project affects our community, but for those who are not familiar, here is a brief summary:

Each year letters are sent to local elementary schools, requesting names of families that are in need of assistance at Christmas. Volunteers then contact the family they are assigned, identify the children's needs and then either shop with the parent or shop on the volunteer's own time. Because we have the opportunity to make their Christmas wishes a reality, share in the joy and show them the true meaning of Christmas, through Christmas Benevolence, Christmas blessings are realized for both the volunteer and the family.

Please, prayerfully consider volunteering this year. Sign-up sheets are available in the Fellowship Hall, Church Hallway Ministry Bulletin Board, & the Church Office. We would love for you to be included and to witness the many blessings that are received.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Terri Budow at 903-677-4018.





.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 **by October 31st, 2026.**

Price per 6" Red Plant: \$25.00 ea.

naperryman@gmail.com
214-728-3149





FPC-Athens Activities Calendar

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:45am Ladies Bible Study (CR)	2 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	3
4 19th Sunday after Pentecost & Communion Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir Special Offering: World Communion Collection	5 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 5:15pm CC/Missions/Witness Cmte. Mtg (FC)	6 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 4:30pm Worship Cmte. Mtg. 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	7 5:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Sally's Soup Cmte. Mtg. (FHK)	8 9:45am Ladies Bible Study (CR)	9 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	10
11 20th Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	12 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB) 12:00pm Book Club Joan King-Conf. Rm	13 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	14 5:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm Session Mtg (FHCR)	15 9:45am Ladies Bible Study (CR) 12 Noon HC Food Pantry Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (FH)	16 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	17 9:00am Athens Amateur Radio Club (FH)
18 21st Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	19 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	20 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	21 12:00pm LIA Meal Items DUE (MCK) 5:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm FNS (FH) Traditional Potluck	22 9:45am Ladies Bible Study (CR) 12:00pm CASA Staff Meeting	23 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 11:00am Meal served @ LIA Homeless Ministry	24
25 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Color: Green 8:30am Worship Service (FH) 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30pm Chancel Choir	26 9:00am AGAPE Quilts (CFB)	27 9:00am-3:00pm MDO 5:30pm Christian ED Cmte Mtg (FC) 6:30pm Men for Him (FH)	28 5:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	29 9:45am Ladies Bible Study (CR)	30 9:00am-3:00pm MDO	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH-ATHENS

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

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

— Traditional Potluck & —
Family Friendly Games.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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 covered dish, salad,
or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you!*

October looks a bit different this year as we will not have our Annual Church Picnic. Instead, we are planning a FNS to take its place.

THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Located at: 405 East Corsicana Street

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

October 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

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.