



First Presbyterian  
Church on the Square  
**SEPTEMBER 2023 GRAPEVINE**

September 1, 2023

**“Abundant Grace, Abundant Giving”**

Dear FPC Members & Friends,

The remarkable location, size, and attractiveness of the FPC campus and buildings were the first impressions that greeted me as I arrived as a Guest Preacher in October, 2022. This prepared me to experience the heart of FPC: the beauty of the sanctuary, the warmth of FPC members, and the Spirit of God’s grace that flows through our Worship each Sunday Morning.

As Athens’ Church On The Square, God continues to bless FPC with a unique ministry and message. Throughout our Athens community, Limestone County, and into the larger world, Christ’s Abundant Grace continues to reach out through the words and actions of FPC members. It is wonderful to see how God continues to lead our congregation daily to share God’s goodness with each other and neighbors!

This year the Fall Stewardship Campaign will prepare the church family to follow the leading of God’s Spirit as FPC searches for the next Pastor. Also, a strong financial foundation for 2024 will help the congregation welcome the person that God is calling to be a faithful, joyful, generous partner in ministry with FPC members for years to come.

Please join us on Sunday, September 24th at 11am in the Revival as we kick-off our 2023 Stewardship Season, **“Abundant Grace, Abundant Giving.”** We will have a delicious BBQ Lunch along with a celebration of all the ministries of FPC. This will include a multimedia summary of highlights of our life together during the last twelve months. We will also hear an update from the Pastoral Nominating Committee about the progress they have made and their plans for “next steps” in the pastoral search process.

Each Sunday from September 24 through October 22, a FPC member will share a brief “Moment For Stewardship” about “The Difference That FPC Athens Makes in My Life.” On October 22nd , Stewardship Pledges and other plans to support FPC’s 2024 Budget will be dedicated during the Morning Worship Service.

God’s Abundant Grace has flowed through FPC Athens for 194 years, and it remains fresh and new every morning for The Church On The Square. One of our greatest joys during the Fall 2023 Season will be to dedicate our time, talent, and treasure for Christ’s ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Athens. **“Abundant Grace, Abundant Giving”** will lead the way as we prepare for our new Pastor and FPC’s Third Century of service in Christ’s name.

With Love and Gratitude for Your Faith and Service,

Pastor Karl

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- All submissions for Grapevine and the monthly calendar should be sent by email (fpcathens@fpcathens.org) or by phone (256-232-0122) by the 20th of the month.
- Directories are now available in the church office!
- Office hours are Monday - Thursday from 9am - 1pm.



### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Mark you Calendar  
September 5th @ 12:00pm  
In Rogers Center  
Happy PM Circle  
Annual Kick-Off Luncheon  
All Women are invited.  
Luncheon Hosted Charlotte Lyle  
and Hazel White  
Program presented by  
Randi Harbin**

ABUNDANT GRACE



ABUNDANT GIVING

## **The Stewardship Committee**

Invites you to a BBQ Lunch  
Revival at 11:00 a.m.

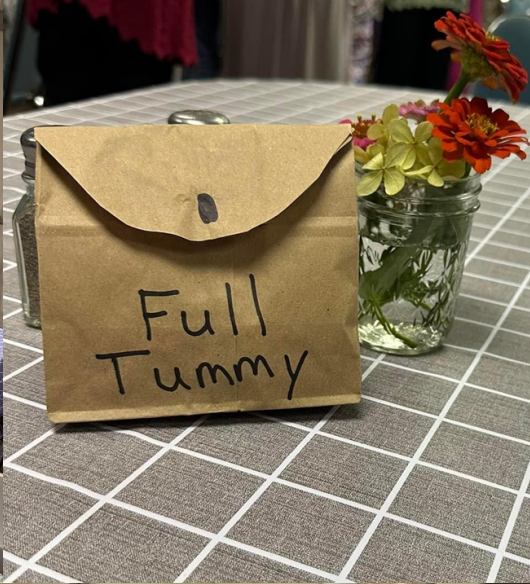
September 24th.

It's all about giving back.

It's all about God.

**THANK YOU TO ALL CAME OUT AND HELPED WITH THE FULL TUMMY PROJECT.**

**WE PACKED 400 BAGS THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR 10 WEEKS TO ATHENS ELEMENTARY CHILDREN. THE BENEFIT LUNCHEON RAISED \$1865 TOWARD THE PROJECT TO HELP PURCHASE THE FOOD!!**



# Worship Notes for September

We are a liturgical church. This means we go by the liturgical calendar, we have paraments which change color with liturgical time, and we celebrate some special Sundays. Check out the calendar on the back to see how this works. This calendar is for the year 2023 but the liturgical year starts with the first Sunday in Advent which often falls at the end of November but this year will be December 3.

(Count four Sundays back from Christmas.)

The last Sunday of the liturgical year is Christ the King Sunday. Notice the parament colors: white, purple, red, green.

Currently we are in Ordinary Time with September 3rd being the 14th Sunday after Pentecost. You may think that during "ordinary" time, nothing much is happening. Ordinary is used here (like ordinal) to mean counting. Sunday, September 3rd, is the 14th Sunday after Epiphany. There are 33-34 weeks total of ordinary time occurring in two periods - between Epiphany and Lent and between Easter and the end of the liturgical year leading to Advent. It is a time of growth as we celebrate and study the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a disciple.

Maybe this should be 'ordinary' for Christians.

After the first Sunday in September when we have Communion and use white paraments, you will notice a special green cloth on the table. You will notice it is covered in hands - the hands used for service, giving, playing, hugging, and praying. This cloth with its batik design was on the table at the Montreat Music and Worship Conference in 2021. When you see this cloth, look at your own hands and imagine them doing the work of Christ in your ordinary, daily life.

Emily Clem, Worship Committee

**JANUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

**JULY**

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

**FEBRUARY**

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

**AUGUST**

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**MARCH**

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**SEPTEMBER**

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
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**APRIL**

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**OCTOBER**

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29	30	31				

**MAY**

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28	29	30	31			

**NOVEMBER**

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26	27	28	29	30		

**JUNE**

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**DECEMBER**

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### CHURCH FAMILY

Doris Welch (Home)	Bonnie Chambers (Home)
Dean Steele	Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Susie Fogg (Home)	Stephen Toney (Home)
Sharon Massey	Ruth Martin (Healing)
Rene Brown (Traditions)	Jac Catlett
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health)	Doug Booth (Health)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)	

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel - Army	Sean Miller - Army
Adam Naves - Marines	Damien Williams - Army
Michael Ress - USAF -AZ	Joshua Hargrove - Deployed
Jay Tulley- Middle East	Justin Ruf- Army Air Guard
Kevin O'Neill-Army Res.-Poland	

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bob Defour (Doyle & Suzanne Weeks son-in-law)  
Brent Harris (Friend of Chris Hilgeman)  
Melvin Norwood (Health, Tashia Baugher's Father)  
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)  
Gerry & Denzil Smith (Healing) cousin of Jan Ruth)  
Alex Noel (Nephew of John & Bonny Noel)  
John Townsend (Health, Doug Harbin's Brother in Law)  
Bill Grisham (Health, Pam Gregg's dad)  
Hazel Ruf (Mason Ruf's mother, home)  
Kierra Anderson (Friend of Gale Cottles)  
Gary Kilgo (Health, Kay Baugher & Carol Quillen's family member)  
Macie Garrett (Healing, Christy Arnett's Niece)  
Karen Ferguson (Potter's Hand)  
Sherry Thompson (Healing, sister of Christy Arnett)  
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)  
Johnathon Garrett, (Healing, great nephew of Christy Arnett)  
Amy and John May (Healing, wife of Jan Ruth's grandson)  
Jim May (Healing, son of Jane Ruth)  
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)  
Vernon Kruger (Healing, neighbor of Jan Ruth)  
Lucrecia Hawley (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)  
John Cotten (Healing, Potter's Hand)  
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)  
Maggie Ruth Naves (Healing, great granddaughter of Hazel White)  
Finley McAllister (Healing, sibling of Jennifer Quillen's student)

# September

2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b> COMMUNION 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP
<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	<b>5</b> PW Circle Rodgers Center 12:00 PM	<b>6</b> 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	<b>13</b> 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP Stewardship Luncheon
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>30</b>	



**1st Tom Hand**  
**5th Gwen Bacon**  
**7th Sharon Hand**  
**10th Emily Clem**  
**11th Jack Quillen**  
**14th Chris Paysinger**  
**18th Brad Clem**

**22nd Jacob Greene**  
**25th Frank Gossett**  
**26th Stephen Toney**  
**27th Buffy Quillen**  
**28th Joey Jackson**  
**30th Sarah Poole**

*Happy  
Birthday*

*September 2023*