



First Presbyterian
Church on the Square
DECEMBER 2023 GRAPEVINE

An Advent Prayer for the Family

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.



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'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED TO PLEASE
JOIN THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FOR THEIR
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT THE HOME OF
EMILY CLEM
ON TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 5TH
AT 1PM.**

**HOSTESSES: EMILY CLEM, JANE GOSSETT, RANDI
HARBINE, RUTH WHITTEN, ROBERTA RESS, KARAN
BAKER, AND SHARON HAND**

PROGRAM: JOYCE COUNTER

December Events at First Presbyterian Church and in
the Athens Community.

December 1st-31st - North Pole Stroll (The Duck Pond)

December 2nd-Potter's Hand at the Public Library

December 5th-Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon
(All women are invited)

December 7th- Athens Christmas Parade

- HANDBELLS ON THE SQUARE PRIOR TO THE PARADE
- MEN OF THE CHURCH WILL PASS OUT HOT CHOCOLATE,
POPCORN AND TREATS FOR THE CHILDREN

December 9th- Sippin' Cider on the Square

December 10th- Christmas Cantata Service at First
Presbyterian Church 10am

December 17th- FPC Children Christmas Program 9am

December 24th - Christmas Candlelight Service and
Communion 5:30 pm

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THANKSGIVING IS PAST AND CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

THIS YEAR IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF CHRIST IN 2023 AS THE ADVENT SEASON BEGINS BY PROVIDING FAMILIES WHO ARE SERVED BY OUR MISSION PARTNER, THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC), WITH A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS. THIS WILL BE ONE THAT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE IF NOT FOR YOUR GENEROUS SPIRIT.

THE RODGERS CENTER FELLOWSHIP HALL IS SET UP JUST LIKE WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST. FAMILY INFORMATION SHEETS ARE OUT FOR YOU TO SIGN UP IN THE RODGERS CENTER BEGGINING, SUNDAY, NOV. 26TH.

ALL GIFTS NEED TO BE BACK TO THE RODGERS CENTER BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 (TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY). PLEASE WRAP THE GIFTS AND PUT A TAG ON EACH GIFT WITH THE FAMILY NUMBER AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, THIS YEAR THE GENDER AND BIRTHDATE. WE WILL HAVE TABLES SET UP IN THE ROGERS CENTER FELLOWSHIP HALL AS OF DECEMBER 8TH WITH FAMILY NUMBERS ON THEM SO YOU'LL KNOW WHERE TO PLACE YOUR GIFTS.

WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING HOMETOWN GROCERY GIFT CERTIFICATES AS WE HAVE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS. WHILE THE CHURCH HAS BUDGETED SOME FUNDS FOR THE BASKETS AND EXPENSES, WE WILL NEED ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED FOOD PRICES. AS USUAL WE WILL COLLECT ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO FULLY COVER ADEQUATE BASKETS, PURCHASE ANY NEEDED ADDITIONAL PRESENTS, AND TO HELP FAMILIES WITH OTHER NEEDS SUCH AS UTILITY OR RENT ASSISTANCE OR POSSIBLY OTHER BILLS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT, PLEASE SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO THE CHURCH WITH A NOTE THAT IT IS FOR THE FRC CHRISTMAS.

WE AGAIN HAVE 10 FAMILIES FROM THE FRC. AS USUAL, THESE FAMILIES ARE ONES THAT ARE NOT BEING SERVED BY ANY OF THE OTHER TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CHARITIES AND ARE TYPICALLY FAMILIES WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN NEED OF SHORT-TERM HELP OR THROUGH THE FRC ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE THEIR FAMILY AND FINANCIAL SITUATION.

PLEASE CALL SOMEONE ON THE MISSION COMMITTEE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP SHOPPING.

**WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE THE COMING OF ADVENT!
MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU AS YOU SO GENEROUSLY BLESS THESE FAMILIES.**





WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER

ADVENT BEGINS ON SUNDAY, DEC 3, AND CONCLUDES ON CHRISTMAS DAY. IT IS A TIME OF PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF THE CHRIST CHILD. YOU WILL SEE PURPLE OR BLUE PARAMENTS USED AND THE LIGHTING OF AN ADVENT WREATH CANDLE EACH SUNDAY.

SPECIAL MUSIC ABOUNDS WITH THE CHOIR'S CANTATA ON DECEMBER 10, AN ORGAN/PIANO DUET ON DECEMBER 17, AND THE BELL CHOIR ON DECEMBER 24. THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE AT 5:30 ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, WITH PLENTY OF SPECIAL MUSIC INCLUDING, MARY ON PIANO, JENNY ON CLARINET, AMY ON VIOLIN, AND ERICA SINGING. WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO AMY AS A GUEST MUSICIAN ON DECEMBER 31.

DON'T MISS THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AT 9:00 ON DECEMBER 17. IT'S ALL ABOUT PREPARATION AND CELEBRATION!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

THIS CHRISTMAS, WE WILL BE PLACING POINSETTIAS IN OUR SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AND 17TH. IT IS OUR HOPE TO OFFER 3-QUART POINSETTIAS IN PINK, WHITE, OR RED (BASED ON AVAILABILITY.) THOSE WHO WISH TO PURCHASE A POINSETTIA (OR MORE THAN ONE) FOR PLACEMENT IN THE SANCTUARY MAY DROP THE ATTACHED FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE. PLEASE TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA HOME AT THE END OF THE DECEMBER 17TH WORSHIP SERVICE. POINSETTIAS LEFT AFTER 12/17 WILL BE DONATED TO SHUT-INS (UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH JANE GOSSETT).

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR MAIL/BRING IT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT OF \$18.00 PER PLANT.

PLEASE TURN IN ORDERS BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.



NAME: _____

COLOR OF POINSETTIA: WHITE PINK RED NO PREFERENCE

QUANTITY: _____

TOTAL PAYMENT AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$18 PER POINSETTIA):

IN HONOR OF: _____ IN MEMORY OF: _____

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PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Doris Welch (Home)
Dean Steele
Susie Fogg (Home)
Sharon Massey
Rene Brown (Traditions)
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)

Bonnie Chambers (Home)
Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Stephen Toney (Home)
Ruth Martin (Healing)
Jac Catlett
Doug Booth (Health)
Diane Lynn (Health)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

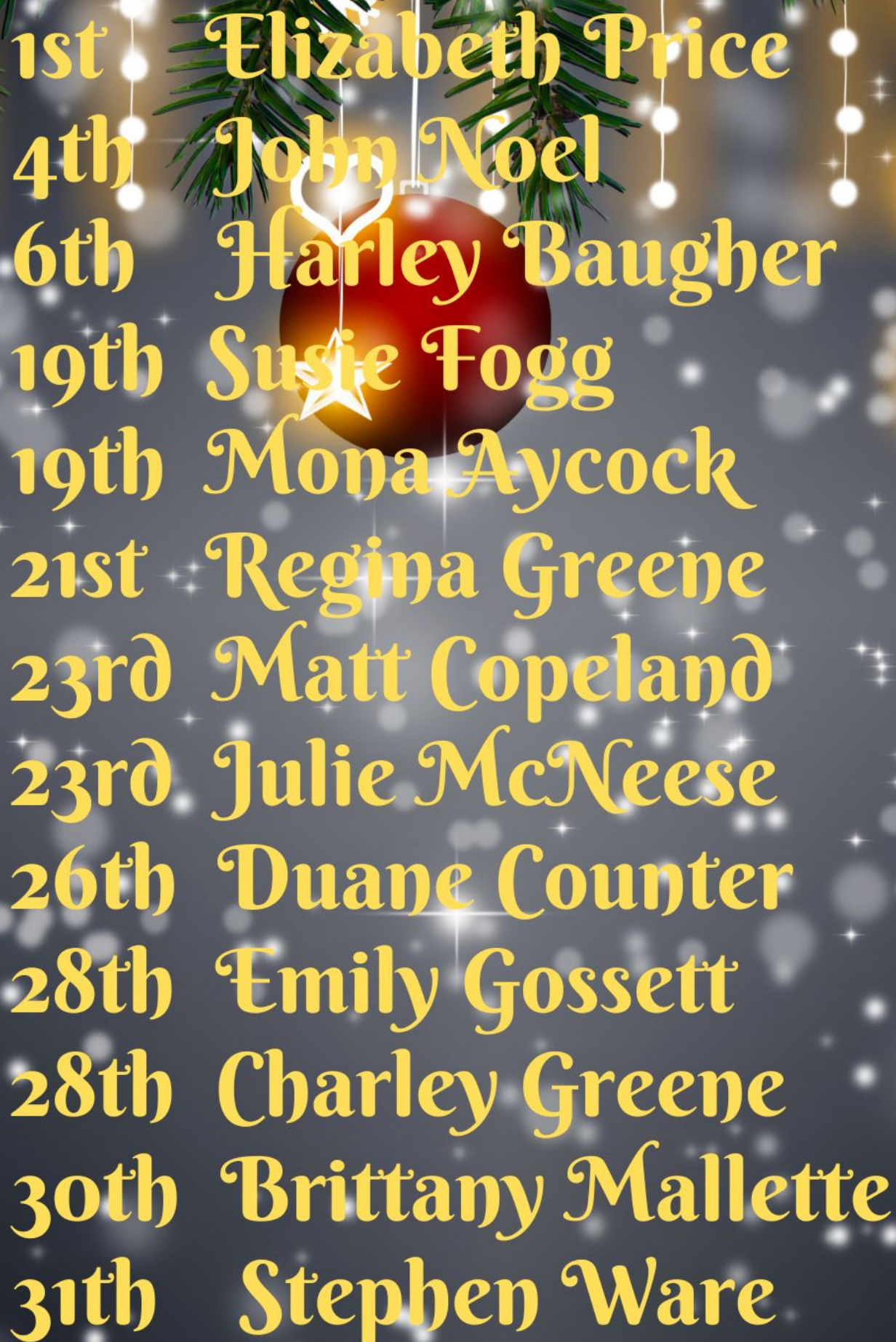
Brandon Noel - Army
Adam Naves - Marines
Michael Ress - USAF -AZ
Jay Tulley- Middle East
Kevin O'Neill-Army Res.-Poland
Sean Miller - Army
Damien Williams - Army
Joshua Hargrove - Deployed
Justin Ruf- Army Air Guard

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)
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)
Karen Ferguson (Potter's Hand)
Sherry Thompson (Healing, sister of Christy Arnett)
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)
Amy and John May (Healing, wife of Jan Ruth's grandson)
Jim May (Healing, son of Jane Ruth)
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)
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)
Rev. John McKell, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in
Florence

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 11:00 AM COMMUNION 5:30PM***					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 POTTER'S HAND AT THE LIBRARY
3 COMMUNION 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP	4	5 PW Circle Rodgers Center 1:00 PM	6 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	7 ATHENS CHRISTMAS PARADE	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10 AM CANTATA	11	12 Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	13 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	14	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 9AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP	18	19	20 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP *** SEE ABOVE***	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31	31 OFFICE CLOSED					



1st Elizabeth Price
4th John Noel
6th Harley Baugher
19th Susie Fogg
19th Mona Aycock
21st Regina Greene
23rd Matt Copeland
23rd Julie McNeese
26th Duane Counter
28th Emily Gossett
28th Charley Greene
30th Brittany Mallette
31st Stephen Ware