



First Presbyterian
Church on the Square

JANUARY 2024 GRAPEVINE

DEAR FPC MEMBERS & FRIENDS,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUSAN AND I LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND FEEL VERY THANKFUL TO BE SERVING WITH YOU AS PARTNERS IN MINISTRY AT THE CHURCH ON THE SQUARE. WE HAVE SEEN SO MANY WAYS THAT GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS THE WORSHIP, OUTREACH, FELLOWSHIP, EDUCATION, PROPERTY, FINANCE, AND OTHER MINISTRIES OF THE FPC FAMILY. WE ALSO ARE THANKFUL FOR THE GENEROUS GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE THAT YOU CONTINUE TO GIVE SO GENEROUSLY TO THE LORD AND CHRIST'S CHURCH.

DURING THE LAST MONTH, SUSAN AND I HAVE BEEN READING THROUGH THE PSALMS FOR OUR MORNING TIME OF DEVOTIONS, AND I'D LIKE TO SHARE TWO BRIEF PASSAGES THAT HAVE HELPED SHAPE OUR ANTICIPATION AND PERSPECTIVE FOR THE NEW YEAR AND THE MONTHS TO COME IN 2024. OUR HEARTS ARE WARMED AS WE REFLECT ON ON PSALM 113:2-3 -

2 BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD FROM THIS TIME ON AND FOREVERMORE.

3 FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN TO ITS SETTING THE NAME OF THE LORD IS TO BE
PRAISED.

WE FEEL THIS CALL TO CONTINUALLY PRAISE GOD IN OUR OWN LIVES. SUSAN AND I SEE IT IN THE FPC FAMILY AS WELL IN THE WORSHIP, SERVICE, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT FPC.

ANOTHER PASSAGE THAT CONTINUES SPEAKING TO US IS PSALM 115:1 -

NOT TO US, O LORD, NOT TO US, BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE GLORY, FOR THE SAKE OF
YOUR STEADFAST LOVE AND YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

WE WANT THE MAIN THEME OF OUR LIFE TO BE SHARING GOD'S ALWAYS AVAILABLE, NEVER-ENDING LOVE AND GRACE WITH OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS. WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THE MANY WAYS THAT THE FPC CONGREGATION LIVES OUT THIS SAME LOVE AND COMMITMENT IN YOUR LIVES, WORSHIP, AND RELATIONSHIPS EVERY DAY.

SUSAN AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW THE TRIUNE GOD CONTINUES TO BE HONORED, PRAISED, SERVED, AND ENJOYED AT THE CHURCH ON THE SQUARE THROUGHOUT 2024 AND BEYOND.

WITH THANKS & BLESSINGS,
KARL AND SUSAN KLING

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 your Calendar
January 2 @ 1:00pm
In Rogers Center
Happy PM Circle
All Women are invited.**

**Hostesses: Christy Arnett, Karla
Barnes and Gale Cottles**

**Program presented by
Randi Harbin**

Devotional by Carol Copeland

INTERFAITH PANEL

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO AN INTERFAITH PANEL THURSDAY, JAN 11, 2024, 6:30 PM, AT ATHENS STATE IN THE FOUNDERS HALL CHAPEL.

THERE WILL BE THREE PANELISTS FROM THE CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, AND MUSLIM PERSUASIONS. THIS IS AN EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY HOSTED BY THE ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY'S RELIGION DEPARTMENT, AND THE CURTIS COLEMAN CENTER FOR RELIGION LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE FOR THE PUBLIC TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND OTHER CULTURES.

THE THEME IS NEIGHBORLINESS, GRATITUDE AND HOSPITALITY IN HOSTILE TIMES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARIA GARNER 256-233-6516.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING.

COME ONE COME ALL,

LET'S START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT WITH FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ATHENS HAS GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO HOST THE FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR. THE MEN'S ASSOCIATION IS A MISSION PARTNER WITH THE NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY.

THEREFORE, WE WANT TO TEAM UP WITH CHURCHES TO HELP THEM SERVE THE WORLD THROUGH MISSION. ONE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S MISSION PARTNERS IS LIMESTONE COUNTY CHURCHES INVOLVED (LCCI). CHAPLAIN THOM PORTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR LCCI, HAS AGREED TO COME SHARE WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND THE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE RSVP TO MY EMAIL: MBOWE@PRESBY.ORG

MEETING DETAILS:

LOCATION: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ATHENS

ROGER'S CENTER

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2024

TIME: 6 P.M.

SIDE NOTE: THIS MEETING WE NEED TO ELECT OR RE-ELECT OFFICERS.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

WORSHIP NOTES

CHRISTMAS IS OVER AFTER DECEMBER 25? NOT ON OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR. THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS RUNS FROM THE END OF ADVENT WITH CHRISTMAS EVE AND RUNS THROUGH EPIPHANY ON JAN 6. I LIKE THE IDEA OF TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS INTO 2024. THE SUNDAY OF DECEMBER 31 IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS AND THEN JANUARY 6 FALLS ON SATURDAY. JANUARY 7 IS BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY AND THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY WHICH BEGINS TO COUNT ORDINARY TIME. ORDINARY TIME IS A TIME TO STUDY, LEARN, AND CONTEMPLATE SCRIPTURE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPECIAL TIMES (MY WORKING DEFINITION). IT HAS A COZY FEEL WITH NO DECORATING OR SPECIAL FOOD BUT NO LESS A PART OF OUR DEDICATION TO THE LORD.

EMILY CLEM

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)

Pat Booth and Family on the loss of Doug Booth

Bonnie Chambers (Home)

Suzanne Weeks (Healing)

Stephen Toney (Home)

Ruth Martin (Healing)

Jac Catlett

Diane Lynn (Health)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel - Army

Adam Naves - Marines

Michael Ress - USAF -AZ

Deployed Jay Tulley- Middle East

Army Air Guard

Kevin O'Neill-Army Res.-Poland

Sean Miller - Army

Damien Williams - Army

Joshua Hargrove -

Justin Ruf-

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)

The Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church in

Florence on the loss of their Pastor Rev. John McKell

Cheryl Phelps (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)

January,

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	2 PW Circle Luncheon @ Emily Clem's 1:00 PM	5 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 COMMUNION 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP	8	9 Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	10 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	15
14 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10 AM WORSHIP	15 OFFICE CLOSED MLK DAY	16	17 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10 AM WORSHIP	22 Presbyterian Men's Association Winter Meeting Rodgers Center 6pm.	23	24 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10 AM WORSHIP	29	30	31 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio			

Happy Birthday

January 2024

7th- Karl Kling

9th - Mason Ruf

9th- Lori Young

12th- Ian Emerson

12th- Randi Harbin

17th - A.D. Barksdale

25th- Danielle Chouinard

27th - Dean Steele

27th- Jerry Witt

29th - Ellis Gossett

30th - Will Greene

31st - Lance Greene