

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Mary Crowell

Welcome and Announcements Elder Stanley Hand

\*Call to Worship Stanley Hand

God’s love brings us joy in all circumstances.  
**The Lord gives us strength to follow the Good Shepherd.**  
God’s peace is deeper than we can understand.  
**The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with the Lord’s love.**  
Let us worship God!

\*Hymn of Praise Morning Has Broken #664

\*Call to Confession Stanley Hand

God gives us wonderful teachings, but sometimes we fail to put them into practice. In God’s mercy and grace we find forgiveness. Let us confess our sins to God.

\*Prayer of Confession Unison

**Our loving God, this past week we missed opportunities to listen to you. We focused on our own comfort. Worries distracted us from the needs of others. Forgive our selfishness. Please help us to listen to the call of our Savior. We pray this in Jesus’ name.**

\* Kyrie Eleison Unison



\*Assurance of Pardon Elder Stacey Nelson

We have confessed our sin, and the Lord promises to give us fresh new beginnings. Hear and receive the Good News of the gospel, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\* The Gloria Patri Unison

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end; Amen.***

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**All: And also with you.** Stanley Hand

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Stanley Hand

Prayer for Illumination Stanley Hand

Loving God, help us to trust your Word and follow your Truth. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

First Reading John 10: 11-16 Stanley Hand  
p. 1,062

Anthem

Second Reading Psalm 23 Stacey Nelson  
p. 544

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “The Good Shepherd” Stacey Nelson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

\* Affirmation of Faith Stanley Hand

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Discipleship Be Thou My Vision #450

Prayers of The People Stacey Nelson

The Lord's Prayer Unison

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Worship God with Our Offering Stacey Nelson

Offertory Dr. Mary Crowell

\*Doxology

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication Stanley Hand

\*Prayer for the Pastor Nominating Committee Stanley Hand

**“Our Loving God, look graciously on this Church. Please guide the minds of the PNC as they search for our next Pastor. Lead the search committee to a Pastor who will be a faithful partner in ministry. And prepare our next Pastor to care for this congregation as we share Christ’s love with others. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.”**

\*Hymn of Sending What A Fellowship, What A Joy Divine #837

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Charge and Benediction Stacey Nelson

**Wherever we go, God has sent us; Wherever we are, God has put us there; God has a purpose in our being there; there is something that God wants to do through us. Wherever we are!**  
As God’s people we all say,  
**Alleluia, Amen!**

\* Postlude Dr. Mary Crowell

*\*Stand if you are able*

**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)	Diane Lynn (Health)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)	Deb Kohlhase (Health)

**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)  
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)  
Steven Smith (Healing cousin of Jan 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)  
Cheryl Phelps (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)  
Jessie Saunders (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)

**FOR OUR VISITORS:**

We welcome you to worship and would love to connect. Prayer Request/Visitor cards are located in the pews. Please place it with the offering or give it to the pastor following the service. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

**The Session**

<b><u>Class of 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2025</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2026</u></b>
Courtney Greene	Karan Baker	Cindy Witt
Don Payne	Gary Boyd	Stephen Ware
Jerry Witt	Stanley Hand	Tom Clem

**Trustees**

Larry Burlingame	John Noel	Price Boyd
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**PNC**

Hal Baker	Karla Barnes	Stanley Hand	Randi Harbin
Vicki Kellogg	John Noel (Chair)	Libby Shindorf	

**Staff**

**Transitional Pastor:**

Dr. Karl Kling  
karlklngdmin@gmail.com

**Office Administrator:**

Margaret Lotz  
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

**Treasurer:**

Julie McNeese

**Choir Director:**

Erica Hand

**Nursery:**

Alice Whitt

**Follow us Online**

Visit [www.fpcathens.org](http://www.fpcathens.org) for information, news, and digital worship. Sunday worship is live-streamed and archived on our YouTube page. Follow our Facebook page for news, updates on recent events, and upcoming opportunities. Join our Facebook group for community life. Sign up for our weekly email subscription at [fpcathens@fpcathens.org](mailto:fpcathens@fpcathens.org).

**Flowers**

The flowers are given to the glory of God.  
To sign up for flowers call the church office.



**Worship Leaders**

**Sermon**

Elder Stacey Nelson

**Liturgist**

Elder Stanley Hand  
Elijah Hand

**Musicians:**

Erica Hand  
Emily Clem  
Dr. Mary Crowell

**Church Nursery:**

March 3rd- Gale Cottles  
March 10th-Ruth Whitten

**Liturgist:**

March 3rd- Christy Arnett  
March 10th-Katherine Greene

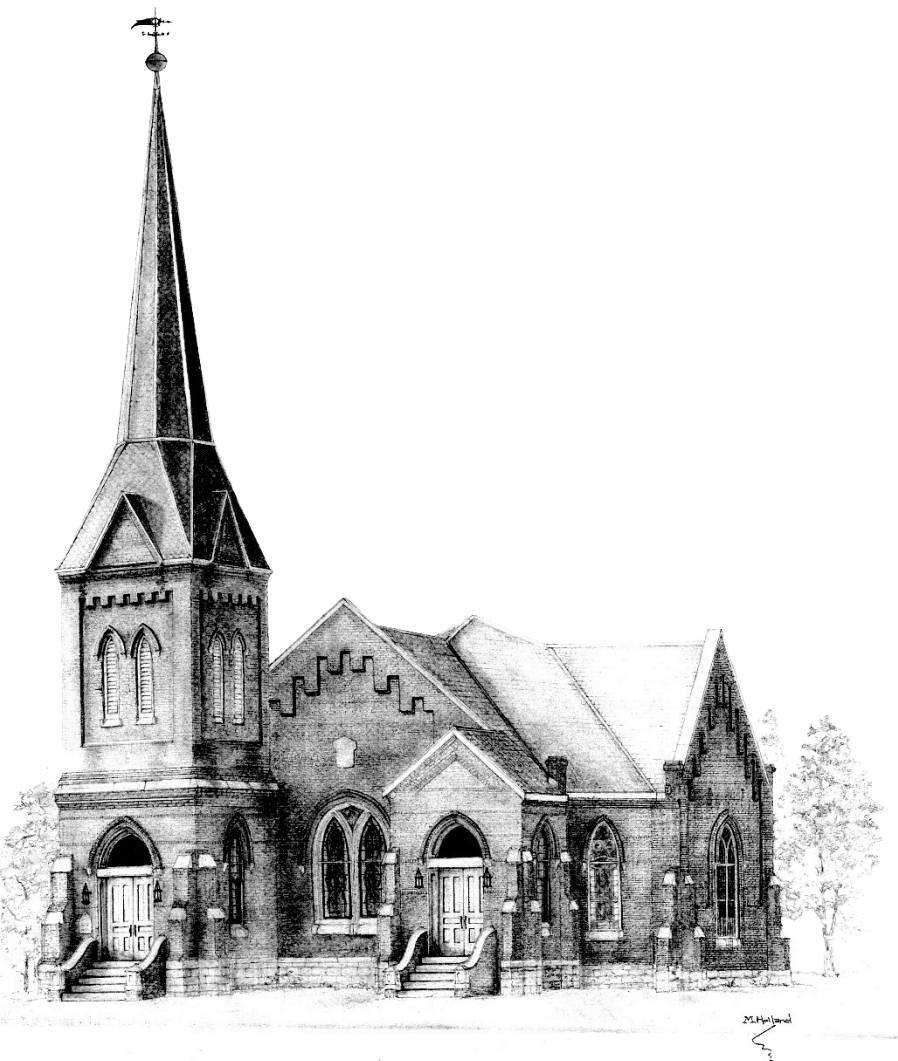
**Communion Prep:**

March 3rd-Tom Clem  
March 28th- Don Payne  
March 31st-Don Payne

***Prayer Family***

Cindy and Jerry Witt  
18181 Maples Circle  
Elkmont, AL. 35620  
Cindy is a member of the Session Class of 2026

February 25, 2024  
2nd Sunday in Lent



First Presbyterian Church  
112 South Jefferson Street  
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(256) 232-0122  
[www.fpcathens.org](http://www.fpcathens.org)

*We serve each other, the Athens community, and the world on the square in downtown Athens. Our church family is a community of believers who come seeking the grace and peace of God.*

*If you are looking for a place where you will be accepted, nurtured, and nourished in your journey of faith, or if you are still examining the claims of Christianity, then you are welcome at First Presbyterian Church.*