

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude *Dr. Mary Crowell, Dr. Jenny Maclay,
Amy McNally*

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Karl Kling

* Call to Worship Elder Suzanne Paysinger

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

We have seen his glory.

The Baby born in Bethlehem was full of grace and truth.

The Christ Child is our Savior.

Let us worship God!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: DeAnna and Tim McNeil

*Carol of Praise We Three Kings #151

*Prayer of Praise and Adoration Suzanne Paysinger

Our Loving God, thank you for giving us new beginnings during this season of Christmas. We praise you for your grace that leads us home to Bethlehem. When we fall, you lift us up. In our joys and sorrows, you are with us. We give you our adoration in Jesus's name. Amen

*Call to Confession

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he became like us in all things but without sin. Because of his grace, he promises to hear our confession and free us from sin. Let us confess our sin to God.

*Prayer of Confession Unison

Our Loving God, we confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful. May your angels sing again to us of peace. Sometimes we have cared about rules rather than about relationships. May your star once more set our course in your direction. Please forgive us through the grace of the Savior. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

*Assurance of Pardon Dr. Kling

Friends, through the coming of Jesus Christ, the Lord has redeemed us. In Christ we receive the salvation of the Living God. Hear and receive the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

PEOPLE: 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.

* Sharing the Peace of Christ Dr. Kling

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Dr. Kling

Prayer of Illumination Suzanne Paysinger

Gracious God, please guide us by your Word and Spirit. Once again, open our hearts to the Christ who was born to be our King. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

First Reading Psalm 72: 10-11 Suzanne Paysinger
p. 575

Anthem *Dr. Crowell, Dr. Maclay,
Amy McNally*

Second Reading Matthew 2:1-12 Dr. Kling
pgs. 956

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

Sermon *REEL STORIES OF CHRISTMAS
3: "A Heart for Christmas"* Dr. Kling

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*Carol of Celebration Away In a Manger #115

* Affirmation of Faith Unison

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.

Prayers of The People Dr. Kling

*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

Offertory *Dr. Crowell, Dr. Maclay,
Amy McNally*

*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 Dr. Kling

*Carol of Sending Joy to the World! #134

*Charge

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!

*Benediction

As God's people we all say,
Alleluia, Amen!

* Postlude *Dr. Crowell, Dr. Maclay,
Amy McNally*

**Stand if you are able*

PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health) Duane Counter (Health & Healing)
Larry and Cynthia Ugarte` (Healing) Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Doris Welch (Home) Jac Catlett
Dean Steele Diane Lynn (Health)
Susie Fogg (Home) Gale Cottles (Healing)
Sharon Massey Christy Arnett (Healing)
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health) Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bob Defour (Doyle & Suzanne Weeks son-in-law)
Brent Harris (Friend of Chris Hilgeman)
Larry Harris, (Healing, friend of Chris Hilgeman
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)
Gerry Smith(loss of Spouse 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)
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)
Silvana Smith (Loss of Spouse cousins of Jan Ruth)
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)
John Cotten (Healing, Potter's Hand)
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)
Phyllis Ramshur (Health, mother- in - law of Sean Harbin)
Mike Frehner (Support, friend of David Lyle)
Dawn (Healing, mother of Brittney Hicks)
Cindy Newman (Healing, cousin of Chris Hilgeman)
Jesse Saunders (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)
Rick Monroe (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)
Candee & Blair Berger (Loss of a spouse & father damage from
the hurricanes, friend of Jan Ruth)
Martha Taylor(Healing, mother of John Cagle)
Shane Cramer (Healing, neighbor of Jan Ruth)

FOR OUR VISITORS:

We welcome you to worship and would love to connect with you personally. 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 worshiping with us today!

The Session

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Courtney Greene	Karan Baker	Cindy Witt
Don Payne	Gary Boyd	Stephen Ware
Jerry Witt	Stanley Hand	Tom Clem
<u>Trustees</u>		
Larry Burlingame	John Noel	Price Boyd
<u>PNC</u>		
Hal Baker	Karla Barnes	Stanley Hand
Vicki Kellogg	John Noel (Chair)	Libby Shindorf

Staff

Transitional Pastor:

Dr. Karl Kling
karlklngdmin@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Margaret Lotz
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

Treasurers:

Julie McNeese

Choir Director:

Erica Hand

Nursery:

Alice Whitt

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Visit 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.

Prayers of Thanks for:

Erica Hand, Emily Clem, Dr. Mary Crowell, Dr. Jenny Maclay, Amy McNally, the Choir and Bell Choir for all of their music ministry throughout the year.

Today's Services:

Sermon

Dr. Karl Kling

Liturgist

Elder Suzanne Paysinger

Musicians:

Erica Hand
Emily Clem
Dr. Mary Crowell
Dr. Jenny Maclay
Amy McNally

Randi Harbin

Volunteers:

Church Nursery:

December 22nd- Jennifer Quillen
December 29th- Libby Shindorf

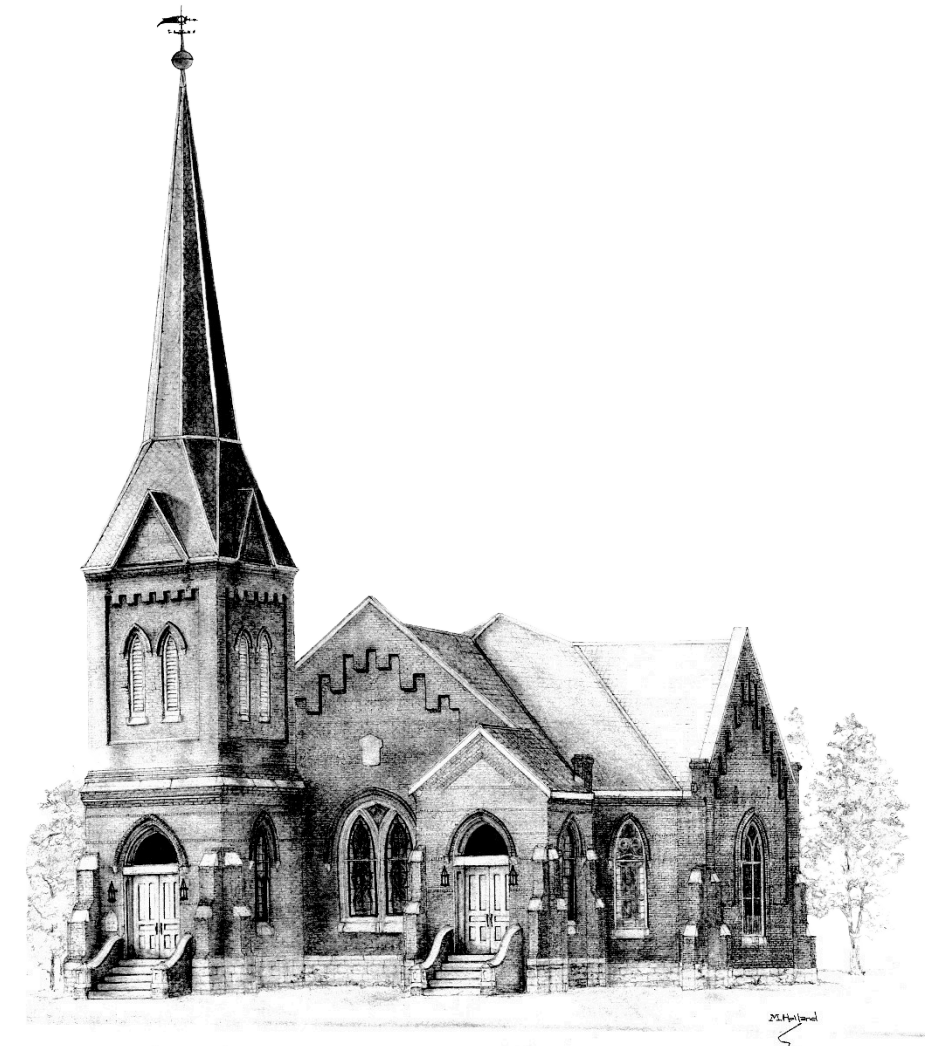
Liturgist:

December 24th- Jerry Witt
December 29th-Christy Arnett

Communion Prep:

January 12th- Karan Baker

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent



First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street
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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.