

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Mary Crowell
Welcome and Announcements Dr. Karl Kling
Introit Ode to Joy FPC Bells

* Call to Worship Elder Stephen Ware
(adapted from Isaiah 40:1-5)

We praise God for leading us to worship the child born in Bethlehem.

The Lord's love frees us to follow his directions.

God's grace helps our crooked places become straight.

The glory of the Lord calls us to praise the Living God.

Let us worship God!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:- Katherine & Brad Ellis and Freddie Greene

*Christmas Carol of Praise It Came Upon a Midnight Clear # 123

*Prayer of Praise and Adoration Unison

Our Gracious God, thank you for giving us a a fresh start during this Christmas Season. We praise you for the hope that lights our way. When we fall, you lift us up. In our joys and sorrows, you walk with us. We worship and adore you in Jesus's name. Amen

*Call to Confession Stephen Ware

The God of mercy is the One who calls us to trust in Christ's compassion. The Lord promises forgiveness. Let us humbly confess our sin to God.

*Prayer of Confession Unison

Our Loving God, we confess our need for forgiveness. Too often we are satisfied with our own comfort. We resist changes you want to bring into our lives. We focus on the faults of others. Soften our hearts and give us the gift of repentance. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

*Assurance of Pardon Dr. Kling

The One who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion. Receive God's gift of joy and peace. 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 Stephen Ware

God of truth, as we hear words of scripture, we wait for your Spirit to guide our path. Help us to follow our Savior as He leads the way. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading Genesis 12: 1-3 Stephen Ware
p. 11

Anthem Away in a Manger FPC Bells

Second Reading Matthew 1: 18-25 Dr. Kling
pgs. 955-56

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

Sermon REEL STORIES OF CHRISTMAS Dr. Kling
2: "A Family Christmas"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*Christmas Carol of Discipleship #136
Go Tell It On the Mountain

* 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 Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella FPC Bells
*Doxology FPC Bells

**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

*Christmas Carol of Sending Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #119

*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!

*Response Joy To The World FPC Bells

* Postlude Dr. Mary Crowell

**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) Stephen Toney (Home)
Dean Steele Jac Catlett
Susie Fogg (Home) Diane Lynn (Health)
Sharon Massey Gale Cottles (Healing)
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health) Christy Arnett (Healing)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing) Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown

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
karlklindmin@gmail.com December 15th- Suzanne Paysinger
December 22nd- Jennifer Quillen

Office Administrator:

Margaret Lotz
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

Treasurers:

Julie McNeese

Choir Director:

Erica Hand

Nursery:

Alice Whitt

Follow us Online

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.

Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

To sign up for flowers call the church office.



Today's Services:

Sermon

Dr. Karl Kling

Liturgist

Elder Stephen Ware

Musicians:

Erica Hand
Emily Clem
Dr. Mary Crowell

Volunteers:

Church Nursery:

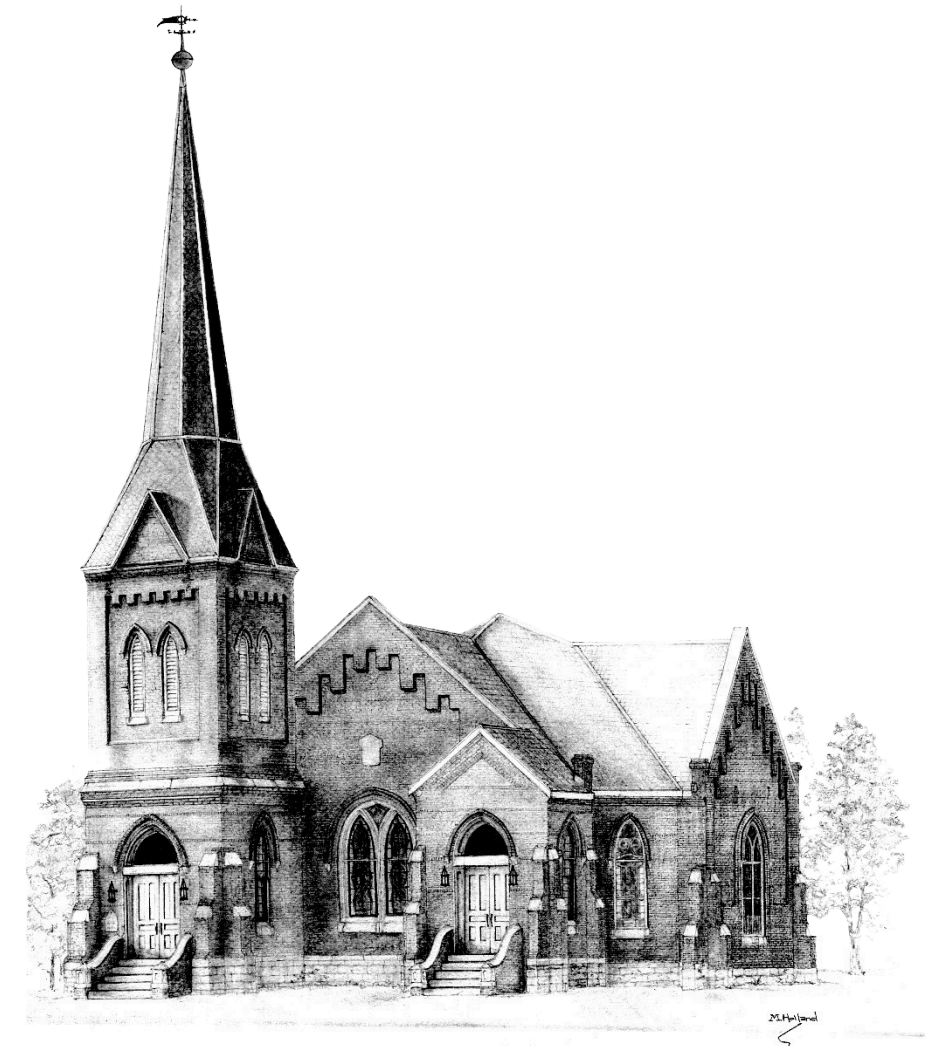
Liturgist:

December 15th- Cantata
December 22nd- Suzanne Paysinger

Communion Prep:

January 12th- Karan Baker

December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent



First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

(256) 232-0122
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.

Prayer Family

Thank you to Courtney Greene, Don Payne and Jerry Witt for their service on Session.