

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Elder Jerry Witt

* Call to Worship Jerry Witt

Gracious God, we praise you for the gift of new life each day.

We open our hearts wide to receive your grace.

Give us courage to share your forgiveness.

Lead us to walk in newness of life.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn of Praise Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing #475

*Call to Confession Jerry Witt

As we confess our sins, God promises to forgive us and

cleans us. Let us pray for God to renew our hearts.

* Prayer of Confession Unison

Our Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as we should; we have strayed from your guidance. Please forgive our sins. In a fresh way, help us to hear your call to serve. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

Three staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy! You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy! You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" Chords are indicated below the notes: Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em for the first line; Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E for the second line.

*Assurance of Pardon Jerry Witt

Friends, through faith in Christ, you are a new creation. Live out the joy of your salvation. 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.

* Sharing the Peace of Christ Jerry Witt

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 Stanley Hand

Prayer of Illumination Jerry Witt

Dear Lord, help us to remember your word in our hearts so that we will not sin against you. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen

First Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Jerry Witt
p. 1,145

Anthem Meditation on "Wonderous Love" Emily Clem and Dr. Mary Crowell (Duet)

Second Reading Luke 15: 1-7-3 11b-32 Rev. Dr. Judy Rich
p. 1,035-36

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

Sermon "Sibling Rivalry" Dr. Rich

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn of Discipleship Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling #418

* Affirmation of Faith Unison

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 Jerry Witt

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

*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 Jerry Witt

*Hymn of Sending God of Grace and God of Glory #307

*Charge Unison
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 Dr. Rich
As God's people we all say,
Alleluia, Amen!

*Postlude

THE REV. DR. JUDY MITCHELL RICH is an ordained Presbyterian USA minister member of the Presbytery of North Alabama. She served churches in Michigan, Kansas, and Ohio and now in her retirement lives in the country north of Athens. Judy is a frequent guest pastor in the churches of North Alabama. She also has written five novels which focus on mysterious intrigue, insidious evil, and the blessings of church community. In addition, they reveal some of the complexities in the life a pastor. Her latest book is Like Stones.

PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health) Duane Counter (Health & Healing)
Doris Welch (Home) Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
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
Betty Fae Spencer (Recovery) Chuck Kellogg (Healing)
Don Payne (Healing)

Cagle Family as they welcome a new baby and prayers for those caring for Miles
Prayers of sympathy for Stephen Ware and family at the passing of Stephens' mother
Prayers of sympathy for the Gossett-King family at the passing of Johnny King

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)
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)
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)
Cindy Newman (Healing, cousin of Chris Hilgeman)
Jesse Saunders (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)
Martha Taylor(Healing, mother of John Cagle)
Wendy Jordan (Recovery, friend of Matt Copeland)
Maryann McKee (Healing, friend of Carol Copeland)
Shannon Underwood (Healing, daughter of Barbara Welborn)
Cadence Brooks (Healing, student of Cindy Witt)

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 worshipping with us today!

The Session

Class of 2025

Karan Baker
Gary Boyd
Stanley Hand

Class of 2026

Cindy Witt
Stephen Ware
Tom Clem

Class of 2027

DeAnna McNeil
Chris Shindorf
David Lyle

Trustee

John Noel

Price Boyd

David Whitten

PNC

Hal Baker
Vicki Kellogg

Karla Barnes
John Noel (Chair)

Stanley Hand
Libby Shindorf

Today's Services:

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Judy Rich

Liturgist

Elder Jerry Witt

Musicians:

Erica Hand
Emily Clem
Dr. Mary Crowell

Volunteers:

Church Nursery:

April 6th- Cortney Greene
April 13th- Ruth Whitten

Liturgist:

April 6th- Suzanne Paysinger

Communion Prep:

April 6th- Stephen Ware

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

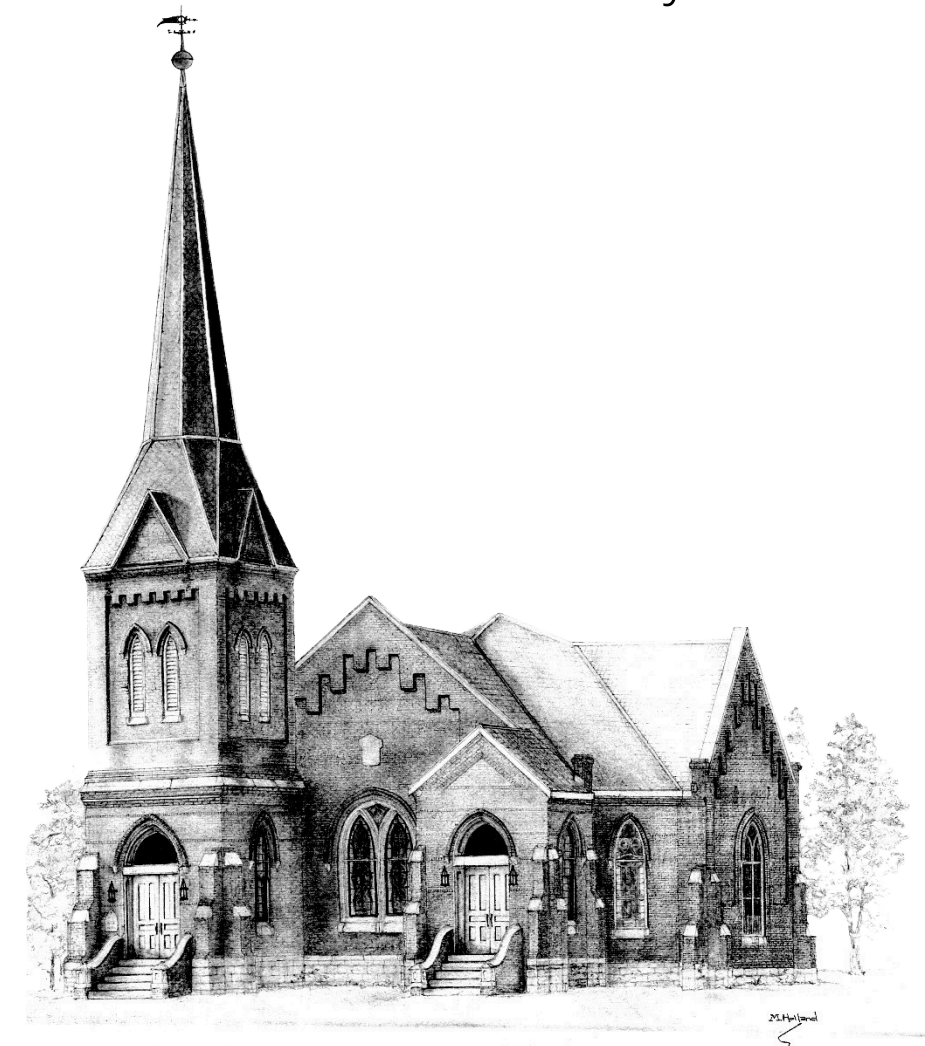
The flowers are given to the glory of God.

To sign up for flowers call the church office.



Prayers for Don and Diane Payne for healing of Don surgery and the Cagle Family for healing for baby Miles

March 30th, 2025
4th Sunday in Lent



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.