

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Mary Crowell

Welcome and Announcements Elder Sharon Hand

\* Call to Worship Elijah Hand

From our youth, O Lord, You have been our refuge and strength.

**Our mouths are filled with your praise, declaring your glory all day long.**

Jesus saw the woman who was bent low and set her free.

**He sees us too, lifting our burdens and making us stand tall in His grace.**

Come, let us worship the God who heals, restores, and redeems.

**We will praise the Lord continually and proclaim His righteousness forever!**

\*Hymn of Gathering The Lord is God #63

\*Call to Confession Sharon Hand

God has been our refuge and strength from our earliest days, yet we confess that we do not always place our trust in him. Like the woman in the synagogue, we are often bent low by the weight of our sin, our fears, and our pride. Too often we cling to what is familiar instead of receiving Christ's freedom. As we turn now to confession, let us lay down our burdens before the one who heals, restores, and sets us free.

\* Prayer of Confession Unison

**Merciful God, we confess that we carry our burdens instead of trusting your grace. Too often we value rules over compassion and miss Your work among us. Forgive us, lift us up, and set us free through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* Kyrie Eleison Unison

\*Assurance of Pardon Sharon Hand

Friends, hear the good news:

In Christ, our sins are forgiven and our burdens lifted.

We are restored by God's grace, freed to walk in newness of life.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\* 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

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 Sharon Hand

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, as we turn to Your Word, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Spirit. Shine Your light upon the scriptures, that we may hear Your voice, understand your truth, and be shaped by your love. Through Jesus Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

First Reading Psalms 71: 1-5 Elijah Hand

Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" By Rosamond Johnson

Second Reading Luke 13: 10-17 Elijah Hand

Response Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Why Here? Why Now?" Tom Hand

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

\* 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.**

\*Hymn of Praise My Hope is Built on Nothing Less #353

Prayers of The People Sharon Hand

\*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 Gabriel's Oboe 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 Sharon Hand

\*Hymn of Praise Go My Children, With My Blessing #547

\*Charge and Benediction Tom Hand

\*Hymn of Sending Rain Down (2x) #48

\* Postlude Dr. Mary Crowell

*\* Stand if you are able*

## 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)    Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown  
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)    Betty Fae Spencer (Healing)  
Price Boyd (Healing)    Johnathon Cagle (Healing)  
Carol Quillen (Healing)    Bonnie Noel (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

Larry Harris ( Healing, friend of Chris Hilgeman)  
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)  
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)  
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)  
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)  
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)  
Mike Frehner (Support, friend of David Lyle)  
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)  
Kim Fears (Healing, friend of Jim May and Jan Ruth)  
Karryl Anderson ( Healing, Mexico mission supporter)  
Donnie May (Healing & Grief, cousin of Jim May)  
Trish Cloninger (Brain Healing, family of Jan Ruth)  
Gerry Smith ( Healing for knees, cousin of Jan Ruth)  
Paula Weaver ( Surgery/ Healing, cousin of Jan Ruth)  
William Kennedy (Healing, cousin to David Lyle)  
Tim Swymer (Healing, Lauren Cagle's uncle)  
Kristie Whitt (Healing, daughter of Alice Whitt)  
Charlotte Pickett (visitor to the church)

## 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

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Karan Baker	Cindy Witt	DeAnna McNeil
Gary Boyd	Stephen Ware	Chris Shindorf
Stanley Hand	Tom Clem	David Lyle

#### Trustee

John Noel    Price Boyd    David Whitten

#### PNC

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

### Staff

#### **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.



## Today's Services:

### Sermon

Elder Tom Hand

### Liturgist

Elder Sharon Hand

### Musicians:

Erica Hand  
Emily Clem  
Dr. Mary Crowell

### Volunteers:

#### Church Nursery:

August 31st- Kat Greene  
September 7<sup>th</sup> -Courtney Greene

#### Liturgist:

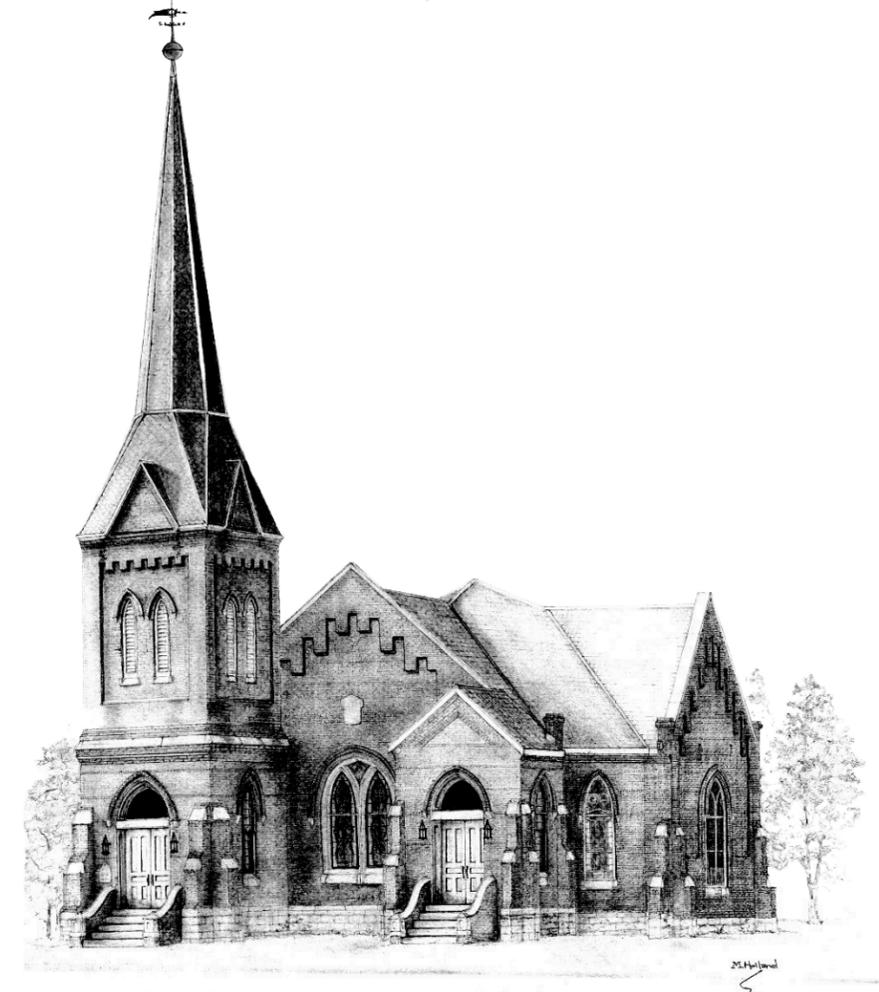
August 31st- Stanley Hand

#### Communion Prep:

September 7<sup>th</sup>- Gary Boyd

August 24, 2025

11th Sunday after Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church  
112 South Jefferson Street  
Athens, Alabama 35611

(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.*