

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Mary Crowell

Welcome and Announcements Elder Carol Copeland

*Call to Worship Carol Copeland

Come, beloved of God—Christ calls us to follow.

We come, even when the way is hard.

Discipleship has a cost, but leads to life.

We come, ready to carry the cross.

God's love is greater than every burden.

With joy and trust, we worship the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise Spirit Open My Heart #692

*Call to Confession Carol Copeland

Jesus tells us that following him requires more than comfort and more than words. It asks us to lay down what holds us back, to carry the cross, and to put God first in all things. Knowing we have not always lived as faithful disciples, let us come with honesty and humility to confess our sins before God.

*Prayer of Confession Unison

Merciful God, you call us to follow Jesus fully, yet we hold back. We cling to comfort and our own ways instead of carrying the cross. Forgive us. Strengthen our faith, free us from what does not give life, and lead us to follow Christ with joy. Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

*Assurance of Pardon Carol Copeland

Hear the good news: Though we struggle to follow, Christ does not turn us away. In him, we are forgiven, renewed, and strengthened for the journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we 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

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 Carol Copeland

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, your Word calls us to deep faith and true discipleship. By Your Spirit, open our hearts and minds so that we may hear Your voice, count the cost, and follow Christ with courage and joy. Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 18:1-11 Carol Copeland

p. 768

Anthem Christ Hath a Garden by. Gerald Near

Second Reading Luke 14: 25-33 Rev. Dr. Susan Parker

pgs. 1,034-35

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Do You Have Affluenza?" Dr. Parker

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 Preparation Baptized in Water #482

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table Dr. Parker

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly choir in lifting up our thanks and prayers...

(Rev. Phelps continues with the Communion Prayer)

Prayers of The People Carol Copeland

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.

The Words of Institution Dr. Parker

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please hold each element until all have been served.

Prayer After Communion Dr. Parker

Invitation to Worship God with Our Offering

Offertory Dr. 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.**

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

*Charge and Benediction Dr. Parker

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

* Postlude Dr. 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)
Gene Quillen (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. 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 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 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.



Worship Leaders

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Susan Parker

Liturgist

Elder Carol Copeland

Musicians:

Erica Hand
Emily Clem
Dr. Mary Crowell

Church Nursery:

September 14th-Ruth Whitten
September 21st- Suzanne Paysinger

Liturgist:

September 14th - Stanley Hand

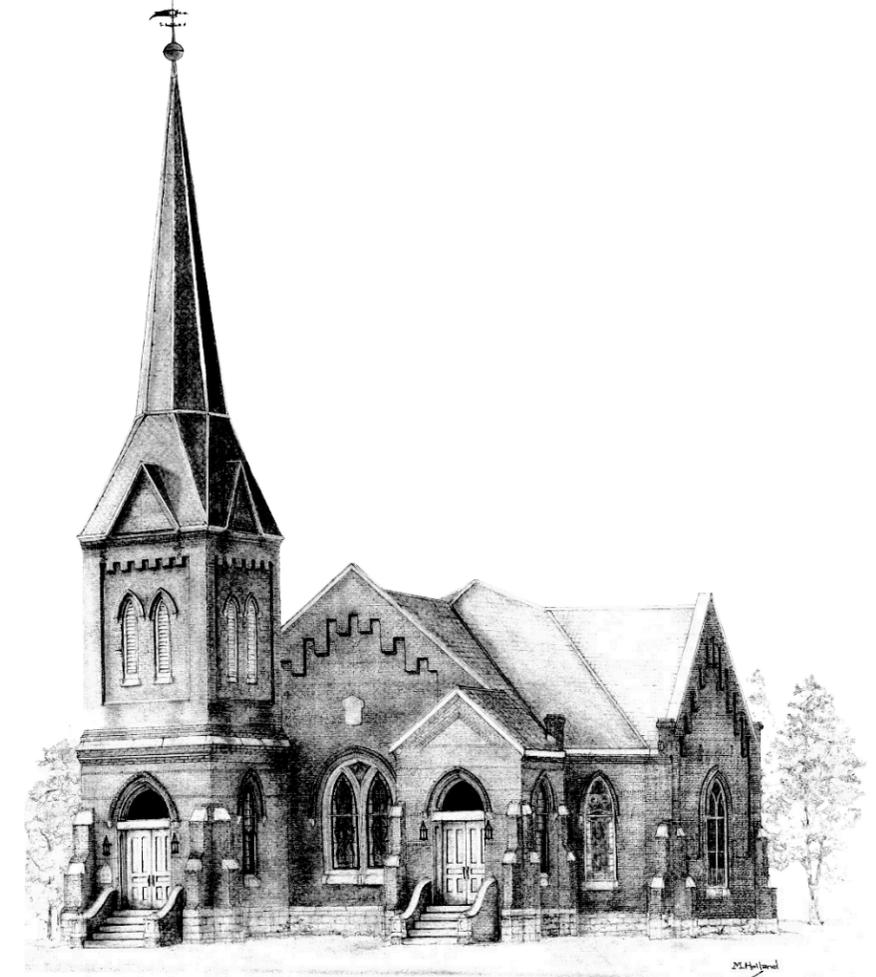
Communion Prep:

October 5th- Chris Shindorf

Prayer Family

Carol and Gene Quillen
16535 ZehnerRd.
Athens, Al.
35611

September 7, 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street
Athens, Alabama 35611
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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.