



December 2025 Grapevine

Advent and Christmas! What a fun time of year to begin our relationship. I'm excited to learn about the traditions of the Church on the Square and celebrate Christmas together. Sonja and I are so thankful for the warm welcome we received. We're excited to celebrate Christmas with our new family.

Advent culturally is usually filled with lots of preparations for the holidays and gatherings. I love the parties, special musical events, traveling to family and cooking. But if we let it, followers of Jesus might miss what Jesus has for us during this season.

As a congregation, we are going to use the devotional "A Time for Wonder" during the season of Advent. My hope and prayer is that we experience the wonder of Jesus during this season. We live in time when it's becoming increasingly difficult to recognize awe, beauty, and delight. My prayer is that this devotional is a blessing to you and our church.

By the way, I like to use congregation wide studies occasionally during the year. They give us ways to deepen our spiritual conversations and give us a shared focus. You'll find the themes in the devotional or study become part of our worship together on Sunday. It's a way to more deeply engage. I believe it helps with the transforming work of God in our lives and in our life together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



- All submissions for Grapevine and the monthly calendar should be sent by email (fpcathens@fpcathens.org) or by phone (256-232-0122) by the 20th of the month.
- Directories are now available in the church office!
- Office hours are Monday - Thursday from 9am - 1pm.



As a congregation, we are going to use the devotional “A Time for Wonder” during the season of Advent. The booklets will be distributed at the November 23rd worship service by the ushers. If you did not receive one and would like one please contact Margaret Lotz in the church office.





All Women of the Church

*are invited to join the
Presbyterian Women for their
Christmas Luncheon
at the home of
Emily Clem
3902 Ridgedale Street
on December 2nd
at Noon.*

Attention FPC Children and Youth: Join us for SHINE

Shine will meet on December 19th at 5:30 p.m.
This month will be continuing our discussion of Sabbath practices and the focus will be on storytelling. We gather at 5:30 p.m. for a song and time of study followed by a snack and free time together!

Please contact DeAnna McNeill for additional information at deannahmcneill@gmail.com or 256-497-5020.

Dear Mission Partner,

As we celebrate 31 years of ministry along the Mexico border, we give thanks for how God continues to work through Faith Ministry to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ — meeting both physical and spiritual needs, one life at a time. Through your prayers and generosity, families have been empowered to flourish with dignity and hope. With God working through us, we've built homes and community, nurtured health, fostered education, and cultivated spiritual growth.

This Saturday, November 15, we launch One Story, One Prayer, One Day at a Time — a 31-day journey of reflection, prayer, and generosity. In the coming days, we invite you to:

- Reflect on the stories God is writing through Faith Ministry — and through your own life.
- Pray daily for Faith Ministry using the shared prayer of gratitude (below).
- Give a one-time or recurring gift to support God's work on the border.

Thank you for walking with us on this journey. Let's continue to make a difference, one day at a time.

With a grateful heart,

David Rodriguez, Executive Director



One Prayer, One Day at a Time:

God of all Creation, thank You for breathing life into us and calling us to love. We are grateful for Your work through Faith Ministry — building homes, nurturing health, and fostering growth along the border. Through these loving acts, Your compassion and grace shine.

Empower us to serve with mercy and be guided by Your Spirit, so all Your children may flourish with dignity and hope. May our efforts reflect the love of Jesus Christ, and may Your presence be known in every home, every community, and every soul.

Transform lives through us — one story, one prayer, one day at a time. Transform our lives through the people we encounter along the way. Use us today, O God, as instruments of Your healing, justice, peace, and love.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

FPC Athens Christmas Missions

The Mission committee again requests your generous support of our usual two special Christmas Ministries: Faith Ministry (FM) Christmas Fiestas and the Athens Limestone County Family Resource Center (FRC) Christmas Families.

First, our Mexico mission partner, Faith Ministry (FM) is asking for support of their Christmas Fiestas by sending new toys or soccer balls directly to FM at their McAllen office (to arrive by November 28) or by providing donations by check to the church marked for FM Christmas Fiestas. More information below, from Mission committee members, or online at faithministry.org/Christmas.

Christmas Fiestas in Mexico (information from FM)

As is Faith Ministry tradition, we will be hosting Christmas fiestas this December. They are a time for us to gather with our brothers and sisters, eat tons of tamales, sing carols, give toys to the kids, distribute meal packages to the families, pray, and most importantly, remember what the Christmas season is really about. It's a joyful time of community and fellowship, and it is made possible by people like you!

We will have a fiesta for all of the families that we've built homes for this year with songs, prayer, grocery packages, toys, and a good meal; fiestas for our children at our different nutrition programs; and a fiesta for our staff. In addition to these fiestas, we will also deliver grocery packages door-to-door. In total, we hope to be able to bless more than 1,000 people through our fiestas this year.

FRC Christmas Families

Also, we are asking for your continued support of the Family Resource Center (FRC) Christmas Families, a ministry that we developed with them over ten years ago. The FRC identifies families from among their clients that need assistance for Christmas who are not being served by the traditional Christmas charities. As an indicator of the FRC success in its mission, there are seldom repeat families on the Christmas list.

The Christmas Family information and adoption lists will be in the Rogers Center on Sunday, November 30th, with everything needed to be wrapped and back to the church by Sunday, December 14th.

As usual, we will supply a Christmas meal by providing each family with a Hometown Grocery gift certificate. With the increase in food costs, we expect to need \$1500 to \$1800 this year. We depend on your donations to do that.

The Mission Committee, thanks you for your generous outpouring over the past years; and for what you will do this year.





WELCOME REV. JIM AND SONJA TRUESDELL





PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

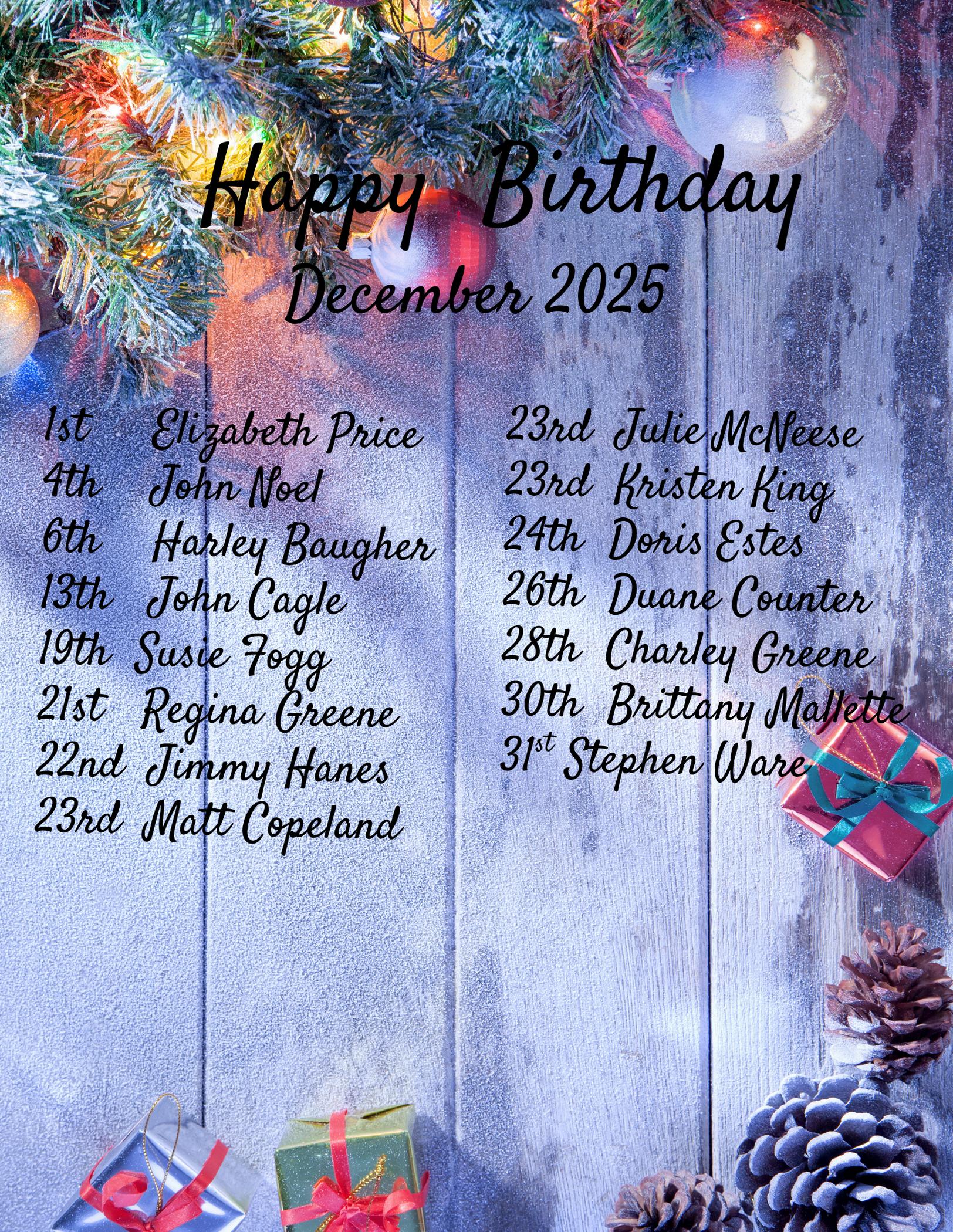
Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health)	Duane Counter (Health & Healing)
Doris Welch (Home)	Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Dean Steele	Jac Catlett
Susie Fogg (Home)	Diane Lynn (Health)
Sharon Massey	Gale Cottles (Healing)
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health)	Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)	Betty Fae Spencer (Healing)
Carol Quillen (Healing)	Johnathon Cagle (Healing)
Gene Quillen (Healing)	Bonnie Noel (Healing)
Stephen Ware (Healing)	Charlotte Lyle (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)
Silvey Family (Healing, daughter 3 years old)
Maryann McKee (Healing, friend of Carol Copeland)
Shannon Underwood (Healing, daughter of Barbara Welborn)
Cadence Brooks (Healing, student of Cindy Witt)
Jessica (Healing, neighbor of Jan Ruth)
Karryl Anderson (Healing, Mexico mission supporter)
Gerry Smith (Healing for knees, cousin of Jan Ruth)
Tim Swymer (Healing, Lauren Cagle's uncle)
Kristie Whitt (Healing, daughter of Alice Whitt)
Charlotte Pickett (visitor to the church)



Happy Birthday

December 2025

1st Elizabeth Price
4th John Noel
6th Harley Baugher
13th John Cagle
19th Susie Fogg
21st Regina Greene
22nd Jimmy Hanes
23rd Matt Copeland

23rd Julie McNeese
23rd Kristen King
24th Doris Estes
26th Duane Counter
28th Charley Greene
30th Brittany Mallette
31st Stephen Ware

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Playin' & Prayin' Revival 5pm	2	3 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	8 Playin' & Prayin' Revival 5pm	9 PW Circle in Rodgers Center 1pm	10 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13
14 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	15 Playin' & Prayin' Revival 5pm	16 Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	17 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	29 Playin' & Prayin' Revival 5pm	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED			