



JANUARY 2026 Grapevine

Exciting things are coming in January 2026, but first some "thank you's".

Advent and Christmas was a beautiful and grace filled way to begin shared ministry together! I'm thrilled by your genuine love for one another and your love for people who join us for work and worship. We are "welcoming angels unaware". In 2026, let all who present themselves be welcomed as Christ.

Your generosity is born of the Spirit. Thank you. Every single name from our Family Resource Center Christmas list received gifts from people in the church. This allowed the mission committee to use cash gifts to help a couple extra families with some practical needs. Love makes our generosity special, thank you.

The quiet faithfulness of this congregation does not go unseen or unappreciated. Decorations were put up. Hours of work and planning for our Christmas music and children's program. People who are homebound received visits. Visitors and the sick got cards and calls. An absent minded preacher locked himself out of the building and got rescued. A heater got fixed. Meals shared. Visitors hosted, welcomed and included. Hot chocolate on the square. Bells for the community. Friends invited to worship. Our Savior and King of the world came silently in to the world. Our quiet acts draw us closer to his heart of love.

2026! Happy New Year. On January 25, Sunday, at 10am elders and the new pastor (that's me) will be installed to their ministry in Christ's Church. Theologically, it's fitting to celebrate the start of shared ministry in the same installation service. Yes, the presbytery will have representatives present and I will have special guests in town. It is a special day for me. BUT not only me. Many gifts one ministry. Many lamps one light.

Pretty quickly in 2026 we'll start working on Lent and Holy Week preparations and of course, Empty Bowls. Pray that Jesus continues to draw us closer to him and his way as we go about this work.

Finally, we'll start a sermon series on Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers." January 4 - Devoted Community; January 11 - Devoted to the Apostle's Teaching; January 18 - Devoted to Koinonia; January 25 - Ordination and Installation Service; February 1 - Devoted to Breaking Bread; February 8 - Devoted to Prayers; February 15 - How God works in Devoted Communities.

Please continue to pray for the Church on the Square. That the Holy Spirit would guide us and that we would serve with humility and great love. Pray that we would grow as followers of Jesus and that our church would be characterized by the marks of the church in Acts 2: 42.

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.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Mark you Calendar

January 6th @ 1:00pm

In Rodgers Center

Happy PM Circle

All Women are invited.

Hostess: Diane Payne

Program Lesson 4

Devotional: Carol Copeland

Attention FPC Children and Youth:

Join us for SHINE

Shine will meet on January 28th at 5:30 p.m.

Shine this month will be focused on

HOSPILITY.

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.

Alice Whitt, our nursery attendant, is retiring after over 30 years of faithful loving service to First Presbyterian our children and families.

There will be a reception on Sunday January 4 at 9:30am in the Rogers Center. The Session will formally thank Alice for her service. We encourage families and children to come also so that Alice can say "good-bye" and so we can express our heartfelt love. A fitting send off for a special person.

The Personel Committee is contracting with Eloise Schouinard, granddaughter of Don and Diane Payne, to be our temporary nursery attendant in January and February. Stop by and welcome her. Contact Tom Hand if you have suggestion for a full-time nursery attendant.

I also want to thank those that regularly help care for children on Sunday morning, specially Suzanne Paysinger. This is an important ministry to children and families.

Presbyterian Men's Association Winter Meeting.

Come one come all,

Let's start the year off right with food and fellowship. First Presbyterian Athens has graciously agreed to host the first meeting of the year. The Men's Association is a mission partner with the North Alabama Presbytery.

Therefore, we want to team up with churches to help them serve the world through mission. Doug Marshall of Presbyterian Home For Children will be our guest speaker. Please RSVP to my email: mbowe@presby.org

Meeting Details:

**Location: First Presbyterian Church Athens
Rodgers Center**

Date: January 26, 2026

Time: 6 p.m.

**Side Note: This meeting we need to elect or re-elect officers.
Hope to see you there!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health)
Doris Welch (Home)
Dean Steele
Susie Fogg (Home)
Sharon Massey
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)

Duane Counter (Health & Healing)
Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Jac Catlett
Diane Lynn (Health)
Gale Cottles (Healing)
Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown
Charlotte Lyle (Healing)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel - Army
Adam Naves - Marines
Kevin O'Neill-Army Nat. Guard
Jay Tulley- Middle East

Sean Miller - Army
Damien Williams - Army
Joshua Hargrove - Deployed
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)
Ronnie Cottles (Healing, father (in-law) of Michael& Gail Cottles)

Happy Birthday

January 2026

9th - Mason Ruf

12th- Ian Emerson

12th- Randi Harbin

17th - A.D. Barksdale

23rd- Lauren Cagle

25th- Danielle Chouinard

27th - Dean Steele

27th- Jerry Witt

30th - Will Greene

30th - Emma Truesdell

31st - Lance Greene



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Communion 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship Reception for Alice Whitt	5	6 PW Circle in Rodgers Center 1pm	7 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30	8	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	12	13 Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	14 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	15 Annual Reports Due to the office via email	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	19 OFFICE CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY	20	21 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship Installation of Teaching Elder and Ruler Elder	26 Presbyterian Men Meeting Rodgers Center 6pm	27	28 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 SHINE FPC Children K-6th Revival 5:30-6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED