



# First Presbyterian Church on the Square

## FEBRUARY 2026 Grapevine

One measure of church health and vitality is service to the poor. February is important in the life of our church and our engagement with the poor. When Jesus said, "In as much as you've done it to the least of these, you've done it unto me." Our service is not simply practical. It's a demonstration of our faith and reflects our attachment to Jesus.

Sunday, February 8th is Super Bowl Sunday. Following worship, we have a congregational meeting where we present the ministry that took place in 2025. After that brief congregational meeting, we serve a soup and sandwich lunch and then pack food baskets for the full tummy program. The full tummy program provides food for hungry children that is distributed by churches. This is a wonderful activity for people of all ages. It's very important to have our children present to see our shared work together.

I recently had gumbo at a great restaurant in New Orleans. The meal was incredible and the gumbo was good. Mine is better. As one old boy from Mississippi told me, "It ain't bragging if it's true." SO, after we pack boxes, some men of the church are going to prepare gumbo for the shower up ministry lunch. The Shower Up day is February 10th .

I love that Shower Up is on the same night of the week as the Session meeting. As leaders of the church, we do our work with deep awareness that we are to make a difference for the kingdom of God by caring for the real needs of people in our church and community.

Empty Bowls is on Friday, February 27th. All participants at the Potters Hand have been working hard to make over 300 handmade bowls to give away at our Empty Bowls event. Each bowl received along with your hot soup reminds us all that someone else's bowl might be empty. This yearly fundraiser benefits many ministries supported by First Presbyterian: Community Table (food pantry), Full Tummy (take home meals for children in Athens/Limestone schools) Hearts for the Homeless & Beyond Blessed (both working with homeless populations).

Lots of churches have check writing ministries and give to the poor. Thank you, Jesus. But I'm so grateful that we give and get close! Yes! We know money is needed for these ministries. However, when we actively enter into a relationship with the people we are serving, we see the face Jesus.

# 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

February 3rd @ 1:00pm

In Rodgers Center

Happy PM Circle

All Women are invited.

Hostess: Vicki Kellogg

Program Lesson 4

Devotional: Emily Clem

**Attention FPC Children and Youth:**

**Join us for SHINE**

**Shine will meet on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

**Shine this month will continue to focus 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.**



**The Service for Ash Wednesday will  
be  
February 18, 2026 6:00 pm**

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**Thank you,  
Pastor Nominating Committee!**

During our Souper Sunday Fellowship time, we would like to take some moments to thank the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee for all their hard work and diligence for more than two years to bring us our wonderful Pastor Jim. If you would like to say a few words of gratitude, you will have opportunity. Also, if you would like to bring a card of appreciating, a basket will be available to collect those.

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**Calling all Empty Bowls Volunteers!**

If you have volunteered at the Empty Bowls project in the past and will do so again, please see or text Karan Baker (256-656-3438), or Emily Clem (256-777-4915). If you haven't ever volunteered, we would love to have you as well! Again, let us know. It's a rewarding project for a good cause in our community.



**EMPTY  
BOWLS**

2026 ATHENS - LIMESTONE

# Empty Bowls Luncheon

**\$20**

- 2 Servings of Soup
- Bread
- Handmade Pottery Bowl

**FRIDAY  
FEB 27**  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**PURCHASE  
TICKETS OR SPONSORSHIP**

[HTTPS://SQUARE.LINK/U/R6H1W89S](https://square.link/u/r6h1w89s)



Proceeds & Sponsorships Benefit

## Local Hunger Relief Organizations

The Community Table (formerly LCCI), the Full Tummy Project, and homeless advocacy groups

 **Revival**

First Presbyterian Church  
303 Washington St.  
Athens, AL

POTTERY AND OTHER ARTS AND CRAFT  
ITEMS FOR SALE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS AND THE CHURCH OFFICE. OR  
YOU CAN PURCHASE A TICKET ON ATHENS  
LIMESTONE EMPTY BOWL PROJECT BY  
FOLLOWING THE LINK ON FACEBOOK PAGE.  
CONTACT EMILY CLEM OR JULIE MCNEESE  
FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT TICKETS.

# 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)	Charlotte Lyle (Healing)
Joyc Counter (Healing)	Gary Boyd (Healing)

## THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel - Army	Sean Miller - Army
Adam Naves - Marines	Damien Williams - Army
Kevin O'Neill-Army Nat. Guard	Joshua Hargrove - Deployed
Jay Tulley- Middle East	Justin Ruf- Army Air Guard

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Larry Harris (Healing, friend of Chris Hilgeman)  
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)  
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)  
Patricia Kloninger (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)  
Mia Bennett's mom (Healing, friend of Jim May)  
Leigh Ann Looyenga (Healing, friend of Gina Haraway)

# Birthday's

## FEBRUARY 2026

5th Debbi O'Neill

17th Travis Gray

5th Betty Spencer

18th Ruth Whitten

7th Ruth Clem

18th Aaron King

8th Bonnie Chambers

19th Erica Hand

10th Sara Barksdale

21<sup>st</sup> Mary Crowell

12th Don Payne

23rd Ethan Gossett

12th Colleen King

24th Charlotte Lyle

13th Steve Copeland

27th Pam Gregg

14th Reid Chambers

28th Doug Harbin

14th Micah Gregg

28th Elise Harbin

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	2 Playin' & Prayin" Revival 5pm	3 PW Circle in Rodgers Center 1pm	4 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	5	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7
8 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship "Souper Bowl Lunch Annual Meeting Full Tummy Pack	9 Playin' & Prayin" Revival 5pm	10 Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	11 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Fourth Day 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	12	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14
15 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	16 President's Day	17	18 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio Ash Wednesday	19	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	23 Playin' & Prayin" Revival 5pm	24	25 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	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER BY POTTER'S HAND	28

