

We Gather to Worship

Prelude For the Beauty of the Earth Dr. Mary Crowell

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Jim Truesdell

* Call to Worship Psalm 121 Elder Jerry Witt

I lift up my eyes to the hills: from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

it is the Lord that watches over you,
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord shall preserve you from evil;
the Lord shall keep you safe.

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

*Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth #14

*Glory to God in the Highest

*Prayer

*Call to Confession Jerry Witt

*Prayer of Confession Unison

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside
from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves
pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We
have failed in love, neglected justice and ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of
righteousness for your Name sake through Jesus Christ our
blessed Savior.**

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

You are the Lord giver of mercy!

You are the Christ giver of mercy!

You are the lord giver of mercy

*Assurance of Pardon Pastor Truesdell

* 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 Pastor Truesdell

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

We Listen to God's Word

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Pastor Truesdell

Prayer of Illumination Jerry Witt

First Reading Romans 4: 1-5 Jerry Witt
p. 1,115

Second Reading Genesis 12: 1-4a Jerry Witt
p. 11

Anthem The Chancel Choir

Gospel John 3: 1-17 Pastor Truesdell
pgs. 1,051-52

Response Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Empty Handed" Pastor Truesdell

We Respond to God's Grace

*Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing # 610

* 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.**

Prayers of The People Pastor Truesdell

*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 This is My Father's World 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.**

* Prayer of Dedication Pastor Truesdell

*Hymn In My Life #468

*Charge Pastor Truesdell

*Benediction

* Postlude Let All Thing Now Living Dr. Crowell

***Stand if you are able**

February 22, 2026

1st Sunday in Lent

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'Neil (Healing)	Charlotte Lyle (Healing)
Joyce Counter (Healing)	Gary Boyd (Healing)

Prayers of healing for: Tom Hand

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)
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 and kidneys, cousin of Jan Ruth)
Stephanie Reed (Support, family member 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 Cloninger (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)
Leigh Ann Looyenga (Healing, friend of Gina Haraway)

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 worshiping with us today!

Announcements:

- Today, you'll notice a new piece of music. "Glory to God in the Highest" is an ancient hymn from the 3rd century and has been widely used since the 12th century. The music was written by Jennifer Hartsell for a small local congregation in Birmingham. We'll worship using this piece during Lent. The purpose of repetitive music in public worship is to inspire moments of private worship during the week.
- Come play (or learn) Mahjong and other games each Monday night on Revival at 5 pm
- Potter's hand meets each Wednesday morning from 9-12
- Fourth Day, a follow-up for Walk to Emmaus participants, meets each Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the Washington St. meeting room by the sanctuary all are welcome
- Choir practice Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- FPC Children and Youth: Join us for SHINE
Shine will meet Wednesday February 25th at 5:30 p.m. in Revival
- Join us for Athens-Limestone 2026 Empty Bowls February 27, 2026 in Revival from 11:00-1:00pm. Tickets are \$20 and benefit local hunger relief organizations
- Come celebrate Baby Mallette on March 1, 2026 at a baby shower for Brittany and Brad Mallette

Staff

Pastor:

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Treasurers:

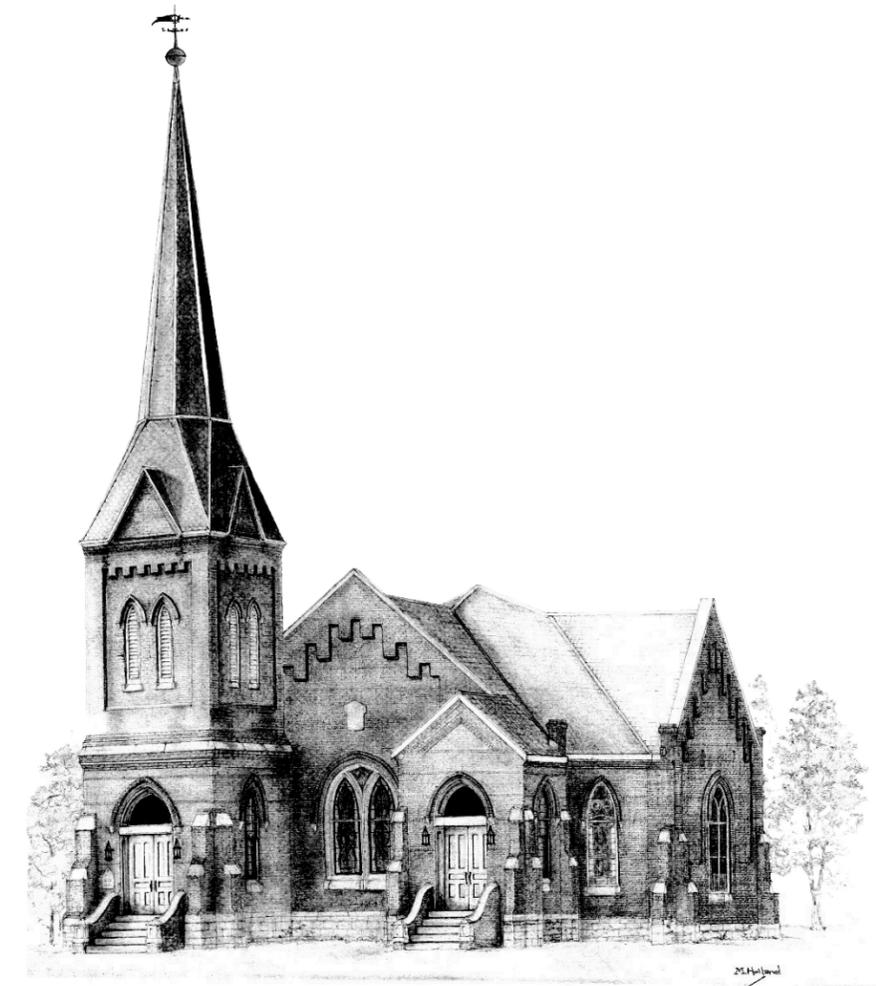
Julie McNeese; fpc treasurer112@gmail.com

Choir Director:

Erica Hand

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.



First Presbyterian Church

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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.