



First Presbyterian Church on the Square

April 2026 Grapevine

Days of Holy Obligation

I first heard the term “days of Holy Obligation” many years ago, and I found it very antiquated and culturally out of step. We are people who make choices and decisions about how we invest our time. We decide what is important and worthy of our attention. Obligations are “have to do’s.”

- pay your debts. Pay your taxes. Obey the law. Even when we make a promise to someone, we have an obligation to fulfill it. (Psalm 15: 4 “Blessed is he who keeps his promise even to his hurt.”)

The term “Days of Holy Obligation” is a Roman Catholic term referring to feast days, outside of Sundays, when Roman Catholics are required to attend mass, refrain from work, and meditate upon significant mysteries of the faith. These days of worship are so significant that they are required.

Here is what I find surprising about the Roman Catholic list and practice: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are NOT on the list. How do these significant mysteries of the faith NOT make the list?

I remember talking with a Nigerian seminary student about his experience of the American church and its worship. I can hear his voice on the quad of Louisville Seminary on a beautiful spring day in 1996 as if it were yesterday:

“I’m confused about when people think it’s important to attend worship. For example, why is the church full on Mother’s Day? The church is full like on Easter. Yet it has nothing to do with the life of Jesus. And yet, Good Friday feels like a service that people avoid. In Nigeria, the cross has a central place. We can not know the joy of Easter apart from the pain of Good Friday.”

We live our lives of faith in light of the resurrection. Jesus is alive!

Death and the cross are vanquished. This is why Lent is 40 days of fasting, but we do not fast on Sundays. Each Sunday gathering is a witness to and a celebration of the resurrection. BUT we should be careful to remember the Risen Christ bears in his body the marks of the cross. Death, pain, and suffering are part of Jesus. They are part of our life of faith. It is a mystery of our faith.

Rather than “obligation”, I would use the word “affection”. Set your love, devotion, and affection on the person of Jesus - his life, his death, his resurrection, his ascension to the Father. These days are days of “Holy Affection”. We observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as part of the Celebration of Easter. The more we reflect on the mystery together, the more our love for Jesus increases. Indeed, “we set our affections on things above”.

May the Lord deepen our affection for Jesus this season.

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 Your Calendar

April 7 @ 1:00 pm

In the Rodgers Center

Happy PM Circle

All Women are invited.

Hostess: Carol Copeland

Program Lesson 7

Devotional: Karan Baker

There are 2 opportunities for the children of the church to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt this weekend!!!

This year, Suzanne Paysinger is hosting an egg hunt and is inviting church members and friends to her house on Saturday at 10 am.

There will also be an egg hunt at Revival on Easter morning at 9:00 during Sunday School. We will hunt eggs and have refreshments.



NORTH ALABAMA
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
SPRING GATHERING

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
REGISTRATION & MEET-N-GREET
WITH REV. JUDY MITCHELL RICH
9:15-9:50 A.M.

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3310 DANVILLE ROAD SW, DECATUR, ALABAMA

PROGRAM 10:00 A.M.



Come out and join the North Alabama Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men will gather together
on April 6, 2026, at 6 pm.

They will gather at First Presbyterian
in the Rodgers Center at
for their meeting.

A meal will be served, and Doug Marshall,
Director of the Presbyterian Home For Children
will be the speaker for the meeting.

For more information, please contact
Doug Harbin.

VBS SAVE THE DATE

July 7th, 8th, and 9th
9 am-11 am

July 9th at 11 am, we will
have a program, and a
pizza lunch will follow
We will share what we
learned and our songs
in church on July 12th.



PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health)	Duane Counter (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)	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	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 Clonger (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)
Leigh Ann Looyenga (Healing, friend of Gina Haraway)
MaryJo Ghadimi (Healing, friend of Matt Robinson)
Allison Hargrove Bains (Sympathy, niece of Diann Copeland)
Ullis Vaughn (homeless, asked prayers of the church)
Great Uncle of Rosie Sims (Hospice)
Laura Christopher (Healing, friend of Suzanne Paysinger)



Happy Birthday April 2026

2nd Scout Hanes

7th Jennifer Quillen

7th Virginia Brooks

8th Carol Copeland

9th Barbara Welborn

9th Melvin Clem

14th Mickey Counter

18th Eloise Chouinard

20th Avery Paysinger

20th Eugene Quillen

20th Stanley Hand

21st Christian Emerson

April 2026

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