



First Presbyterian Church on the Square

May 2026 Grapevine Summer Bingo

As the school year comes to a close and temperatures rise, we start thinking of summer. Recreation, re-connection, and rest are important rhythms of summer. I'm not sure what First Presbyterian's summer rhythm is, if it's like most churches, summer will pull people from the regular routines of community worship and work together. Aside from vacation Bible school, June and July are quiet.

While some pastors might bemoan the drop in attendance and lack of programmed activity at the church building, I love summer. Not the heat. But I love the opportunity to grow in our faith and practice the way of Jesus. Americans are suspicious of rest. We sacrifice so much for work, productivity, and "getting ahead" that we lose some of our souls. Summer pace allows us to slow down and pay attention to God.

SO... We're going to play Summer Bingo!

Around Memorial Day (the unofficial start of summer), each family will receive a bingo card with activities designed to encourage your walk of faith. Some of the squares on the bingo card will be strange and counterintuitive. Some of them will capture your imagination and spark your interest. Some will be hard. Some will be easy. Here is a list of the five themes and some activities that complete a square. It's a work in progress, and I'd be open to suggestions.

The themes: Healthy Relationships; Bible; Rest/Sabbath; Prayer; Service

Healthy Relationships

Reconnect with a friend/acquaintance when God brings them to mind.

Take one positive step toward healing/forgiveness in your family.

Ask a parent or grandparent to tell you a story.

Bible

Memorize a verse of scripture.

Tell a Bible story from memory.

Spend the whole summer reading one book or a significant section (Sermon on the Mount)

Rest/Sabbath

Turn your phone off for a regular part of the day.

Read an article or book on the practice of the Sabbath

Find a regular way to be outdoors in nature.

You get the idea. My hope and prayer for us this summer is that God does a marvelous work of re-creation in us and that our love for God and neighbor grows.

Love you all,

Jim

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

May 5 @ 1:00 pm

In the Rodgers Center

Happy PM Circle

All Women are invited.

Hostess: Ruth Whitten

Program Lesson 8

Devotional: Jane Gossett

Mexico Mission

At the April meeting, the Session approved a “Listening and Learning Trip” to McAllen and Reynosa for Jim, prior Mexico Mission participant representation, and hopefully a few of our young adults who might be interested in supporting the Mission. We are working with Faith Ministry/Ministerio de Fe (FM/MdF) to identify a suitable time.

Sunday, May 17th, we will have our annual Mexico Mission fundraiser meal in the Rodgers Center after morning worship! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Join us for a meal to celebrate our continuing support for a Mission this Church helped to establish in October 1994. There is no charge for the meal, but donations to support the FPC Athens Mission and FM will be accepted.

Menu will include Enchilada casserole, Mexican Lasagna, Tacos, Taco salad, Mexican rice, refried beans, and desserts.

Presbyterian Men's Council
The Presbyterian Men's Council will
meet in May
on May 17th in Rodgers from
8-8:45 a.m. at the Rodger's Center
For more information, please contact
Doug Harbin.

Extended Communion

Are you an ordained elder?

Preferably not currently serving on the Session?

Are you looking for a mission that is both very rewarding and a greatly needed service?

Something that requires only an hour or so a month on Communion Sundays, whenever you are available?

Then serving extended Communion is a great personal mission for you!

Our congregation has a long history of serving Communion at home or in the hospital for church members (and sometimes family and friends) who are not able to get to the church for Communion with the rest of the congregation. However, over the past number of years, an organized effort to do so had slipped away.

In December of 2024, the Session approved restarting regular extended Communion, beginning in January of 2025. Since then, a group of regular volunteers has served extended Communion to 6 to 8 each Communion Sunday.

Please prayerfully consider whether this is a personal mission for you. If God so calls you, please answer as Isaiah did, "Here I am, Lord, send me".

Then contact Don Payne or Tom Clem.

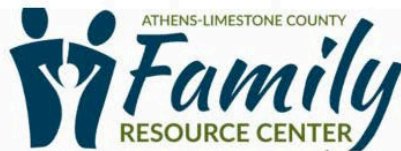
VBS

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.

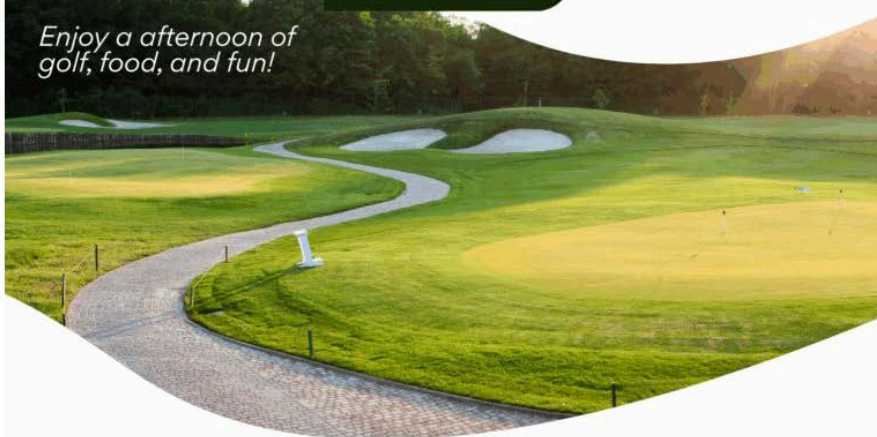


TEE IT UP FORE FAMILIES

Golf Tournament

MAY 14, 2026

*Enjoy a afternoon of
golf, food, and fun!*



SOUTHERN GAYLES GOLF CLUB

\$600 Entry Fee
1PM Shotgun

INCLUDES:

- Lunch
- (1) Mulligan
- (1) Power Drive
- (1) Raffle Ticket

REGISTER NOW

256-230-0880
Emmett@alcfr.org

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)
Tim Swymer (Healing, Lauren Cagle's uncle)
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)
MaryJo Ghadimi (Healing, friend of Matt Robinson)
Allison Hargrove Bains (Sympathy, niece of Diann Copeland)
Great Uncle of Rosie Sims (Hospice)
Laura Christopher (Healing, friend of Suzanne Paysinger)
John (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)
Freida Holsaplle (Health, great (great) grandmother of Destiny and Rosie Sims)

May Birthdays 2026

1st Stevie Johnstone

2nd Chris Hilgeman

2nd Walker Shindorf

6th Gale Cottles

8th Kay Baugher

12th Larry Burlingame

18th Mac Baugher

18th Peggy Christensen

19th Elijah Hand

21st Bonny Noel

24th Al Munroe

30th David Clem

30th Roberta Ress

30th Mary Elizabeth Hand

MAY, 2026

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