

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



RALLY DAY SCHEDULE

(full details on pg. 3)

8:30 Prayer and coffee in the Roger's Center

9:00 All classes meet in the sanctuary

9:15 Classes disperse (see pg.3 for class details)

10:00 Worship

11:00 Congregation-wide fellowship lunch

Following lunch: Packing food for Full Tummies Ministry

SESSION NOTES

The Session is investing the first 30 minutes of the meeting to prayer. We're learning to seek God and listen for His voice together. It's an unusual practice for most Presbyterians, but God is working.

We had a Zoom call with Marthame Sanders with The Ministry Collaborative. We've been invited to participate in a Storytelling Initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment. The Storytelling Initiative would involve about 6-9 people from the church meeting once a month and participating in a couple two day retreats. Please pray as the Session discerns whether or not to accept this invitation.

The Session worked hard in July to prepare for Rally Day and Stewardship Season. Financially, income and expenses are in a healthy place when compared to this time of year in the past. The Session approved Fitz Mallette baptism and supply preaching while Jim and Sonja were away at the New Willmington Mission Conference.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR:

First Presbyterian Friends.

Back to School!

As the husband of a school teacher, it's the time of year to climb ladders and preform my high wire act of hanging items in Sonja's classroom. (I love it. I fear it.) When you're married to a teacher, the start of school requires tender loving care.

But I wonder if something else is going on.

When Emma was in second grade, we had a group of friends come to the house for back-to-school breakfast. We lived across the street. So I served pancakes, sausage, and fruit. We put flowers on the table. Used cloth napkins. They all were excited and talked about their various teachers. Right before time to cross the street and start their new adventure, we lined up on the front steps and took a "first day of school" picture. I sat in the quiet house and started listing some "things I want to do differently". I wasn't going to school, but I wanted to change.

Psychologists call this the "fresh start effect". New Year's Day, a birthday, a change in the season, or even just a Monday Morning can trigger the very human fresh start effect. The "fresh start effect" is the spark of motivation to change the direction that we're currently on. A mid-stream course correction. In America, the two biggest culture-wide experiences of this effect are New Year's Day (new year, new you!) and back to school. Even if you don't have school-age children, are a teacher, or are in school yourself, psychologically we're conditioned for change at this time of year.

Now we know that a spark of motivation is often snuffed out quickly. Our habits and routines are like a fire hose to extinguish new embers of motivation. "I'm going to change, tomorrow."

So what's going on in this fresh start effect? I think human beings are wired for a future orientation! Jesus is making all things new. We await the fulfillment of the Kingdom that is already present. The good work Jesus completed in us is moving toward its fullness. More and more our hearts desire to be fully alive and transformed by Jesus. That impulse is something God is working in and through.

In the life of our church, we recognize the "cultural impulse" toward change and create opportunities to grow in faith. On the surface, it looks like program changes - Rally Day. New Sunday School transitions and adult topics. A new sermon series. Preparation for the Full Tummies Ministry. A baptism. Welcome of new members. But in reality, we are seeking the change that only God can accomplish through the Holy Spirit. Change that aligns our hearts to Jesus and his way.

What is God inviting you toward? What change do you want to see in your life? How might this time when we collectively experience the "fresh start effect" be the beginning of something new for you?

With love and much hope for you in Jesus,
Jim

RALLY DAY

August 16, 2026

RALLY DAY SCHEDULE

- 8:30 Prayer and coffee in the Roger's Center
- 9:00 Meet in the sanctuary
- 9:15 Disperse for classes (see pg.3 for class details)
- 10:00 worship
- 11:00 Congregation-wide fellowship lunch
- Following lunch: Packing food for Full Tummies Ministry

THE FULL TUMMY PROJECT:

The Full Tummy Project is a non-profit organization and partnership among area churches and community organizations. Full Tummy provides kids with a bag of food for the weekend to bridge the gap for those who may depend on school lunches as their primary meals for the week. FPC supports Fully Tummy by providing weekly bags of food to Athens Elementary during the school year.

NEW SERMON SERIES ON PHILIPPIANS:

Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of his prison letters but it is full of joy, love and affection for the believers at Philippi. It also contains some of Paul's most winsome presentations of the Gospel and awe filled wonder in the person of Jesus. Like the series on book of Micah, we'll walk through the book verse by verse during the next eight weeks. The Corner class will also be studying and discussing Philippians during this time. You can visit or join the Corner Class during these 8 weeks if you wish to go deeper.

Discussion Class

Room: 100
Topic: 1 Corinthians
Leader: Jerry Witt

Corner Class

Room: 107
Topic: Philippians Study
Leader: Stanley and Erica Hand

Parlor Class

Rogers Center at the end of the Fellowship Hall
Topic: Bible Characters Study
Leader: Randi Harbin and rotating leadership

Children Under 3 Years Old.

Room 104 Nursery & 102 Toddlers (Joined Room)
Leader: Eloise Chouinard

4-Year-Old to 3rd Grade

Revival Center (across street from main building)
Leader: Sharon Hand

4th Grade to Middle School

2nd Floor Rogers Center: Youth Suite
Leader: Cindy Witt

Confirmation Class

Church Office (Pastor's Study)
Leader: Pastor Jim Truesdell

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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

1 Everett Emerson
2 Suzanne Paysinger
3 Deb Kohlhouse
4 Clint Baugher
5 Pastor Jim Truesdell
8 Bailey Green
13 Tom Clem
15 Cindy Witt
15 Boyd Jackson
17 Johnathon Quillen
19 Mary R. Miller
20 Doyle Weeks
21 Crystal Gray
22 Taylor Gray
23 Scott Clem
29 Diane Payne
29 Suzanne Weeks
30 Troy McNeese

Montreat Music and Worship Conference

In July, Randi Harbin, Emily Clem, and Mary Crowell, attended the Montreat Worship and Music conference hosted by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM). This multi-generational conference features ensembles, choirs, art and worship. It's a time reflect on the theology and nature of worship and gather with other people who prepare for the weekly event of worship. On Sunday August 9, there will be a presentation in worship on what they learned. AND something special for children.

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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.						1
2 COMMUNION 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP 11:00 NEW MEMBER LUNCH	3 PLAYIN' AND PRAYIN' REVIVAL 5PM	4	5 9:00-12:00 PM THE POTTERS HAND POTTERY STUDIO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30	6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP	10 PLAYIN' AND PRAYIN' REVIVAL 5PM	11 MISSION SHOWER DAY SESSION MEETING REVIVAL 6PM	12 9:00-12:00 PM THE POTTERS HAND POTTERY STUDIO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30	13	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 RALLY DAY: SEE SCHEDULE PG. 3	17 PLAYIN' AND PRAYIN' REVIVAL 5PM	18	19 9:00-12:00 PM THE POTTERS HAND POTTERY STUDIO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP	24 PLAYIN' AND PRAYIN' REVIVAL 5PM	25	26 9:00-12:00 PM THE POTTERS HAND POTTERY STUDIO CHOIR PRACTICE 6:30	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 FELLOWSHIP 10AM WORSHIP	31 PLAYIN' AND PRAYIN' REVIVAL 5PM	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE WILL MEET THE 1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER 2026 -JUNE 2027				

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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:

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 Michae & Gail Cottles)
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)
Widower Heath, Children Bess and David (Grieving Laura Christopher, friend of Suzanne Paysinger)
Judy Cramer (Healing, neighbor of Jan Ruth)
Sue Guyer (Healing, sister of Bonny Noel)
Macie Garrett (Healing, 12 years old, great niece of Christy Arnett)
Evelyn Walker (Health/Healing, daughter of Sarah Pearson Walker)
Phillip Love (Healing, family member of Jan Ruth)
Margaret Gray (Health, mother of Travis Gray)
Dale King (Health/Healing, grandfather of Kelly Wessler)

CHURCH FAMILY:

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health)
Doris Welch (Home)
Dean Steele
Susie Fogg (Home)
Sharon Massey
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health)
Duane Counter (Healing)
Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Jac Catlett
Diane Lynn (Health)
Gale Cottles (Healing)
Charlotte Lyle (Healing)

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MESSAGE FROM MISSION:

The Mission Committee is excited to announce that we have voted to add the Limestone Child Advocacy Center (LCAC) as a non-profit we support. Each year, more than 300 reports of abuse or neglect are made here in Limestone County. The LCAC provides a safe, compassionate place where children and families come in the aftermath of abuse and neglect. They coordinate a multidisciplinary response involving law enforcement, the Department of Human Resources, the District Attorney's office, and medical and mental health providers, so children can heal and offenders can be held accountable. Their services include forensic interviews, trauma-focused therapy, family advocacy, parent education, and community prevention programming, all provided at no cost to the families they serve. The ministry team has voted to make a monthly donation of \$100.00 a month to the LCAC. A significant gift of \$5,000.00 was also approved and made to the LCAC to use toward their future outdoor visitation and therapy space. Please join us in praying for their staff and the children and families they serve.

