We Gather to Worship

Prelude — Down to the River to Pray — Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements — Pastor Jim Truesdell

* Call to Worship — Isaiah 55: 6-11 — Elder Sharon Hand

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
Let the wicked abandon their ways, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; to our God, who will richly pardon.
'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
As the rain and the snow come down from above, and return not again but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, seed for sowing and bread to eat,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to me fruitless,
But it will accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the task I gave it.'
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

*Hymn — For the Beauty of the Earth — #14

*Prayer — Sharon Hand

*Call to Confession — Sharon Hand

*Prayer of Confession — Unison

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned again you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your Name. Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison — Unison

* Assurance of Pardon — Pastor Truesdell

* The Gloria Patri — #581

* 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 for Illumination — Listen to the Word

Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.

Gospel Reading — John 1: 1-5 pg. 1050 — Sharon Hand

Anthem — Give Me Jesus — Susan Spencer

Second Gospel Reading — Luke 4: 16-21 pg. 1018 — Pastor Truesdell

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — Sermon Series: The Way of Jesus (1/5) Gathering Around the Word — Pastor Truesdell

We Respond to God's Grace

*Hymn — O Word of God Incarnate — #459

*Affirmation of Faith — Unison

*The Apostles' Creed — Pastor Truesdell

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 — Hymnal pg. 35

Reflection on the Ministry our Giving Supports — Christian Education Jerry Witt

Offertory — For the Beauty of the Earth — Arr. by Pepper Chaplin

*Doxology — #606

*Prayer of Dedication — Pastor Truesdell

*Hymn — Blest Be the Tie that Binds — #306

*Charge

*Benediction

* Postlude — Every Day I Will Bless You — Richard Blake

***Stand if you are able**

PRAYER REQUESTS

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)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

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 back, 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)
Maureen Mathes (Healing/Health, cousin of Jan Ruth)
Margaret Gray (Health, mother of Travis Gray)
Mary Roper (Healing, family of Matt Robinson)
Heather Hopcraft (Health/ Healing, comfort, family of Matt Robinson)
Cindy Richardson (Health, sister of Kevin Richardson)

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:

- Play (or learn) Mahjong and other games each Monday night at Revival
- Potter's hand meets each Wednesday morning from 9-12. Stop by the Farmer's Market and see how we raise funds for people in need.
- Choir practice Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- Shower Day with Hearts for Homeless, 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:00 at Revival. Volunteers are welcome to set up at 11:00, lunch and fellowship at 12:00, and clean-up at 2:00.

Staff

Pastor:
Pastor Jim Truesdell;
jim.truesdell@fpcathens.org

Office Administrator:
Kelly Wessler;
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

Treasurers:
Julie McNeese;
fpctreasurer112@gmail.com

Choir Director:
Erica Hand

Session

Class of 2026:
Tom Clem
Cindy Whitt
Stephen Ware
Trustee:
Price Boyd

Class of 2027:
David Lyle
DeAnna McNeill
Trustee:
Chris Shinforf
David Whitten

Class of 2028:
Hal Baker
Brad Greene
Sharon Hand
Trustee:
Jerry Witt

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.

Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God.
To sign up for flowers, call the church office.



October 18, 2026
21th Sunday After Pentecost

First Presbyterian Church on the Square

Be with Jesus.
Become like Jesus.
Do what Jesus did.

First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street
Athens, Alabama 35611
(256) 232-0122
www.fpcathens.org

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.