



WINDOW

OCTOBER 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Athens,



October

From the Pastor....

It was an interview, almost 75 years ago, back when television was young. They put a poet on CBS News and asked him to sit for an interview. The poet was no ordinary wordsmith. It was Carl Sandburg, three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. He was a man who loved words, who juggled words, and who adjudicated words. Edward R. Murrow was the interviewer, an ever-present Camel cigarette in his hand. After a bit of small talk about Sandburg's work, Murrow gave him this question: what is the ugliest word in the English language? Sandburg looked him over, then started working over the question. "The ugliest word, what's the ugliest word?" He rolled the question over his tongue. "Ugliest? Ugliest word? Hmm...the ugliest word."

Then, rather abruptly, he gave his answer. "The ugliest word is exclusive." Edward R. Murrow blew a bit of cigarette smoke, then asked the question, "Why? What makes that the ugliest words?" The reply: "That word 'exclusive' shuts out a large portion of humanity from your mind and heart." It is a word that has often been used to make people feel special. We live in an exclusive community. We vacation in an exclusive resort. We are inducted in an exclusive society. We are offered an exclusive deal. It's not so ugly if you are one of the insiders, if you count yourself among the brightest and the best, the richest and the most privileged. You might be tempted to boast, "I am a member of an exclusive club."

Yet, that, precisely that, is why the poet named it the ugliest word. Because it separates you from the rank and file. It presumes to lift you above everybody else.

Is there anybody in the dominion of God better than all the others? No, not one. All of us drink from the water of Christ's mercy. All of us. That's why we need to work together.

One of my teachers told the story of growing up in

Appalachia. "We didn't think we were poor," he said, "because there was always somebody worse off than us." It made him feel better, a little better. One day, his church group announced they would make up fruit baskets and deliver them to the poor families in town. Fred felt good about that. It would lift his spirits to do something kind for somebody else.

The fruit baskets, mostly apples, were put together. The group split up in a few different cars and headed out to the poor sections of town. Fred held his basket on his knee. He knew what he would do. He would sneak up to the front door, put down the basket, knock hard, and then run away. It was guerilla charity, he said. Unload the basket and leave.

So, he approached a run-down clapboard house. Lawn was overgrown. One of the bedroom windows was broken. A single lightbulb on inside the home. He thought to himself, "Oh, these poor folks are really going to enjoy this fruit basket. I'll bet nobody has done something nice for them in a long time. I'll drop the basket on the porch, knock on the door, and run away. Good plan.

He leaned down to place the basket when the front door opened abruptly. He stood up, shocked. This was not the original plan. A grizzled sharecropper took the basket in his wrinkled knuckles. He brightened in a broken smile, then said, "How kind of you! Thank you ever so much." Then he paused, held out the basket, and said, "Would you like one of these apples? They look delicious."

The kid froze. This was definitely not in the plan. He was supposed to give away the apples, not take one. The old man stood there, waiting. So, Fred took one of the apples. Took a big bite. Indeed, it was delicious. "Ever since that moment," he said, years later, "I realized we all eat from the same basket. All of us, from the same basket." Just as God intends for it to be.

~ Pastor Rob

October 2024

Saturday, October 5th Blessing of the Animals

10:00 a.m. West Side
Park Pavilion
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#### Sunday, October 6th World Communion/ Peacemaking Offering Sunday

10:30 a.m. Communion  
and Peacemaking Offering  
during Worship  
Guest Minister  
Rev. Dr. David Maze  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
Hour  
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Sunday, October 13th

10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour
~~~~~

#### Sunday, October 20th

10:30 a.m. Worship  
Organ Recital Following  
Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
Hour  
1:00 p.m.-Lindley Hymn  
Sing  
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Saturday, October 26th

Uptown Trick or Treat
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
FPC will hand out treats
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#### Sunday, October 27th Reformation Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
Hour  
~~~~~

We are a Christian community of faith that shares the love of God with all people everywhere."

**CROP Walk
October 6th**

FPC walkers will meet that afternoon at 2:00 p.m. by the Community Center to take a hike on the bike path. If you would like to make a donation to one of them on behalf of the Church World Service, you can speak to one of them at church some Sunday or mail them a check to the home address shown. Please make checks payable to: CWS/CROP.

- Walkers: Margaret Bourke, 203 Altamonte Drive, Athens, OH 45701
 Helen King, 6773 Beechwood Drive, Athens, OH 45701
 Darryl Markland, 16 Briarwood Drive, Athens, OH 45701
 Danny Moates, 26 Meadow Lane, Athens, OH 45701
 Carol Perry, 3275 Connopher Lane, Albany, OH 45710
 Janice Robison, 12 Eden Place, Athens, OH 45701



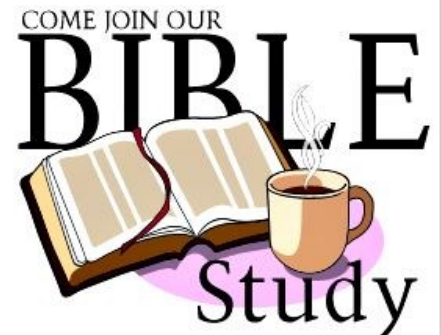
**Walk the Walk for Mental Health Awareness 2024
October 5th - 11:00 a.m.**

This year NAMI Athens is joining NAMI affiliates across the country in NAMI WALKS on October 5th at 11:00 a.m. They will have a gala event with the rally at the site of their new office at 17 Blue Line Drive followed by a one or two mile walk on the bike path. This event is both a fundraiser and an anti-stigma event. Please join us to show support for those with a mental Health challenge and help NAMI continue our mission of advocacy, education, and support.



October 2024 Worship

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>October 6
 First Reading Job 1:1, 2:1-10
 Psalm 26:1-12
 Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
 Gospel Mark 10:2-16</p> | <p>World Communion Sunday. Dr. David Maze preaching</p> |
| <p>October 13
 First Reading Job 23:1-9, 16-17
 Psalm 22:1-15
 <i>Second Reading Hebrews 4:12-16</i>
 <i>*Gospel Mark 10:17-31</i></p> | <p>A precondition for Justice</p> |
| <p>October 20, 2024
 <i>*First Reading Job 38:1-7 (34-41)</i>
 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
 <i>Second Reading Hebrews 5:1-10</i>
 <i>Gospel Mark 10:35-45</i></p> | <p>A difficult conversation</p> |
| <p>October 27
 First Reading Job 42:1-6, 10-17
 Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)
 <i>Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28</i>
 <i>*Gospel Mark 10:46-52</i></p> | <p>Restoration</p> |



Christian Education and Upcoming Events at FPC

Weekly

Sundays during Worship - Children's Sunday School - Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

Fridays at noon - Women's Book Study - via Zoom - Join Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as attendees discuss *Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion*, by Wendy Farley. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 5th - Blessing of the Animals - To show love, care, and concern for God's creations, Rev. Martin will lead a short service at 10:00 a.m. for all our animal companions at the Westside Shelter by the bike path. All mobile pets should be leashed or caged. If pets cannot be transported, stuffed animals or other reminders of your friends can be substituted.

October 6th - CROPwalk—Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Athens Community Center

October 20th - Following Worship
1:00 p.m. - **The Lindley Hymn Sing**

Saturday, October 26th - Uptown Trick-or-Treat - Between 2:30-4:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church will participate in the uptown trick-or-treat event. Volunteers are needed to help pass out treats on the church steps. Also, donations of small, child-safe, church appropriate items may be accepted to pass out to children. Please contact Richard Nease (christianed@athensfpc.org) or the church office (office@athensfpc.org - 740-593-3351) if you would like to help.

Sunday, October 27th - Decorating Pumpkins - Sunday, October 27th during Fellowship Hour. Everyone is invited to decorate pumpkins. There will be stickers, paint, ribbon, and other items. Participants may decorate pumpkins in the Fellowship Hall or take materials home to decorate. A pickup time can be arranged if unable to come in person. Please let the church office, Joan, Richard or Barb know by October if you would like a pumpkin.

November/December Events

November Presbytery Youth Retreat for middle school and high school youth at Camp Akita in Logan, Ohio on Saturday and Sunday, November 18th-19th. Email christianed@athensfpc.org or phone (740) 593-3351 for more information.

November 3rd - Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3rd @ 2:00 a.m.

November 5th - Election Day - Tuesday, November 5th.

December 10th - Advent dinner



Windows ON: Remembering AFPC Member Charles Atkins

Charles G. Atkins, 85, of Athens, passed away peacefully Sunday, August 11, 2024, in Hudson, OH, after several falls and complications from Parkinson's. He was born July 4, 1939 in Stambaugh, MI to Howard and Bernice Atkins. He was proud to have entered the world on the nation's birthday, and on the same day Lou Gehrig made his famous farewell address at Yankee Stadium.

Although born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (and a proud Yooper), Dr. Atkins was raised in Clio, MI, north of Flint. He graduated Clio Area High School as valedictorian in 1957. He received his BA degree from Albion College in 1961, attended the University of Michigan Medical School from 1960-1962, and earned a M.S. in Biology from Eastern Michigan University in 1963. He was an instructor at Coe College, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a lecturer in genetics at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. He was awarded a Ph.D. in genetics from North Carolina State University in 1969.

Ohio University hired Dr. Atkins in 1969 to teach genetics and microbiology. In 1976, he became Associate Dean

for Basic Sciences for the newly established College of Osteopathic Medicine (OUCOM), a position he held for 14 years. He subsequently returned to teaching and in 1999 became Associate Professor Emeritus of Genetics and Biomedical Sciences in the OUCOM.

Dr. Atkins served 11 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. He achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel, acting as a clinical laboratory officer and officer-in charge of the Athens station of the 2291 U.S. Army Hospital. During the First Gulf War, he was on active duty in Petersburg, VA.

The community of Athens was very important to him. He thoroughly enjoyed serving as a Boy Scout scoutmaster for many years; was an elder with First Presbyterian Church, and a member of both the Athens Rotary Club and Rotary International. He served on the Southside Park Committee (1975-78) and played in the "over 30" softball league. Dr. Atkins loved the outdoors and was happiest there; whether in his younger days camping, canoeing, sailing and fishing, or in later years, enjoying the view from his deck near Fox Lake.

His three children survive him: Karla Atkins (Ben Ghaffari) of Berryville, VA, Jamie Atkins (Laura) of Twinsburg, OH; and Robert Atkins, D.O. (Carmen) of Greenup, KY; as well as seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Two stepsons, Joel Welling of Pittsburgh, PA and Loren Welling (Sophia) of Sanyi, Taiwan, also remain. His first wife, Kay Atkins, resides in Cincinnati, OH. Besides his parents, Dr. Atkins was preceded in death by his second wife, Pat Brooks; his sister, Dorothy Atkins; and his stepdaughter, Karen Brooks Welling.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 30, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine scholarship fund.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE Hurricane Helene Response

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is deploying National Response Team members to Tampa Bay Presbytery, the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, and Northeast Georgia Presbytery this week. We have approved several initial assistance grant requests and are anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities.

On Saturday afternoon, Montreat Conference Center, one of our main conference centers in the Presbyterian Church, said in a news release that Lake Susan and Flat Creek swelled to historic levels

on Friday. High water levels caused "catastrophic flooding throughout the town of Montreat," the statement read. "At this time, communication with staff and guests who remain onsite is limited due to regional power outages. We can, however, report that everyone onsite is safe, and that conference center buildings and structures, including the Lake Susan Dam, remain intact." On Sunday, Montreat stated that if people were to be walking the grounds, they would "quickly realize that the reports of damage are not understated. Montreat does and will look different for the foreseeable future." Please continue praying for every-

one affected and everyone responding. Gifts to support this response can be made online at bit.ly/DR000169



**Windows ON: Presbyterian Women
THIS MONTH'S NEWS**

Presbyterian Women will meet October 16th for Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. at The Plains Public Library. Study title is *What Our Grandmothers Taught Us*.

The focus is on what young Jesus might have felt as he heard about his family, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. For more information,

call Martha Johnson at (740) 677-0034. Everyone is welcome.



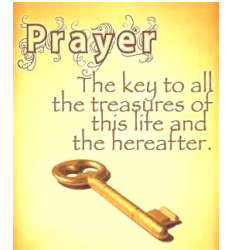
Blessing for All Saints' Day

*May the vision of the saints
guide us, and the light of God
forever shine through us.
Amen.*



Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation

Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving communion at home, contact the office 740-593-3351 or email at office@athensfpc.org



Organ Recital

Janice Robison will play an organ recital on Sunday, October 20th, immediately following the worship service. The program will be a musical journey through the Liturgical church year. All are invited to stay for this half hour recital.

Mission Outreach Committee Diaper Project Continues

The Mission Outreach Committee continues the Diaper Project for some of the Mission Partners here in Athens: Athens County Food Pantry and Cat's Cupboard. There is a box in the Narthex for your donation of diapers. Many donate food, but the Committee realizes that diapers can be expensive when a person is food insecure.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 – Joyce Beauvais
Ellie Robe | 16 – Mary Costello
Emma Gaul |
| 3 – Katie Kotowski Lawler | Samantha Lloyd |
| 8 – Ruth Conliffe | 22 – Molly Stewart |
| 10 – Sidney Dorrill | 24 – Heidi Marty |
| Samuel Gutekanst | 26 – Harvey Ballard |
| Amy Murphy | 31 – Alexandra Jordan |
| 14 – Pamela Brown | |
| 15 – Peggy Jagers | |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 – Steve & Janice Bacak
- 10 – David & Katie Tadlock
- 19 – Stuart & Kimberly Goldsberry
- 21 – Joe & Amy Bianco
- 22 – Lindell & Darlene Holtzmeier

FPC Church Elders:

2024: Harvey Ballard, Anne Kemmerle, Katie Tadlock, and Keith Wiens

2025: Adrienne Nagy, Andrew Stuart, and David Tees

2026: Sharon Huges, Linda Parsons, Jane Woodrow, and Hugh Woods



FPC Board of Deacons:

2024: Joyce Beauvais, Margaret Bourke, Bobbi Conliffe, Nancy Hartley, and Carol Perry

2025: Alan Boyd, Mary Costello, Kim Jordan, Becky Pankratz and Ellen Sostarich

2026: Helen King, Joyce Mullins, Harold Robison, Riley Smoot, and Ayse Suer

Habitat For Humanity Scrap Metal Drive

Habitat For Humanity will hold a scrap metal drive at the Athens County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Car batteries will be accepted; items with freon will not be accepted.

Habitat is also holding a rummage sale on Saturday, November 9th from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Christ The King Catholic Church, 73 Stewart Street. Donations of clothing, toys, books, puzzles, kitchenware, appliances, and other small items are welcome. Bring your donations to the church on the Thursday or Friday before the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the



Saturday

October 5th

10:00 a.m.

West Side Park Pavilion, #1

All mobile pets should be leashed or caged. If pets cannot be transported, stuffed animals or other reminders of your friends can be substituted



The Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

Sharing the Table

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. The Apostle Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration (1 Corinthians 11:29). Three historic Athens area congregations are sharing in a pulpit exchange for World Communion Sunday.

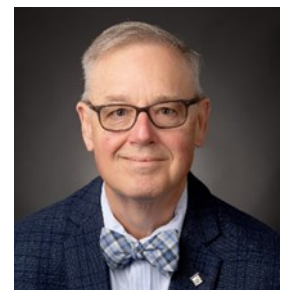
The Rev. Robbie Scott, pastor of the Athens First United Methodist, will be preaching and presiding at the Amesville-New England parish, a Methodist-Presbyterian Congregation in Amesville. The service in Amesville will begin at 10:00 a.m.



Rev. Dr. David Maze, retired Methodist pastor, will be preaching at the First Presbyterian Church in Athens. Rev. Maze will appear as James Quinn, Methodist Circuit Rider, who preached to a small flock in Athens the "first Sunday of the new century" (1800). The service begins at 10:30 a.m.



The Rev. Dr. Robert Martin, pastor at First Presbyterian Church, will be preaching at the Athens First Methodist Church. The services at First Methodist are at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.



“When he was at table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” — **Luke 24:30-31**



This year’s stewardship theme embodies our message of welcome and hospitality, as we come together as a church family around the many tables in our community. It is around tables where connections and relationships are often built and nourished.

Tables serve as conduits for hospitality, fellowship, food and drink, where we enjoy meals and conversation with family and friends, all while growing in relationship with each other.

We invite you to come to the table and generously share the gifts God has given you as an expression of thanksgiving to God for his abundant blessings. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are vital to support First’s ministry through 2025 and beyond, and allow us to expand the invitation to others – committing to engage those who have no church family or have not yet returned to church post pandemic. We invite all those who hunger for God and community to come to the table!

We are profoundly grateful for your generosity, your trust in God, and for the joy of gathering together at the table to be fed and nourished. In gratitude, we can then go forth from that table into the world to love and to serve.

Pledging support for the year ahead allows us to create a sound budget to support our ministries. Broadly speaking, the church’s financial needs include these areas:



This is the smallest of the four components. It includes support of programs critical to our spiritual life including our children, family, adult education, music and worship ministries.



Mission remains a central tenant at First. We are called to serve those in need and we rejoice in opportunities to do so locally and around the world.



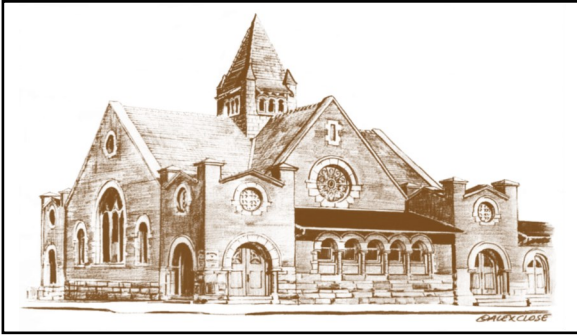
This is our largest expense. We are blessed with a staff of dedicated, faithful and talented women and men bringing God’s nurturing love to us all on our faith journey.



We are stewards of a fantastic, historic church. Regular maintenance is required every year, and utilities, insurance, and other expenses continue to rise.

First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

October 2024



Phone: 740-593-3351
Fax: 740-593-3352
Email: office@athensfpc.org
Web: athensfpc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>
<https://www.Youtube.com/athensfpc>

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

Church: Corner of Court and Washington Streets
Office: 9 North College Street

Office Hours: Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

Choir Director: David M. Tadlock

Organist: Janice Robison

Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum

CE Co-Directors: Richard and Joan Nease

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry

Church Custodian: Tom Medley

Phone: (740) 593-3351 **FAX:** (740) 593-3352
E-Mail: office@athensfpc.org **Web:** www.athensfpc.org

Worship Service: In person service and can be seen live on YouTube. It is also recorded and under Worship Archives.

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library and via Zoom

November 2024 Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, October 24th

First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio - FPC has occupied its site in the center of Athens, Ohio since 1809. Among the founding fathers was Ohio University's first president, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Jacob Lindley. Dr. Lindley served this congregation as Moderator and Pastor until 1824. Over the years, thirteen pastors of the church have been either university presidents or members of the faculty. Dr. William Holmes McGuffey, author of the McGuffey's Readers, was called to serve as President of Ohio University and served as pastor of the church in 1839.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley - The Presbytery of Scioto Valley encompasses twenty-six counties in south central Ohio. From Ironton in the south to Ibera in the north: Hanover in the east and London in the west, FPC's presbytery consists of 95 congregations many of them historic where Presbyterians today are carrying on a long tradition of witness and service in their communities. All over FPC's presbytery, Presbyterians reach out to welcome the stranger, sharing the Gospel and God's love as Christ bids us to do.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - The PC (U.S.A.), with denominational offices in Louisville, Kentucky, has approximately 2.3 million members, more than 10,000 congregations and 14,000 ordained and active ministers. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Its heritage, and much of its doctrine began with John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that preceded him.