



WINDOW

NOVEMBER 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Athens, OH



November 2024

Sunday, November 3rd
All Saints' Sunday
Daylight Savings Time
ENDS ("fall back")
10:30 a.m. - Communion
during Worship

Sunday, November 10th
Pledge Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sunday, November 17th
Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Worship
1:00 p.m. - The Lindley
Inn Hymn Sing

Sunday, November 24th
Christ the King Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Worship

Thursday, November
28th

Church office is Closed
2:00 pm - All Church
Thanksgiving Potluck
Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 29th
Church office is closed



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

From the Pastor....

"EMILY: "Does anyone ever realize life while they live it...every, every minute?"

STAGE MANAGER: "No. Saints and poets maybe...they do some."

- Thornton Wilder, "Our Town"

The first time I ever saw "Our Town" was in 1984, a travelling Broadway production. I started to sniffle during that speech of Emily's when she comes back for a day, and I was still holding back the tears after the curtain call when the house lights came up. It has stayed a favorite ever since.

Maybe it's those words about realizing life, every every minute, that grow more poignant as I get older. Maybe it's the dawning understanding that this person will not always be a part of your life. He might move away, or you might. You might have a falling out, or simply grow apart. She might turn weird. They might die, quickly or awfully.

It's the acknowledgement that these bones and ligaments and cells break down after a while, that they're not made of diamonds or titanium, impenetrable and durable for eternity.

It's the awareness that the house you grew up in feels a lot smaller if you ever go back and visit; schools do too, and churches maybe, or any place that lodged in your heart but is better served by an imperfect memory than an actual, contemporary experience.

It has taken me a while to cultivate the practice of realizing life. I've never been the kind who stops and smells the roses, but I'm beginning to do just that, which is funny because ever since I turned sixty, I've been more and more aware of the finity of years I have left. I hope for several decades more, but still, my days will come to an end, sooner rather than later. Yet I don't want to rush and cram as much in as I can. As life shortens, I slow down.

So, I watch my grandchildren when they're not looking. I watch my wife, too, with her imagined conversations. I watch her patience with children and marvel at what an amazing teacher she was and is.

I wonder at the perfect circle the cat makes when he curls up, and the asymmetry of the spider webs that decorated the bottom of our deck, naturally, artisanally, and organically. I marvel at how hard it is to photograph a spider web or a rainbow or a sunset, and maybe it's better that way. I pay attention to the color of the sky on any given day, and the color of the leaves, and whether or not they're still a part of the branch or part of the lawn.

I look at the small things, and watch the slow things, and I seek out the big arcs too. I wonder at the ever-so-slight curve toward justice that history is taking. Looking at yesterday, the arc seems flat. Sometimes I have to look far back, decades or centuries back, to see that curve but it is there.

I look for what is good; I try to hold fast to what is good because that is the glue of life, the stuff that holds us together even while the tragic and oppressive might make us stronger or at least more determined. That's realizing life, too: realizing that not everyone has a fair shot and it may well be our jobs to change that.

But mostly I look for the poets and the saints, few of whom are published, few of whom have been martyred or accomplished miracles. I look to Gwendolyn Brooks and Steely Dan and Brian Doyle and Naomi Shihab Nye and Denise Levertov, and Mark Doty and the psalmist and once in a while St. Paul.

Saints who dress up as teachers, and CNAs, and folks who punch a clock, all of whom realize that life is found in the small moments and not the big ones: being able to walk to the bathroom instead of using the bedpan; a whistle blown which means the shift is over and you can go back home to the people who love you; a memorial service where you celebrate the life of our saints here at First Presbyterian.

Why? Because "it goes so fast. We don't have time to look at one another" - unless we make time. May a saint or poet cross your path today.

~ Pastor Martin



Opportunities For Service

Consider signing up to host a Fellowship Hour after worship.

Participate in the Lindley Inn Hymn Sing the third Sunday of the month.

Share a story for the Advent devotional booklet.

Volunteer to help with College Lunch on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Folks are needed to mingle and chat with the students, share their day, help with preparation of the tables or clean-up after the meal and are always welcome.

Folks with a musical interest are always welcome to join the Chancel Choir or Bell Choir.

Join in the fun and volunteer with our Puppet Ministry, no experience necessary. We will train you!

November 2024 Worship (**Bold, Preaching text - italics, First reading/liturgist**)

November 3 The choice to Love

***First Reading Ruth 1:1-18**
Psalm 146:1-10
 Second Reading Hebrews 9:11-14
 Gospel Mark 12:28-34

November 10 Look for the light

First Reading Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
 Psalm 127:1-5
Second Reading Hebrews 9:24-28
***Gospel Mark 12:38-44**

November 17 The world is always ending

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:4-20
 Canticle 1 Samuel 2:1-10
 Second Reading Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
***Gospel Mark 13:1-8**

November 24 Allegiance to the Christ the King

First Reading 2 Samuel 23:1-7
 Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)
Second Reading Revelation 1:4b-8
***Gospel John 18:33-37**



Christian Education and Other Upcoming Events at FPC

Reminders - Sunday, November 3rd *Daylight Savings Time Ends*
Tuesday, November 5th - *Election Day*

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.

Advent Devotional Submissions Deadline is November 13th - Each year the Christian Education Committee compiles a booklet of stories, devotionals, scriptures and prayers to be used by the congregation during Advent. The theme for this year is "Around The Table". Deadline to submit content for the *Advent Devotional* is November 13th.

Presbytery Youth Retreat at Camp Akita - November 18th-19th - *Presbytery Youth Retreat* for middle school and high school youth at Camp Akita in Logan, Ohio on Saturday and Sunday, November 18-19, 2024. Email christianed@athensfpc.org or call (740) 593-3351 for more information.

Rock Wall Climbing Event- November 24th - Our youth are invited to join the UMC youth for this event.

Thursday, November 28th - All Church Thanksgiving Potluck - 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Monday, December 2nd - Cookie Baking and Decorating

The Monday after Thanksgiving is traditionally a school holiday and everyone is invited to come bake and decorate cookies in the church kitchen beginning at 10:00 a.m. Come and cut, decorate and enjoy "sugar cookie" fellowship with FPC family and friends. If interested, please contact Richard or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org so there will be enough cookie dough prepared.

Other Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 1st - First Sunday of Advent - Advent devotionals will be available for pick up.

Creche Presentation during the worship service - Children and youth are needed to help present the manger scene in the church sanctuary during worship. Email Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org, Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or call the church office at 740-593-3351 if your child/children would like to participate.

**Windows ON:
Home**

This morning as I was returning from my morning coffee, I looked down the street and saw Chris on one of our benches. Chris has made this particular bench his home for the past three months. Chris was re-arranging and organizing his blankets and pillow as I came by. All this was right in front of my poetry post this morning, which currently offers these words from Brian Doyle: “We are only here for a minute, we are here for a little window, and to use that time to catch and share shards of light and laughter and grace seems to me the great story.”

So, I wondered what Chris’ story was, what had happened that he needed to recombobulate on one of our church benches, and why he didn’t have a place to live.

Weeks ago, I learned his name and heard a shard of his story. Chris doesn’t want help, and has turned down assistance from a Hopewell counselor and a case worker from Integrated Services. He’s been on our bench for a few months and never once asked us for help, for a bathroom, for anything. He wants to be off the grid, unseen, and safe. He

hears voices and sometimes speaks to no one in particular.

I’ve been thinking a bit lately about the idea of home. If pressed, I would say that home is where my most beloved people are. But it is also a place, a physical place where you have roots. I’m not sure where that is for me. It might be the extended family place here in Ohio, but it also might be New Jersey. Go figure. And yet every night I sleep on a bed with a roof over my head, and I wake up and have coffee, and no one has robbed me or harassed me.

I’ve been thinking about home when I see the images coming from Gaza or Lebanon, and how horrific it must be to have to leave one’s home and never go back, to be homeless even while living in a refugee settlement or in a country where you don’t speak the language or know the customs or worship the right god.

I’ve been thinking about home this week as I remembered a meeting I attended a few months ago, with Kerry Pingman, director of the Appalachian Foundation, who heads the city county joint effort on

reducing homelessness. She talked about the struggles to find people temporary and permanent shelter, and the larger problem of the availability of affordable housing. The numbers were depressing. I asked her how she got up every morning, and she said she looked at the number of people who did move off the streets and into shelter, or out of shelter into more permanent housing, and that gave her hope. I suppose there are shards of light there, but still.

I wonder if, as a society or as a nation, we have lost our sense of home. Maybe home is a moral compass. Maybe home is the place where, as Robert Frost once wrote, when you go there they have to take you in. Maybe home is the place where we feel safe, or the people we feel safe with.

In the meantime, I learn. I advocate. I go to meetings. I talk to people living on the streets or on our bench. But it never feels like enough. What is home to you? How do we make home for all?

~Pastor Rob

Communion

First Presbyterian Church offers gluten-free bread for communion.



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.



**Chili Cook-Off Mission Fundraiser
Sunday, November 3rd during Fellowship Hour**

The challenge has been issued! The Church Community Committee challenges everyone to try to come up with a prize-winning chili. You can provide chili on Sunday, November 3rd following worship. You will be the judge! To enter, simply make enough chili to feed at least eight people. There will be cups placed in front of each chili into which you can place your money to vote for your favorite chili. We ask that you list the ingredients of your chili, (for those who may have a food allergy), but no names of who made the chili.

The purpose is to raise funds for our various mission opportunities. Bring your appetite...the lunch is free. Bring your friends...the fun is entertaining. Bring your chili...the trophies are coveted. Bring your checkbook or cash...the ministry is worthy.



EP Release

Bob and Benya Stewart will be releasing their EP, "Born and Buried" on October 27th with a (free) release show at 5:00 p.m. at Athens First Presbyterian Church (corner of Court & Washington). "Born and Buried" features three songs that tell of Stewart family lore. In addition to the three songs on the EP, the show will include Ukrainian folk songs (sung by Benya), as well as some words about current events there.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 - Jamie Poore | 17 - Connie Cornwell |
| 5 - Kim Stephenson | 18 - Dan Neason |
| 7 - Jonathan Hunter | 20 - Dorothy Broadbent |
| 8 - James Stewart | 21 - Butch Hill |
| 9 - Joyce Mullins | Marvin Marty |
| Becky Pankratz | 24 - Hannah Morgan |
| 11 - Neal Nesbitt | 25 - Dave Palmer |
| 13 - James Cox, Jr. | Lisa Yehl |
| 15 - Steve Kramer | 26 - John Mitchell |
| 16 - Eleanor Barstow | 28 - Katie Tadlock |

**NOVEMBER
ANNIVERSARIES**

- | |
|--|
| 4 - Brandon and Tori Stephens |
| 12 - Debi Orr Roderick and
David Roderick |
| 23 - Butch and Ann Hill |
| 24 - Dan and Marilyn Neason |
| 26 - Keith Wiens & Becky Pankratz |
| 30 - Ray and Jennifer Strickmaker |

Windows ON: The Board of Deacons THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Each Sunday a "Deacon of the Month" is listed in the bulletin, and everyone is encouraged to contact that person with any needs a Deacon might be able to help with.

Deacon members strive to be aware of congregational members who have challenges or concerns,

and try to check on those people. Deacons also are aware that there may be congregational members, with or without particular needs, who would appreciate a phone call, a visit, or prayers.

All Deacons welcome any opportunity to provide contact,

care, and assistance to church members and friends.

November Deacon of the Month is Riley Smoot. Riley's email is rileysmoot@gmail.com

Windows ON: CROPwalk

Thanks to all who gave so generously to the CROPwalkers this year. It was a very strong showing. First Presbyterian collected \$2,290, a record for our church in the many years we have been participating. The total for all congregations was \$4,710. A few other donations may trickle in over the next few weeks, but we can certainly be grateful for the generosity of our congregations.

Thanks to John Hauser for serving as treasurer for Athens CROPwalk. Thanks also to our FPC walkers: Margaret Bourke, Helen King, Darryl Markland, Danny Moates, Dan Neason, Carol Perry, and Jan Robison. Together with the other congregations there were at least 25 walkers. Adele Hanson coordinated the event and provided ice cream at the end of the walk. Mother Nature cooperated

with a beautiful day. We look forward to many more years in support of Church World Service.

Seventy-five per cent of the proceeds will go to Church World Service with the remainder staying home for use by the Athens County Food Pantry and Community Food Initiative.



Windows ON: Fellowship 2024-2025 COLLEGE LUNCH

Athens FPC College Lunches continue. Students continue to appreciate the food, volunteers and fellowship.

Salad and bread are purchased by the 'lunch bunch'. The Committee still needs a few people to provide a main dish, or a dessert. You can

check with Lee Gregg as to what dates/items are still needed.

Don't want to cook? Additional kitchen volunteers are always needed, and welcomed. Sometime the "lunch bunch" has other commitments and can't be there every Thursday.

The students are so pleasant and appreciative, it lifts one's spirits to be around them. Please let Debbie at the church office (740-593-3351 or email office@athensfpc.org) or Lee Gregg (tleegregg@gmail.com) know if you want to participate in this worthwhile mission work.

FPC Church Elders:

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

2025: Adrienne Nagy, Andrew Stuart, and David Tees

2026: Sharon Huge, 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



**Stewardship
2025
Pledge Sunday - November 10th
"Around The Table"**



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:

Programs

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

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.

Personnel

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.

Properties

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

~Pastor Rob



2025 Stewardship Campaign

The theme of the FPC 2025 Stewardship Campaign is “Around the Table”

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE CHECK AND COMPLETE AS APPROPRIATE: [] Below is my pledge amount for the 2025 Budget.

Amount			
Payment Interval (choose 1)	Week	Month	Year

[] I will not formally pledge but will give as I am able throughout the year.

[] Please provide giving envelopes.

PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT: [] Making a gift to a FPC Athens Endowment Fund.

[] How to accomplish a lasting gift to the church.



Following Hurricane Helene, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church cares for Asheville, North Carolina in a deeply committed way by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

ASHEVILLE, North Carolina — After showing visitors the massive food and disaster relief distribution program going on daily outside and inside Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville, North Carolina, the Rev. Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks still marvels at what she sees every day. “We are Matthew 25 for real,” said the church’s Director of Formation for Children and Their Families. Asked Tuesday how she completes the many duties of ministry done amidst the work of the church’s Disaster Response Team — whose efforts have taken over Grace Covenant’s sanctuary ever since Hurricane Helene struck on Sept. 26-27 — Grace Covenant’s pastor and head of staff, the Rev. Dr. Marcia Mount Shoop, said, “This is ministry. This is it.” Every Sunday, Grace Covenant worships in the sanctuary amid the goods the church is giving away.

Each weekday, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church serves about 200 people impacted by Hurricane Helene. Each day Monday through Friday, Grace Covenant serves about 200 area residents by providing not only needed goods but rent and utility assistance. Since the devastating storm, the church has used grants and donations to provide \$230,000 to help keep residents in their homes and their utility bills paid. Mount Shoop expects November to be even more challenging, with relief efforts at Grace Covenant expected to keep going into 2025.

The sanctuary at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church has been completely given over to food, diapers, personal care items and other goods in demand a month after Hurricane Helene.

The aid program, run mostly by church volunteers and others who provide, among other services, translation, begins each weekday at noon. By 10 o’clock, the line stretches to the parking lot, Kyremes-Parks says. Pallets of bottled water are on hand, as are four portable toilets. “Since the storm, I know adrenaline is my friend,” she said, adding, “We have a great staff.” The associate pastor at Grace Covenant is the Rev. Luke Harkema.



“We get donations all day long,” Kyremes-Parks said. Each person fills out a shopping list outside, then gets their order filled inside the sanctuary. Those seeking housing or utility aid can make an appointment about five days in advance. Many people who have received assistance have later returned to help their fellow residents. “We can give to people without a lot of questions,” Kyremes-Parks said. “If you say you need 40 rolls of paper towels, we believe you.” It’s “concerning to us,” she said, that the state has not placed a moratorium on evictions or utility disconnects following the hurricane. A little more than a month after Helene, many relief centers are closing, she said. “These are people who’ve fallen through the cracks, with no other place to go,”



Mount Shoop said. She showed the visitors a large binder full of the receipts for rent assistance. About 200 applications remain for October before the team can turn to the November applications. “We’ve applied for every grant we know,” Mount Shoop said. Donations are generally about \$10,000 ahead of the assistance awarded, “but we’re on the razor’s edge,” she said.

A large notebook holds all the rental assistance payments Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church made during the month of October. With all the ministry going on, the church’s session has decided to forgo the church’s annual stewardship season. “We’re trusting God,” said Mount Shoop, who’s served Grace Covenant since 2016. “We have spent almost every penny on rent and utility bills.” Grace Covenant’s 750 or so members are eight years into their work dismantling white supremacy. “Our church people pivoted overnight” following Helene, Mount Shoop said. “They understand what’s happening — that Black and brown people are carrying the load,” especially people working in Asheville’s hospitality industry, which has been especially impacted by the storm.

Windows ON: Remembering AFPC Member Rita Oberholzer

Rita Marie Oberholzer, 90, of Athens, died Thursday evening, October 3, 2024 at The Lindley Inn. Born January 16, 1934 in Belden, Nebraska, she was the daughter of the late Ervin Stapelman and Muriel Elizabeth Benson Stapelman.

She was a graduate of Randolph (NE) High School and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska. She retired from Columbia Gas System where she worked in Toledo,

Springfield and Athens. She was a member of 1st Presbyterian Church of Athens, Presbyterian Women's Association, Business and Professional Women's Club, Quota Club, Higley Study Circle and PEO Chapter G. She was a longtime resident of Athens.

Rita is survived by two nephews, Brad (Theresa) Stapelman of Belden, NE and Brent (Sonny) Stapelman of Pikeville, TN. Also surviving are several in laws, and close and special friends.

Besides her parents she is preceded in death by her husband, John Robert "Skinny" Oberholzer, who passed away May 22, 1974; and a brother, Richard Stapelman.

Funeral service were conducted Tuesday, October 8th at Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens with Rev. Robert Martin officiating. Burial was in Athens Memory Gardens. Please share a memory or note of condolence at www.jagersfuneralhome.com.

Advent Devotionals "Around The Table"

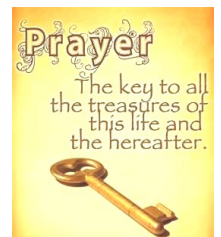
Advent begins on December 1st. As we approach this holy season, we are asking for stories and pictures about your experiences with faith and love around the table to share in our Advent Devotionals booklet. There are three ways for you to share. You may send a picture with a brief caption or a picture with a short (really short due to space) story, or a longer story without a picture. Long stories should still be less than a page. To be ready for the start of Advent, we need your stories and pictures by November 13th. We can scan the pictures and return them to you, or you can scan or upload them and attach them to your story. Send your contributions to Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org Hoping to hear your stories.

Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed

The Church Community Committee is seeking volunteers to take a turn hosting the Fellowship Hour held immediately after worship. Light refreshments, to go along with our coffee and conversation are appreciated. Expenses incurred can be reimbursed by turning in your receipts to the church office. A sign-up sheet is located on the wall near the kitchen in Fellowship Hall.

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 office@athensfpc.org



UPCOMING EVENTS**Habitat For Humanity Rummage Sale
Christ The King Church****Saturday, November 9th-8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Donations of clothing, toys, books, puzzles, kitchenware, appliances and other small items are welcome and can be dropped off at Christ The King Church on the Thursday or Friday before the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Habitat For Humanity's recent scrap metal drive was a success, earning \$1,503.66. Thanks to all who brought in dead lawnmowers, old car engines, and other scrap metal contributions.

**Organ Concert****Sunday, November 24th Following Worship**

Our own Janice Robison will be presenting a concert following worship November 24th. Plan to stay and enjoy the wonderful music as we celebrate Thanksgiving and prepare for the Advent season.

Thanksgiving Day**Thursday, November 28th - 2:00 p.m.**

There will be a Thanksgiving Church Potluck dinner at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Contact Harvey Ballard, Andrew Stuart or the church office for more info, and to let them know if you plan to attend.



Turkey will be provided.



*I will praise
the name
of God
with a song,
and will
magnify him with*

THANKSGIVING*Psalms 69:30***Poinsettias**

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone, for decorating the sanctuary for Advent, please notify the church office at 740-593-3351 or email office@athensfpc.org

Choice of color is on a first come-first served basis. An insert with "In memory of" or "In honor of" will be in the bulletin. Please specify if you want to pick up the flower after the Christmas Eve service or donate it to the Deacons for distribution. Please send your check to 9 North College Street, Athens OH 45701, or place it in the offertory plate with "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

Advent Breakfast**Sunday, December 1st - 9:00 a.m.**

The Church Community Committee will host the annual Advent Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on December 1st and asks for volunteers to prepare something to share with those in attendance. Please email Anne Kemmerle (annekemmerle@gmail.com) or phone her at 740-591-2145 to make your commitment.

First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

November 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

December 2024 Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, November 20th

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.