



WINDOW

OCTOBER 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Athens, OH



From the Pastor....

How are you doing? How is it with your soul? Mine has been a little weary, if I'm honest. Our country has had divides and divisions all the way through our history, but the particular divide in which we are standing feels bigger than most. I feel stretched thin, trying to straddle the distance between us. I'm unwilling to abandon God's call for justice and mercy and love. I'm also trying hard to hang on to relationships with loved ones, but am baffled how they are celebrating politics of violence, division, and greed. They call me an 'extremist' and I don't know what they think I'm being extreme for—love, the right of other people to live?

We seem to be living on two different planets and the common welfare seems to be lying shattered at the bottom of the chasm between us.

And while we, as a nation, seem to be living for two very different dreams or visions, we as followers of Jesus are working for a particular dream. We embody the love and hope of God so that we do not become the violence and hate we stand against.

What are your dreams? When and how has God spoken words you needed to hear to keep going on the journey? Presbyterians aren't really known for being dream people. We have "decently and in order" tattooed on our souls, which is how it should be.

Yet there are times when we need confirmation about the path we're on that is different than the confirmation we get from maps, or GPS, or other external data.

We need divine dreams, dreams that encourage, dreams that equip us, dreams that point us down the road.

If you've noticed, I never speak about God's will. Or God's plan. I ask, instead, that we discern what God might be

dreaming for us.

I try to figure out where my life intersects with what God is dreaming for me, then I can try to live into the best journey God could imagine for me, which I guarantee is better than what I could dream up for myself. It doesn't take away my ability to make mistakes. But it does still allow for God's redemption of whatever situation in which I find myself. It is a little easier to 'course correct' if I feel like God is helping me find a way after I feel like I've hit a dead end.

I want to share this poem by David Whyte:

What to remember when waking

In that first hardly noticed moment
in which you wake,
coming back to this life
from the other
more secret, moveable and
frighteningly honest world
where everything began,
there is a small opening
into the new day
which closes the moment
you begin your plans.
What you can plan
is too small
for you to live.
What you can live
wholeheartedly
will make plans
enough
for the vitality
hidden in your sleep.
To be human
is to become visible
while carrying
what is hidden
as a gift to others.
To remember
the other world
in this world
is to live in your
true inheritance.

~Pastor Rob

October 2025
Saturday, October 4th
Blessing of the Animals
2:00 p.m.
Westside Shelter House
No. 1

Sunday, October 5th
**World Communion/
Peacemaking Offering**
Sunday
10:30 a.m. Communion
and Peacemaking Offering
during Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour

Sunday, October 12th
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour

Sunday, October 19th
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour
1:00 p.m.—Lindley Hymn
Sing

Saturday, October 25th
Uptown Trick or Treat
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 26th
Reformation Sunday
10:30 a.m. Puppet
Ministry during 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 Sunday, October 5th

FPC walkers will meet October 5th at 2:00 p.m. by the Athens Community Center solar panels to take a hike on the bike path. If you would like to contribute 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 2025 October 4th - 9:30 a.m.

This year NAMI Athens is joining NAMI affiliates across the country in NAMI WALKS on October 4th at 9:30 a.m. The event will feature a 3k or a 5k walk beginning at the office at 17 Blue Line Drive. 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 their mission of advocacy, education, and support.



October 2025 Worship

October 5th Our communal Lament for a world that could be.

First Reading Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26

Psalm Psalm 137:1-9

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel Luke 17:5-10

October 12th Forced Gratitude

First Reading Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalm Psalm 66:1-12

Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-15

****Gospel Luke 17:11-19***

October 19th Persistence pays off

First Reading Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm Psalm 119:97-104

Second Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

****Gospel Luke 18:1-8***

October 26th Trusting in God's grace

First Reading Joel 2:23-32

Psalm Psalm 65:1-13

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

****Gospel Luke 18:9-14***

First Reading

****Sermon Text***



Christian Education and Upcoming Events at FPC

Children's Sunday School

Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. The elementary Sunday School lessons will be using the Amazing Adventures curriculum while the preschool class is learning from the Growing in Grace and Gratitude series. The children have finished their unit on creation and will be studying the stories of Exodus. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact Barb Martin at barbaraartin729@msn.com or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers.

Women's Book Study - via Zoom

Join Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as attendees discuss *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J. Jacobs. 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 4th - 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals

To show love, care, and concern for God's creations, Rev. Martin will lead a short service at 2:00 p.m. for all our animal companions at the West State Street Park-Shelter #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.

October 5th - CROPwalk

CROPwalk will take place on October 5th this year at 2:00 p.m. Our team of walkers consists of Margaret Bourke, Helen King, Danny Moates, Linda Parsons, Carol Perry, and Jan Robison. Each has a special envelope to receive your donations leading up to the event. Please support the First Presbyterian team and this worthy cause.

October 12th

Libby's Pumpkin Patch

We will be traveling to Libby's Pumpkin Patch near Albany after church for a fun afternoon selecting the perfect pumpkin. Children and adults are invited to travel as a group to enjoy farm attractions including a corn maze, hay rides, giant slide, hay bale creations, and more. We will meet there at 12:30 p.m. and the church will cover the cost of admission. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend and/or need transportation.

October 19th

Plan to decorate a pumpkin during Fellowship Hour after church. There will be stickers, paint and other items to use to decorate your pumpkin. Please let Joan or Richard Nease know if you would like a pumpkin to decorate. We will also travel to the Lindley Inn for our monthly hymn sing which begins at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

Saturday, October 25th - Uptown Trick-or-Treat

2:30 p.m. to 4:30p.m.

First Presbyterian Church will participate in the uptown trick-or-treat event. Volunteers are needed to help pass out treats on our church steps. Donations of small, child-safe appropriate items may be accepted to pass out to children. Please contact Richard Nease for more details at christianed@athensfpc.org

November Events

Mark your calendar for the Presbytery Fall Youth Retreat to be held November 14-16 at Kirkmont Center. The retreat starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and goes until 12:30 p.m. on Sunday. Richard and Joan Nease will have more information with details about registration and events scheduled during the retreat. Contact then at christianed@athensfpc.org to express interest.

November 2nd - Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 4th - Election Day

November 8 or 15 (TBD) - Saturday Bible School for children
December 1 - Cookie Baking and Decorating in the church kitchen
December 2 - Advent Dinner in Fellowship Hall



Windows ON: Remembering AFPC Members and Friends ELLIE ROBE

Eleanora “Ellie” Clara Komyati Robe, 94, of Powell, Ohio passed away peacefully into the arms of the Lord on Saturday morning, August 16, 2025. She now rests in eternal peace, rejoicing in the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ellie was born on October 1, 1930 at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio to parents Steve and Margaret Black Komyati. Ellie was preceded in death by her loving husband, Dr. T. Richard “Dick” Robe in January 2022; her parents in 1968; her brother Army Lt. Eugene “Gene” Robert Komyati in 1998 and her sister-in-love Matilda “Mitti” McKinley Komyati in 2005.

Ellie is survived by her children: Julia Robe Yokum of Fayetteville, Georgia; U.S. Marine Kevin Robe of Powell, Ohio; Stephen Robe (Amy) of Menlo Park, California and Edward Robe (Kerri) of Powell, Ohio. She was the devoted grandmother of: Zachary Yokum (Meredith) of Fayetteville, Georgia; Dr. Nicholas Yokum (Anna Joy) of Trenton, Georgia; Ryan Robe of Powell, Ohio; Conor Robe and Dylan Robe of Menlo Park, California. She was also the proud great grandmother of: Rowan Yokum, Elliana “Ellie” Yokum and Joshua Yokum of Fayetteville, Georgia and Evora “Evie” Yokum of Trenton, Georgia. She also cherished numerous nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews.

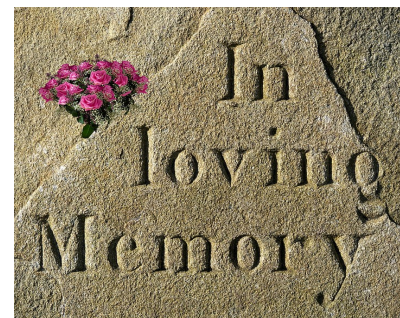
A celebration of Ellie’s life will be held on Friday, September 5, 2025, at Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, 24 Morris Avenue Athens, Ohio 45701. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Celebration Service beginning at 2:00 p.m. Afterwards, a graveside service will be held at the West Union Street Cemetery in Athens, Ohio. Ellie would want you to remember her as vibrant, smiling and joyful. The family invites you to wear cheerful colors as we celebrate

our matriarch. Please share a memory of Ellie at www.jagarsfuneralhome.com. Sometime soon – please watch at least one episode of MONK J. Ellie loved this show, frequently laughing and enjoyed the jocularity Monk provided. ROMANS 15:13. Ellie graduated from John Adams High School in Cleveland, Ohio Class of 1948. After graduation, she worked diligently for two years earning college funds. In 1950, Ellie was the first person in her family to attend college at Ohio University. She stepped onto the Ohio University campus with her childhood Hungarian friend, Maribeth Greeley Schleif. Ellie graduated on Sunday, June 13, 1954 with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. Between entering college and graduating, Ellie met the love of her life T. Richard “Dick” Robe (Civil Engineering). They had their first date in the spring of 1952 and married on August 27, 1955 at the First Hungarian Reformed Church in Cleveland, Ohio. After their honeymoon at Niagara Falls, and a brief stay living in Cleveland, Ohio, the newlyweds moved to Erie, Pennsylvania in October 1955. They moved on to Winterhaven, Florida in March 1956 as Ellie became a United States Airforce pilot’s wife where her husband trained for USAF jets such as T-34, T-28, T-33 and later in advanced Jet Fighter Pilot training of F-86D, F-86L and also flying F-102 in Air Defense Command. Together, the Air Force moved them to Big Springs, Texas, then Sherman, Texas, and finally to Fairfield, California at Travis AFB. In their lifetime together, Ellie and Dick moved home locations 21 times, including a move overseas in 1973 to Edinburgh, Scotland with their four children (ages 3, 7, 12 & 14) where Dr. Robe served as a visiting professor at the University of Edinburgh. As



on American soil, Ellie’s natural ability to connect with others increased her lifelong friend count on another continent. A majority of her married life was in Lexington, Kentucky (15 years) and Athens, Ohio (30-plus years). Ellie enjoyed incredible adventures at her breathless pace in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, California, Colorado, Kentucky, Virginia, Scotland, South Carolina and Georgia. Ellie’s children were born in four different states: Texas, Ohio, California and Kentucky.

Ellie’s godly legacy and nurturing nature lives on in the lives and upon the hearts of those who loved her and whose lives she touched with her faith, her energy, her humor and her limitless love. Ellie was a committed, generous and thoughtful daughter, sister, cousin, niece, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother and friend.



Chili Cook-off Mission Fundraiser October 19th During Fellowship Hour

The Chili Cook-off challenge has been issued! The Church Community Committee and the Mission Committee challenge you to come up with the best chili in town. To enter, simply prepare enough chili to feed at least eight people. You will be the judge. There will be cups placed in front of each chili into which you can place your money to vote for your favorite chili. Whoever collects the most money wins the title for best 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.

Sign up as an individual or as a group to make chili and win bragging rights for the best chili. The purpose is to raise funds for mission. This year's proceeds will be directed to Mark Hare, Jenny Bent, and family's ministry. Bring your appetite... the lunch is free. Bring your friends... the fun is entertaining. Bring your chili and win coveted bragging rights. Bring your checkbook or cash to vote for the best chili and support a worthy ministry.



Marilyn and Dan Neason Celebration Saturday, November 8th

You are invited to join Marilyn and Dan Neason as they celebrate their 90th birthdays and their 70th wedding anniversary Saturday, November 8th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church 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 email at office@athensfpc.org



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Joyce Beauvais
3 – Katie Kotowski Lawler
8 – Ruth Conliffe
10 – Sidney Dorrill
Samuel Gutekanst
Amy Murphy
14 – Pamela Brown
15 – Peggy Jagers

16 – Mary Costello
Emma Gaul
Samantha Lloyd
22 – Molly Stewart
24 – Heidi Marty
26 – Harvey Ballard
31 – Alexandra Jordan



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**2025** Adrienne Nagy, Andrew Stuart, and David Tees**2026** Sharon Huge, Linda Parsons, Jane Woodrow, and Hugh Woods**2027** Harvey Ballard, John King, Susan Loughridge, and Sandy Nesbitt**FPC Board of Deacons****2025** Alan Boyd, Mary Costello, Kim Jordan, Becky Pankratz and Ellen Sostarich**2026** Helen King, Joyce Mullins, Harold Robison, Riley Smoot, and Ayse Suer**2027** Carolyn Allen, Margaret Bourke, Bobbi Conliffe, Lois Harkins, and Carol Perry**Advent Devotionals**

Submissions are now being accepted for this year's Advent devotional booklets. This year's theme is sharing or receiving kindness. You may send a picture with a brief caption, a picture with a short story, or a longer story without a picture. Long stories should be less than one page. We need your stories submitted by November 13th in order to be ready for Advent. Send your contributions to Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org



"The World does not exist for our exclusive satisfaction. It consists of billions of creatures all trying to make their way through life, and God loves them all, even the creatures that can harm us."

Norman Wirzba

In recognition and remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi-12th century Italian mystic, catholic friar, and patron saint of animals-you, your pets, and all animals in your care, are invited to join us on Saturday, October 4th, for a special Blessing of the Animals service. We'll bring our furry, feathery, scaly friends, all creatures great and small, who enrich our lives as companions on the journey of life. We will meet at West State Street Park – Shelter #1 at 2:00 p.m. All mobile pets should be leashed or caged. If you cannot bring your pet, a photo or stuffy representation will suffice.

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the



Athens County Recycling Days

Saturday, October 18th From 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Athens County Fairgrounds
Scrap Metal/Recycling Drive



Items accepted for free: household goods/furniture, clothing, fabrics/materials, books CDs/DVDs, appliances/small appliances, E-waste such as computers/monitors/wires/printers/cell phones/tablets/laptops, scrap metal/misc. metal items, tools and building materials, batteries (please tape lead acid and lithium ion), medical supplies (no prescriptions), single stream recyclables, mattresses and box springs.

Items Accepted for a fee: flat screen TVs-\$20, tube TVs-\$40, fluorescent tube-.50¢, compact bulb-.50¢.

All proceeds from the scrap metal drive will go to build affordable housing for low-income families.



Windows ON: Amesville-New England

Kaylee Poston-Ford has been going to Parish Camp at Geneva Hills since she was in elementary school. She is now sixteen, and this year served as a counselor- in - training, adding to her leadership abilities and love of the outdoors. In 2023 Kaylee wrote the following, but the same is true for her and other campers and counselors who spent a week at Parish Camp. "Camp at Geneva Hills is most definitely a great experience.

I encourage anyone who wants to make new friends, get closer with God and explore nature to go. I have been going to camp for many years ow. I have made new friends that I value to this day. I have connected with nature. But more importantly, I have gotten closer with God. Parish camp has given

me and so many others over the years a second home where we feel safe, loved and happy. Whether it's kayaking, swimming, hiking, sitting by the campfire or Bible Study, we are having fun. For as long as I have gone to Parish camp, I have loved it unconditionally more and more."

Monday Bible School for children and youth is happening each Monday. The theme for Bible Study is "Jesus Cares and So Should We." The group meets from 4 to 5:30 for all sorts of activities including music, crafts, games, worship, snack and Bible stories from the life of Jesus.

James Lochary, a long-time member and ruling elder of the Amesville Presbyterian Church died at The Laurels on September 19th.

He was 93 years old. After retirement, he and his wife Ruth moved to the Henry Farm of Amesville. The farm was founded in 1816 by John Henry. Jim was the sixth generation to live on the farm. Along with being an elder, he played in the handbell choir and often sang solos in church. Jim was also active in the Amesville Grange #798 and the Amesville Lodge 278 F&AM. A graveside service was conducted on Wednesday, September 24th at the Beechgrove Cemetery in Pomeroy with Steve Hays officiating.

Worship services are held each Sunday morning at the Amesville Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. with various worship leaders including: Helen King, Steve Hays, Marjie Shew, and Kathy Elasky. Come and worship with us!

Windows ON: James and Martha Bratton Scholarship Winners Announced

Claire Abraham

Claire is a freshman at Ohio University majoring in Psychology. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Child Psychology with the intent to work with children who may need extra help both in and out of the classroom. She desires to work as a psychologist, social worker, or other profession in the field of mental health. Claire is a member of 1st United Methodist Church in Nelsonville and participates in Young Life, Children's Connection, Vacation Bible School craft leader, and occasional nursery helper.

Isabel Gebara

Isabel is a student at Ohio University with a Pre-nursing major. She plans to earn her nursing license and work in an emergency room or high-level trauma area. By choosing to focus on high-level trauma or the emergency department she hopes to help individuals when they are at one of their lowest, and sometimes scariest moments in their lives. She feels that her ability to be empathetic, gentle, and understanding towards those in all walks of life will serve her well in trauma nursing. She attends Christ Lutheran Church and is active in The Bridge campus ministry program at Christ Lutheran.

Noah Heinrich

Noah is a freshman at Ohio University majoring in Music and is a member of the Ohio University Marching 110. He cites music as a tool to build community and to put Christ's teaching into action. Some of his earliest memories revolve around music at the church and he credits that as igniting his interest in music from the beginning. Noah is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Athens where he has served as an acolyte, liturgist, helped host the fellowship hour, and provided special music during worship on his clarinet.

Isaac Payton

Isaac is a freshman at Ohio University where he is studying psychology. He desires to do something with his life that will benefit and help others, and finds the science behind psychology absolutely fascinating. Isaac feels that choosing to be a psychologist will allow him to help others bear their mental burdens and ease the turmoil in their minds. The church has impacted his life and influenced his career path. It has taught him to be a better person and the importance of lifting up others. Isaac is a member of Canaanville United Methodist Church and is active in Youth Bible Study class, Vacation Bible School helper/recreation leader, Boy Scouts, and served as a Buckeye Boys State delegate.

First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

October 2025



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<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: Peter Haley

CE Co-Directors: Richard and Joan Nease

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry

Church Custodian: Tom Medley

Phone: (740) 593-3351 **FAX:** (740) 593-3352
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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 2025 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 Ipera 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.