



November 2025

Sunday, November 2nd
All Saints' Sunday
Daylight Savings Time
ENDS ("fall back")
10:30 a.m. - Communion
during Worship

Sunday, November 9th
10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sunday, November 16th
Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Worship
1:00 p.m. - The Lindley
Inn Hymn Sing

Sunday, November 23rd
Christ the King Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Worship
Puppet Ministry

Thursday, November
27th
Church office is Closed
2:00 pm - All Church
Thanksgiving Potluck
Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 30th
1st Sunday in Advent
10:30 a.m. - Creche
Presentation During
Worship



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

WINDOW

NOVEMBER 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Athens, OH



From the Pastor....

As I have gotten older I have often been asked, "Looking back, what do you regret?" And I have answered. Sometimes, as you know, I will tell you even if you haven't asked. Sometimes, even when you've specifically requested I not tell you, I may still tell you.

So: What do I regret? Being poor from time to time? Not really. Working terrible jobs, like "putting in sprinkler systems in Florida, in the summer, with fire ants, alligators, and water moccasins" No. I don't regret that. My many failures in school, or at being a husband or a father? In an odd way, I think they helped me grow. But here's something I do regret:

In fifth grade, this new kid joined our class. In the interest of confidentiality, her name will be "ELLEN." Ellen was shy, had wild blonde hair, and lived in a small home that I passed every day going to and coming home from school. She wore these blue cat's-eye glasses that, at the time, only older women wore. When nervous, which was pretty much always, she had a habit of taking a strand of hair into her mouth and chewing on it.

So, she came to our school and our neighborhood, and was mostly ignored, occasionally teased ("Your hair taste good?" – that sort of thing). I could see

this hurt her. I still remember the way she'd look after such an insult: eyes cast down, a little gut-kicked, as if, having just been reminded of her place in things, she was trying, as much as possible, to disappear. After awhile she'd drift away, hair-strand still in her mouth.

At home, I imagined, after school, her mother would say, you know: "How was your day, sweetie?" and she'd say, "Oh, fine." And her mother would say, "Making any friends?" and she'd go, "Sure, lots."

Sometimes I'd see her hanging around alone in her front yard, as if afraid to leave it. And then – she was gone. That was it. No tragedy, no big final hazing. One day she was there, next day she wasn't. End of story.

Now, why do I regret *that*? Why, fifty-seven years later, am I still thinking about it? I never said an unkind word to her. In fact, I sometimes even (mildly) defended her. But still. It bothers me. I quietly joined in the other kids' laughter and never said a word out loud in her defense. So, here's something I know to be true, although it's a little corny, and I don't quite know what to do with it: What I regret most in my life are *failures of kindness*.

Those moments when another human

(continued from page 1)

being was there, in front of me, suffering, and I responded sensibly. Reservedly. Mildly.

Or, to look at it from the other end of the telescope: Who, in your life, do you remember most fondly, with the most undeniable feelings of warmth? Those who were kindest to you, I bet.

It may seem a little silly, maybe, and certainly hard to implement, but I'd say, as a goal in life, you could do worse than: Try to be kinder. Now, the million-dollar question: What's our problem? Why aren't we kinder? swing-sets, and low-hanging clouds and, you know, other people), and (3) we're permanent (death is real, o.k., sure – for you, but not for me).

Now, we don't really believe these things – intellectually we know better – but we believe them viscerally, and live by them, and they cause us to prioritize our own needs over the needs of others, even though what we really want, in our

hearts, is to be less selfish, more aware of what's actually happening in the present moment, more open, and more loving.

So, the second million-dollar question: How might we DO this? How might we become more loving, more open, less selfish, more present, less delusional, etc.? So, let me just say this. There *are* ways. You already know that because, in your life, there have been High Kindness periods and Low Kindness periods, and you know what inclined you toward the former and away from the latter.

Education is good; immersing ourselves in a work of art: good; prayer is good; a frank talk with a dear friend; establishing ourselves in a spiritual tradition – recognizing that there have been countless really smart people before us who have asked these same questions and left behind answers for us. Because kindness, it turns out, is *hard* – it starts out all rainbows and

puppy dogs, and expands to include... well, *everything*.

Hence, the theme for our stewardship campaign this year, "Cultivating Kindness."

We get our butts kicked by real life problems and people come to our defense, and help us, and we learn that we're not separate, and don't want to be. We see people near and dear to us dropping away, and are gradually convinced that maybe we too will drop away (someday, a long time from now).

Since, according to me, your life is going to be a gradual process of becoming kinder and more loving: Hurry up. Speed it along. Start right now. For kindness is humbly giving of ourselves in love and mercy to others. We invite you to join us in making a financial commitment to the church. Every gift tells a story of gratitude and kindness given and received, and makes a difference.

~Pastor Rob

November 2nd
First Reading Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm Psalm 119:137-144
Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Gospel Luke 19:1-10

To seek out and save the lost

November 9th
First Reading Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm Psalm 98:1-9
Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Gospel Luke 20:27-38

Alive to God

November 16th
First Reading Isaiah 65:17-25
Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Gospel Luke 21:5-19

Created for Joy and Delight

November 23rd
First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6
Gospel Luke 1:68-79
Second Reading Colossians 1:11-20
Gospel Luke 23:33-43

Christ the King Sunday

November 30th
First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm Psalm 122:1-9
Second Reading Romans 13:11-14
Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

The things that make for Peace

November 2025 Worship



Christian Education and Other Upcoming Events at FPC

Sundays during Worship - Children's Sunday School - Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. The pre-school class is learning from the *Growing In Grace and Gratitude* series and the elementary class lessons are from the *Amazing Adventures* curriculum with stories from the Old Testament. 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.

Cultivating Kindness With Pete The Cat - November 15th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the children of the church, their friends, and adult volunteers are invited to learn about kindness with Pete the Cat. Crafts, games, outreach, and snacks will be part of the fun with t-shirts for participants. Lunch will be provided. Contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com to register children or volunteer.



Advent Devotional Submissions Deadline is November 16th - 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 "Kindness and Compassion". Deadline to submit content for the *Advent Devotional* is November 16th.

Thursday, November 27th - All Church Thanksgiving Potluck
2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, November 30th - First Sunday of Advent

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.

Advent devotionals will be available for pick up.

Monday, December 1st - 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.



Beginning January 9th on Fridays at noon - Women's Book Study - via Zoom - Join Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as attendees discuss a soon to be selected book. For more information or to join, please contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org. or call the church office at (740) 593-3351.

Other Upcoming Events

Reminders

Sunday, November 2nd	<i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>
Tuesday, November 4th	<i>Election Day</i>
Tuesday, December 2nd	<i>Advent Dinner in Fellowship Hall</i>

Habitat for Humanity Update Recycling Day/Scrap Metal Drive

Habitat for Humanity would like to thank all who participated in the Scrap Metal Drive, Saturday, October 18th. All together they received over seven tons of scrap iron, which translated into \$1,623.00. All proceeds will go to build affordable housing for low-income families. Thanks to all!



Cultivating Kindness with Pete the Cat

Saturday, November 15th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

All the children of the church are invited.
Friends are welcomed, too.

Adult volunteers can also join in the fun.
Crafts, games, outreach, t-shirts for participants.
Snacks and lunch will be provided.

Contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com
to register or volunteer.

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.



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!



Chili Cook-off Update

The Chili Cook-off was held October 19th and was a huge success as congregants enjoyed tasting many varieties of chili along with cornbread, brownies, lemon cake, breads, desserts, and all the extra chili fixings. As many as ten varieties were available to sample with Pastor Rob's chili taking the most votes for favorite chili. Money raised from this event, \$751.00, will go to support Mark Hare and Jenny Bent's ministry. Thanks to all who participated by cooking and also voting for their favorite chili.



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 Margaret Bourke. Her email is mbourke1935@gmail.com. She can be reached by phone at (740) 707-4090.

Windows ON: CROPwalk THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Thanks to all who gave so generously to the CROPwalkers this year. It was a very strong showing, with more than \$6,200.00 total raised at last count.

Thanks to John Hauser for serving as treasurer for Athens CROPwalk. Thanks also to our FPC walkers: Margaret Bourke, Helen King, Dany Moates, Linda Parsons, Carol Perry, Jan Robison, and Riley

Smoot. Together with the other congregations there were at least 12 walkers. Adele Hanson coordinated the event and provided ice cream at the end of the walk. Mother Nature cooperated with decent weather. 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 2025-2026 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 will soon be working on folks to provide a main dish, or a dessert for

the upcoming semester. You can check with Lee Gregg as to what dates/items are 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 call Debbie at the church office (740) 593-3351 or email the office at office@athensfpc.org, or Lee Gregg (tleegregg@gmail.com) if you want to participate in this worthwhile mission work.

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



Stewardship 2026 Pledge Sunday - November 16th

Because of people like you, we are able to respond to God's call and carry out the day-to-day ministries of this congregation. We hope you will consider making a pledge. Gifts are always appreciated-even without a pledge. But, pledges are important for us to meet our budget, and fulfill God's call to carry out the various ministries of our church. We appreciate your consideration of participating in our stewardship campaign.

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

2026 Stewardship Campaign

The theme of the FPC 2026 Stewardship Campaign is "Embrace Kindness and Compassion"

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

—Colossians 3:12

Name: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE CHECK AND COMPLETE AS APPROPRIATE: ☐ Below is my pledge amount for the 2026 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.



Windows ON: Remembering Verda Jones

Verda B. Jones, 101, passed away Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at The Lindley Inn, The Plains, Ohio.

Born in Athens, Ohio to John W. and Mary L. Chappell, Verda spent most of her childhood in Athens County, including her grandparents' farm in Shade, Ohio. A 1941 graduate of Shade High School, Verda attended Ohio University on a full scholarship until the start of WWII changed everything.

In 1944, Verda eloped with Staff Sgt. Robert Sands at Fort Knox, Kentucky. They then lived on base in Arkansas until he was deployed overseas. She then moved to Akron, Ohio to live near her parents and find employment. After Robert's active duty, she moved to Athens so her husband could finish his degree with the help of the GI Bill. Due to his career, Verda and Robert lived in Akron, Detroit and Toledo before settling again in Athens. Robert Sands passed unexpectedly in 1962.

In 1964, Verda met and later married John M. Jones. She joined him in his business as well as becoming an active member of several charitable organiza-

tions serving the Athens community.

Verda was a charter member of the Sheltering Arms Hospital Guild, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees for O'Bleness Memorial Hospital, charter member of Southeastern Ohio Arts Center, Chairperson of the Athens City Bicentennial and received an Honorary Alumna Degree from Ohio University.

She was most proud to be one of eight founders (all women) of The Athens Foundation in 1983. Verda said they started with zero money and a lot of determination. To set up the fund each of the women donated \$50.00. The current endowment is now over \$12 million.

Besides her parents, Verda was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert B. Sands, her son, John Eric Sands Jones and her second husband, John M. Jones.

Surviving are her daughter Cynthia Winner (William) of The Plains, Ohio, the joys of her life, her three grandchildren John Mishler-Elmore (Beth) of Madison, Wisconsin; Robert Elmore



(Lindsay) of Solon, Ohio; Erika Jones of Portsmouth, Ohio; and her three great-grandchildren, Lillianna, Gabriel and Elliott. Verda was lucky to have loving nieces, nephews and cousins, who also survive.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to The Lindley Inn for the loving care Verda received; and Amedisys Hospice for their caring services.

In lieu of flowers, per Verda's wishes, please donate to The Athens County Food Shelter or Friends of the Shelter Dogs (FOSD) Athens County.

Windows ON: Mission/Outreach Committee Cats' Cupboard

The Cats' Cupboard is a food pantry for college students, run by the OU Dean of Students Office. It provides food and personal-hygiene items for the students who need them.

The contributions that FPC makes are greatly appreciated.

Students can apply on line and the validity and appropriateness of such applications are checked.

In addition to FPC members and friends, several other churches

and organizations—such as the Southeast Ohio Food Bank, the Atrium Café, and Athens Food Rescue—have contributed needed food items.

Our monetary donations are sent directly to the Cats' Cupboard as they are able to purchase needed items to supplement food donations. There is also a donation box in Baker Center to drop off donations of food.



Windows ON: Amesville-New England Parish

The Amesville-New England Parish continues to minister in the Amesville area, in spite of changes in the face of the congregation.

After school Bible School each Monday from 4 to 5:30 continues using the theme – “Jesus Cares and So Should We.” Children and youth continue to worship, sing, and play together each Monday.

On Halloween, Friday, October 31st “trick or treaters” received glow-in-the-dark bracelets and a flier inviting them and their families to both church and Monday Bible School.

Dorothy Glass, a long time elder is now living in Lyndley Hall after the death of her husband Jimmie Glass in early October. Dorothy is

in touch with her friends though visits and cards.

The congregation is blessed to have caring worship leaders each Sunday. They include: Keith Waserman, Helen King, Steve Hays, Kathy Elasky, Marjie Shew. Our thanks go to Barb Martin for all she does to find these worship leaders each Sunday.

Mark Hare and Jenny Bent continue their service in Costa Rica. Recently they had the pleasure of connecting with Joy Fisher, Congregational Consultant for the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. Joy and Mark went to India on a Summer Service Trip for the New Wilmington Mission Conference almost 40 years ago. Joy is on Sabbatical and has

gone to Costa Rica for an immersion class to learn Spanish. Mark and his family and Joy an afternoon together working in one of the gardens of the Biblical University (UBL), and then doing “touristy” activities.

Worship at the Amesville Presbyterian Church is each Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and visit!



Advent Devotionals



Advent begins on November 30th. As we approach this holy season, we are asking for stories and pictures about your experiences with kindness, either extended or received, 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 16th. 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

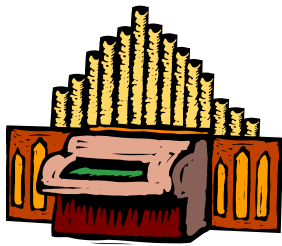
Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving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



UPCOMING EVENTS**FAITH BUILD COALITION RUMMAGE SALE**

**Christ The King/Holy Family Center-73 Stewart Street
Saturday, November 15th 8:30 a.m.-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 Holy Family Center on the Thursday or Friday before the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to the next house build project.



**Organ Recital
Sunday, November 23rd Following Worship**

Our own Janice Robison will be presenting a recital following worship November 23rd. Plan to stay and enjoy the wonderful music as we celebrate Thanksgiving and prepare for the Advent season.

**Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 27th - 2:00 p.m.**

There will be a church Thanksgiving Day 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. A sign-up sheet is located in Fellowship Hall. Turkey will be provided.



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

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 69:30

Poinsettias

We will soon be taking orders for poinsettias (in memory of or in honor of some one) to decorate the sanctuary for Advent. Please call the church office or pick up an order form in the narthex when they become available, complete the information and place in the offering plate.

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 offering plate with "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

**Advent Breakfast
Sunday, December 7th - 9:00 a.m.**

The Church Community Committee will host the annual Advent Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on December 7th and asks for volunteers to prepare something to share with those in attendance. Please email Sandy Nesbitt (sandynes@yahoo.com) or phone her at 740-590-6515 to make your commitment.

First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

November 2025



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: 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
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 2025 Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, November 21st

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.