



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!

October 2, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, **please silence your cell phone**. The nursery is available downstairs during both services. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prelude

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Gerre Hancock

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Minute for Mission

Jubilee Partners

Bobbie Epting

Song of Gathering

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!**

LLANFAIR

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-2

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing and give praise to God's name;
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

Children, ages 4 through grade 2, are invited to come forward to lead the Call to Worship at the 11:00 a.m. service. Afterwards, they will depart for Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

*Hymn 327

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

***Latecomers may be seated.

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

Twenty-five percent of the Peace & Global Witness Special offering received today will support Jubilee Partners, an intentional Christian service community in Comer, Georgia, whose primary ministry is offering hospitality to refugees.

The opening four lines of O Word of God Incarnate celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Today, O God, as we share with your people around the world in this sacrament of Holy Communion, help us to push a little bit closer to one another around the table so that there will always be room for another to have a place and share in your eternal gift of Jesus Christ. All too often we want to make our own menu for the table and limit the number and kind of people with whom we commune.

Forgive us for those times when we would rather idolize the Kingdom of Me than be reconciled with one another. Renew us for life in your Kingdom that is unlike any Kingdom in this world.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

***Latecomers may be seated.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 321, Stanza 1

**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson

Ephesians 4:1-6, page 1068

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson

John 1:1-13, page 968

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Christian First, Presbyterian Second

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 504**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Every worshiper, young and old, is encouraged to offer a gift out of gratitude to God.

8:45 a.m. Offertory Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

James Biery

The communion text Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

11:00 a.m. Offertory

Christ's Flock

Martin Shaw

In Christ's own flock let love be surely placed,
from Christ's own flock let concord hate expel:
of Christ's own flock let love be so embraced,
as we in Christ and Christ in us may dwell.
Christ is the author of all unity,
from whence proceedeth all felicity.
O sing unto this glittering glorious King,
O praises bring from every living thing:
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia!

The anthem was composed for the Church of St. Francis, Ngong, Kenya. The church was built by African and Asian craftsmen from funds given by Europeans. It has a racially mixed congregation; services are conducted in English and Swahili.

***Doxology**

Hymn 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy will be sung at 11:00 a.m. only.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."

A - men, A - men, A - men.

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward as the clergy direct.

11:00 a.m. – Please partake as you are served. The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread.

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium.

. . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .
Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 507** I Come with Joy DOVE OF PEACE

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Postlude** Prelude and Fugue in G Dietrich Buxtehude

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Nurseries for infants and toddlers, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children’s Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass doors.

To pick up your child from Children’s Church after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go through the Atrium to Fellowship Hall. A Children’s Church teacher will meet you there.

A special word of welcome to our guests. Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the pew pad so that we may be in touch. We are glad you are here and invite you to return.

**ATHHALF PRE-RACE SERVICE,
October 9, 6:30 a.m.**

We will host a brief worship service in Fellowship Hall before the AthHalf race. The service is informal and open to anyone who would like quiet reflection and inspiration for the half marathon ahead. It will include scripture, prayer, music and a message from Dr. Carol Strickland. The dress for the service is “athletic casual.” There will be no 8:45 a.m. worship service that day.

ROOTED & REACHING TREE

The tree in the Atrium is decorated in celebration of our church’s music ministry and the gifts all of our musicians and directors share to enhance our worship. Special thanks go to our Director of Music and Organist, Dr. John Coble, for his leadership.

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

We gather around the Communion Table today for World Communion Sunday. An important way to share the radical hospitality we receive at God’s Table is by supporting the Peace & Global Witness special offering which is received today.

Twenty-five percent of the offering this year will go to Jubilee Partners. Another 25% of the offering will go to our presbytery and synod for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% will be used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in our world of violence through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Thank you for your generosity.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland, Lorenzo Fischetti

Readers:

8:45 a.m.

Terry Caven

11:00 a.m.

Leslye Queen

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m.

Cash Havick, Katherine Queen

USHERS

8:45 a.m.

Carl Bergmann (head), John Simpson

11:00 a.m.

Greg Daniels (head), Allen Crowell,
Phyllis Crowell, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Rosemary Stancil

GREETERS

8:45 a.m.

Diane Hartzell, Grace Lu, Sue Marion

11:00 a.m.

Betsy Canfield, Shirley Evans,
Margaret Johansen, Rosemary Stancil

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Sally Vandiver

11:00 a.m. Don DeMaria, Madie Fischetti,
Leslye Queen, Christine Register

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it. – Mother Teresa

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Parker, given by Mary Peace.

The rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Olivia Lynn Jordan on September 22, 2016. Olivia is the daughter of Andy and Christy Jordan.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, the Atrium is equipped with video and sound for your worship needs.

Available in the narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** are available and usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted by phone to the church office, (706)543-4338, through the Prayer Request link on our church website (www.firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

The elder on call is Don DeMaria. You may contact Don at (706)340-2281 October 2-15. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Stewardship Home Gatherings

Our stewardship home gatherings begin this week and continue through the month of October. Dr. Bruce Lancaster will be on hand at each one to meet members in a casual setting and to give a brief message about stewardship. If you have not received an invitation or have any questions, please contact Kitty Donnan (706-714-7266 or kittydavedonnan@gmail.com).

This week's gatherings:

Sunday, October 2, 2:00 p.m., Strickland/Palmer home, 1141 Nona Dr.

Sunday, October 2, 4:00 p.m., Nichols home, 850 Beaverdam Rd., Winterville

Sunday, October 2, 7:00 p.m., Neighbors home, 1030 Forrest Hills Dr., Watkinsville

Tuesday, October 4, 7:30 p.m., McKay/Hardin home, 126 Deertree Dr.

Thursday, October 6, 5:30 p.m., Vandiver home, 1420 Crystal Hills Dr.

Thursday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., Shirley home, 1150 Cleveland Rd., Bogart

Friday, October 7, 7:00 p.m., Fischetti home, 645 Ogleshorpe Ave.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.

Sunday School Greeters this week: Jim Scanlon, Judy Scanlon

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants - 5th Grade

Infants • Nursery Infant Room

Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom

Nursery Coordinator: Wendi Finch

Our toddler and preschooler curriculum is Group Publishing's Play-n-Worship. It is filled with music, activities, and storyboards that encourage little ones to interact with Bible stories.

Children's Sunday Morning Music: Garland Ryder

Our 4 year-olds through 2nd graders begin most Sunday mornings in the Children's Ministry Suite with fun music and movement before heading into their Sunday School rooms.

4 Year-Olds - Kindergarten • Room 127

Teachers: Jennifer Castleman, Karen Cobb, Mary Smith, Dan Trier

1st Grade - 2nd Grade • Room 126

Teachers: Jennifer Abbott, Don DeMaria, Madie Fischetti, Matt Jones

Our 4 Year-Olds through 2nd Graders will be using Spark Lectionary Curriculum. Every Sunday, our children will explore their Bibles, enjoy fun activities, sing, pray, and grow in faith together.

3rd Grade - 4th Grade • Room 125

5th Grade • Room 124

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders will be introduced to our new Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play encourages children to explore their faith through story, helps them gain religious language and grows their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Teachers: Natalie Bishop, Jody Corry, Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson, Denise Laboon

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 310

Study and analysis focusing on biblical principles as found in the Gospel of Luke.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Connections • Room 303

Study of the book, Making Sense of the Bible, by Adam Hamilton.

Led by: Margaret Davis, Jay Holloway, Carol Strickland

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- October 2 - Lemuel LaRoche, Executive Director of Chess and Community, a local youth development organization, will be speaking.
- October 9 - DVD, Lost Christianities

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Saga of Jacob from Genesis

Teacher: John Kipp

New Voices • Room 302

Study of the book, Searching for Sunday, by Rachel Held Evans

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Erik Ness, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Will begin with the Gospel of John with other books of the New Testament to follow.

Led by: Richard Stone

Women's Bible • Room 301

Will begin by looking at the last four chapters of the Gospel of Luke; other books of scripture will follow.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

6th - 12th Grade • The PIT

This year we will connect with God multiple ways: fellowship, breaking bread together, service projects, small group study of scripture, and Godly Play. Through these different spiritual disciplines, we hope to come to know God and each other on a deeper level.

Led by: Kim Ness,

Meghan Bawcum, Middle School

Alyssa Standard, High School

October 2

Youth will meet with their small groups today. Our high school group, led by Alyssa Standard, will begin to explore the lectionary through PC(USA)'s Feasting on the Word curriculum. Our middle school, led by Meghan Bawcum, will watch videos and answer common faith questions using the re:form curriculum.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 2 - World Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, and Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:15 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship, "108 Sun Salutation Festival," Meet in Weekday School Lobby

Monday, October 3

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle One, Home of Elinor Terrell, 116 Princeton Mill Rd.
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Two, Home of Betty Shuford, 1355 Timothy Rd.
- 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:00 p.m. New Elder Training, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, October 4

- 12:10 p.m. Lunch Book Group, Room 124
- 12:15 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Three/Four, Home of Betsy Canfield, 126 Skyline Rdg.
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, October 5

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Fall Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 3:30 p.m. Knit for Kids & More, Bride's Room
- 4:30 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's Henry VI - Part III, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. IHN Post-Planning Meeting, The PIT
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrew's Choir, Room 202
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Believing the Future: A Church of Energy, Intelligence, Imagination and Love, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 6

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday Fall Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Home of Josephine Paine, 640 Riverview Road
- 1:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Morningside of Athens, 1291 Cedar Shoals Dr.
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, October 9

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Jerris Hayes, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2016

Diane Adams
Matt Bishop
Rod Canfield
Bertis Downs
Joe Neighbors
Terry Nestor
Leslye Queen
Chuck Roberts
Ed Smith
Sally Vandiver

CLASS OF 2017

Allen Crowell
Don DeMaria
Madie Fischetti
Jerris Hayes
Joy Holloway
Diane Hudgins
Mike Morris
Jerry Rogers
Ella Stewart

CLASS OF 2018

Joe Attaway
David Cole
Jason Doornbos
Sue Gray
Mark Harrison
Denise Horton
Christine Register
Arlene Shirley
Harry Shuford
Richard Stone

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor
Dr. John Kipp, Parish Associate
The Reverend Bob Googe, Parish Associate
Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist
Mrs. Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministries
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, Director of Weekday School
Mr. Roger Burbage, Church Administrator
Ms. Melanie Powers, Children and Youth Music Assistant
Ms. Lucy Bell, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Nan Powell, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Administrative Assistant
Ms. Wendi Finch, Nursery Coordinator
Mr. Chuck Hunt, Sunday Morning Manager
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Alyssa Standard, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Geneva Stonecipher, Church Music Intern
Ms. Angela Suh, Website Intern

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Mrs. Christina Cotsakis Cordon, Outreach
Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry
Ms. Peyton Lipecky, Congregational Care
Ms. Jordan Osborne, Children's Ministry

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