



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 9, 2016

11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Aria

Paul Manz

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Song of Gathering

**Tree of Wisdom, fruitful, green,
flourishing beside the stream;
spread your knowledge day and night;
make your law my true delight.
Fashion me, O Lord, to be
strong and splendid as a tree.**

DIX

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 457** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULAN

***Latecomers may be seated.

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

Set to a familiar tune (DIX), Trees is a new hymn composed by Michael Morgan. Its arboreal imagery is drawn from Psalm 1. We will sing a different stanza each week during our "Rooted & Reaching, Abounding in Thanksgiving," stewardship emphasis.

The original French text of Hymn 457, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we are very content with
easy ways that avoid sacrifice.**

**We prefer the safety of obscurity to the risk of standing tall
for Jesus.**

**We pray in private for those in need,
but we are hesitant to become personally involved with them.**

**We claim our place on a pew in worship,
but we complain when the church seeks a claim on our lives.**

**Forgive us for the sake of the cross-bearing Christ,
through whom we pray.**

***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 2:1-10, page 1066

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

Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Second Lesson

Matthew 11:12, 16-17, page 889

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

Sermon

The Violent Will Bear It Away

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 413** All Who Love and Serve Your City CHARLESTOWN

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Confession of 1967

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community.

This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other.

Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

His life as a human involves the church in the common life of all people.

His service to people commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of humankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on our inhuman treatment of other humans and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
... forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . .

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory Even when God is Silent Sumner Jenkins
I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when feeling it not.
I believe in God even when God is silent.
I believe in the silence.

***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**

Erik Routley wrote All Who Love and Serve Your City, his first hymn, in 1966. Reflecting on the Watts riots in Los Angeles (which were blamed principally on police brutality and racism), Routley combined Jesus' concern for doing God's work (John 9:4) with the prophetic view of the City of God found in Ezekiel 48:35.

The anthem is a setting of an anonymous text found written on a basement wall in Cologne, Germany. It was written by someone hiding from the Gestapo during the holocaust. The composer is the Organist/Choirmaster for Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

These stanzas of Hymn 298, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

- ***Hymn 298** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy IN BABILONE
- ***Benediction**
Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium.
- ***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
- ***Postlude** Improvisation on "O Day of Peace"

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

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.

ROOTED & REACHING TREE

The tree in the Atrium is decorated today to applaud and encourage the AthHalf runners whom we welcomed to our church this morning for our pre-race worship service.

PRIME TIME PRESBYTERIANS TRIP October 18, 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for a trip to the UGA Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. Carl Bergmann will present a program and lead a tour of the facility, which will be followed by lunch at Locos Eastside. Please RSVP by October 13 to Judy Howell, jhowell@uga.edu, or call 706-549-2888.

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT FAIR November 4 - 6

You are invited to share your talents by contributing items to be sold at the International Craft Fair, November 4 - 6. Examples might include knitting, sewing, pottery, jewelry, ornaments, baked goods, or services (music, lessons, babysitting, etc.). The money raised by the fair supports a variety of our church's missions. Contact Mary Burton for more information: 706-543-9619, marybu@charter.net, or 706-340-2814 (texts).

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 6

During morning worship we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2017. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge, keeping in mind that we are "Rooted & Reaching" in God's love and "abounding in thanksgiving."

THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY, November 13

This year we will continue our annual tradition of filling grocery bags with Thanksgiving meals for less fortunate neighbors in our community. Bags will be available for you to please pick up on Sunday, October 30 and November 6 and return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for a family of four on or before November 13.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, November 20, 4:30 p.m.

We begin a new tradition this year as we participate in the first annual Thanksgiving service, hosted by First Baptist Church this year. Please join us for this worship experience with other faith groups (including Jews and Muslims), followed by refreshments.

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

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

Cash Havick

Reader:

Charles Young

USHERS

Ron Cox (head), John Adams, Judy Howell,
Sue Landrum, Tom Landrum, Ed Law

GREETERS

Carol Dolson, Margaret Johansen,
Carmen Meadows, Ally Simmons

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

Rod Canfield, Leslye Queen,
Arlene Shirley, Ed Smith

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Susie Mendenhall, given by the Mendenhall family.

The rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Owen Laurence Guest on October 5, 2016. Owen is the son of Laura Beth and Keith Guest, Jr. and the grandson of DeDe and Keith Guest, Sr.

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but, how much of God's money will I keep for myself? – John Wesley

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 9-15. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Pere Bruno, Bethlehem Ministry Wed @First, November 2, 6:30 p.m.

We welcome Bethlehem Ministry's Pere Jean-Monique Bruno, founder of Haitian school Ecole St. Barthelemy, as our guest speaker after Wednesday night dinner in Fellowship Hall. Our church was instrumental in the establishment of the school and we look forward to Pere Bruno's visit with us.

To assist with humanitarian aid in Haiti, you may give to Bethlehem Ministry (checks marked, "hurricane relief"), P.O.Box 48387, Athens, GA 30604 or www.BethlehemMinistry.org. Donations will provide items such as blankets, tarps, cots, food, and dry charcoal for cooking.

Stewardship Home Gatherings

Our stewardship home gatherings continue this week and 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 9, 2:00 p.m., Canfield home, 126 Skyline Ridge

Sunday, October 9, 3:00 p.m., The PIT, hosted by the Lanes

Sunday, October 9, 4:00 p.m., Hudgins home, 105 Oakmont Court, Winterville

Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m., Lane home, 145 Riverhill Court

Friday, October 14, 7:00 p.m., Vandiver home, 1420 Crystal Hills Drive

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Sunday School Greeters this week: Patty Whiten, Steve Whiten

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 9 - DVD, Lost Christianities
- October 16 - Tour of the Romanov and Brooklyn Bridge Exhibits at the Georgia Museum of Art. Meet at 1:30 p.m. in the GMOA lobby. Everyone is welcome! **We will not meet at our regular 9:45 a.m. time on October 16.**

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 9

After a morning handing out water at the AthHalf, youth are invited to join Kim Ness for a time of fellowship and feasting! We'll meet in the PIT, then walk downtown for breakfast together.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 9

- 6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Worship Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching, Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 a.m. AthHalf Water Station, by Memorial Hall at 12 mile mark
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

Monday, October 10

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, October 11

- 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

Wednesday, October 12

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Seven, Bride's Room
- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Moses Waddel Room
- 11:30 a.m. Meet & Eat Small Group, The White Tiger, 217 Hiawasse Ave
- 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. Godly Play for Adults, Godly Play Room, Tinsley Stern Building
- 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 13

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Highland Hills, 1660 Jennings Mill Rd., Bogart
- 7:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Training, Parlor

Sunday, October 16

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, October 18 - PTP Trip to UGA Complex Carbohydrate Research Center

Thursday, October 20 - Men's Fellowship, Rafferty's

Tuesday, October 25 - First Friends, LRG Provisions

Wednesday, November 2 - Pere Bruno, Bethlehem Ministry, Fellowship Hall

November 4 - 6 - International Craft Fair

November 6 - Commitment Sunday

November 13 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

Sunday, November 20 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, First Baptist Church

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

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