



# 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 16, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Twenty-Ninth 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**           Alla siciliana and Presto from Concerto V           G. F. Handel

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

### Abounding in Thanksgiving

Erin Osborne and Georgia Blue Simmons

### Song of Gathering

DIX

**Tree of Justice, ever bless;  
shade me with your righteousness.  
Teach me how to live your ways,  
and my lips shall sing your praise.  
Fashion me, O Lord, to be  
ever branching as a tree.**

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 for our Song of Gathering during our, "Rooted & Reaching, Abounding in Thanksgiving," stewardship emphasis.

### Call to Worship

Psalms 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.

The very strong 17th-century German hymn Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalm 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

\***Hymn 482**           Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty           LOBE DEN HERREN  
\*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God, you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. We know our lack of gratitude and compassion, how we are quick to anger and limited in mercy. As we confess our sin, help us to believe your promise of goodness to all and to live by your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**\*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.

The anthem, sung by the St. Andrews Choir, is a familiar text set to new music by English composer Richard Shephard. Soloists are Chiara Bono, Logan Bono, and Cash Havick. The anthem is accompanied by Geneva Stonecipher with Emily Cho, flute, and Pam Prokasy, Ann Dunn, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, and Carla Buss ringing handbells.

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** All Things Bright and Beautiful Richard Shephard

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. Refrain  
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. Refrain  
He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. Refrain

**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**

Colossians 1:15-23, page 1074

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

**\*Hymn 263**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

**Second Lesson**

Luke 10:38-42, page 948

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

**Sermon**

A Space into Which Belief Can Flood

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The opening line of Hymn 263 was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (KJV), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from A Brief Statement of Faith

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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.

**8:45 a.m. Offertory** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty  
Johann Gottfried Walther

**11:00 a.m. Offertory** Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring J. S. Bach  
Jesu, joy of our desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright,  
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned.  
Striving still to Truth unknown, soaring, dying, round thy throne.

**\*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**

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 310** Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee ST. AGNES

**\*Benediction**

**\*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** Carillon Louis Vierne

The 11:00 a.m. offertory anthem is from Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata No. 147. The text is an English translation by John Holler.

Hymn 310 is a translation of an anonymous 12th-century Latin poem. The sweetness celebrated in it is not cloying or sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. The text is set to a tune composed especially for these words.

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

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.

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

### **ROOTED & REACHING TREE**

"Abounding in Thanksgiving" is our fall stewardship theme. Please write the things you are thankful for on a card provided by the ushers and put it in the offering plate. It will be placed on the tree in the Atrium.

### **PERE BRUNO, BETHLEHEM MINISTRY**

**Wed@First, November 2, 6:30 p.m.**

We welcome Pere Bruno, founder of Haitian school Ecole St. Barthelemy, as our guest speaker after Wednesday night dinner in Fellowship Hall. He will update us on the school and community after Hurricane Matthew.

### **HURRICANE MATTHEW RESPONSE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working in Haiti and other areas affected by the storm to bring food, water, and other supplies to our neighbors in need, both near and far. To help please visit [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org).

### **INTERNATIONAL CRAFT FAIR November 4 - 6**

Start your Christmas shopping early at our annual sale that supports a variety of our church's missions by offering items from our own members as well as fair trade artisans from other countries. Please bring items for sale to the church office November 1-3. Contact Mary Burton for more information: 706-543-9619, [marybu@charter.net](mailto: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 our less fortunate neighbors. Bags will be available Sunday, October 30 and November 6. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before November 13.

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

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

### **ANNUAL BENEVOLENCE MARKET, December 4, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Please save the date and plan to do your Christmas shopping in support of local charities and non-profit organizations.

### **A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA December 13, 2:00 p.m.**

Do you like tea parties? We are looking for hosts and hostesses to decorate tables with a festive Christmas theme and join us for our annual tea for senior adults. Please contact Sue Gray at 706-543-8096 or [larryandsuegray@gmail.com](mailto:larryandsuegray@gmail.com).

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT, "Loving Yourself as God Loves You," April 21 - 23, 2017**

Registration is now open for the annual women's retreat at Camp Fellowship in South Carolina. We will be led by Mardee Rightmyer, a Christian Educator, church leader, author, and sister of Julie Bowles and Doris Granum! Register online at [FirstPresAthens.org](http://FirstPresAthens.org). \$130.00 early bird registration until January 15.

**PLEASE SEE [FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG) FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.**

Carol Strickland

**11:00 a.m.**

Carol Strickland, Katherine Queen

#### Readers:

**8:45 a.m.**

Lisa Oelke

**11:00 a.m.**

Margaret Johansen

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.**

Ben Ness, Kate Ness

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.**

Carl Bergmann (head), Don Lowe,

Jo Anne Lowe

**11:00 a.m.**

Greg Daniels (head), Ann Harper Covington,

Celeste Covington, Greta Covington,

Stephen Covington

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.**

Terry Nestor, Keith Oelke, Mary Peace

**11:00 a.m.**

Kitty Kellogg, Fran Lane, Richard Lane,

Ed Law

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

**8:45 a.m.** Harry Shuford

**11:00 a.m.** Joe Attaway, Matt Bishop,

Allen Crowell, Richard Stone

### FELLOWSHIP HOST

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Robinson McKay, Jr. and Max Louise Wendler, given by Carol McKay.

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

[God] wants you to go home, look at your bucket of seed, and determine in your heart how much you'd like to sow. He wants you to consider thoughtfully your current circumstances, your life, your potential, and your finances. He wants you to involve your family. He wants you to pray about it. And then He wants you to come up with a plan.

– Andy Stanley

### 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](http://www.firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

**The elder on call** is Diane Adams. You may contact Diane at (706)255-9200 October 16-31. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

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## 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](mailto:kittydavedonnan@gmail.com)).

#### **This week's gatherings:**

Sunday, October 16, 2:00 p.m., Shuford home, 105 Telfair Place

Sunday, October 16, 3:00 p.m., Glasscock home, 150 Telfair Court

Sunday, October 16, 4:30 p.m., Donnan home, 1050 Simonton Way, Watkinsville

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m., Childers home, 153 West Lake Court

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Horton home, 283 Hacooschee Avenue

Friday, October 21, 7:00 p.m., Bishop home, 397 Parkway Drive

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Sunday School Greeters this week: Bob Glasscock, Brenda Glasscock

## 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 of the book, Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go, by Adam Hamilton.

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 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.**
- October 23 - Brian Williams will speak about the UGA program, "Blue and You," created to bring together citizens and law enforcement officers.

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 Class** • 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 16

Godly Play, a unique, powerful way for us to experience the stories of the Bible, is not just for kids! Today we will hear the Parable of the Good Shepherd in a new way. I wonder where we'll see ourselves in the story?

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, October 16

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:45 p.m. Youth Group, Presbyterian Student Center

### Monday, October 17

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:15 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 18

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Muffins with Moms, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Prime Time Presbyterians to CCRC at UGA, meet at Kroger, 2301 College Station Rd.
- 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 19

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Muffins with Moms, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 3:00 p.m. Wed@First Programs Begin
- 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 20

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Home of Josephine Paine, 640 Riverview Road
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Mulberry Grove, 343 Price St., Statham
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Rafferty's, 15 Huntington Rd.

### Friday, October 21

- 4:00 p.m. Youth Serving Pre-Game Meal at Clarke Central High School, 350 S. Milledge Ave.

### Saturday, October 22

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville

### Sunday, October 23

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**October 25** - First Friends, LRG Provisions

**October 30** - All Saints' Sunday

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

**November 4 - 6** - International Craft Fair

**November 6** - Commitment Sunday

**November 13** - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

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

**December 4** - Annual Benevolence Market

**December 6** - Live Nativity

## **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

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## **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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)  
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