



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 23, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Thirtieth 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

Festal Flourish

Gordon Jacob

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Abounding in Thanksgiving

Mike Morris

Song of Gathering

**Tree of plenty, feed my soul;
nurture me, and make me whole.
Give me strength, cast fear aside;
let me in your love abide.
Fashion me, O Lord, to be
ever branching 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 478

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

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

Hymn 478, a free paraphrase of Psalm 103, gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace, so that we may care for your creation with love and humility, with wisdom and energy. Forgive us when we stumble over pride, when our words and actions are not guided by love. Turn our hearts when we act in folly and restore our energy when it is gone. Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail; but your abundant grace is strong and eternal, and forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.

***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 is a text by John Tauler (1300-1361), translated by Emma F. Bevan in 1858, set by contemporary American composer K. Lee Scott. It is sung by the Celebration Singers.

11:00 a.m. Anthem

So Art Thou to Me

K. Lee Scott

As the bridegroom to his chosen, as the king unto his realm,
as the keep unto the castle, as the pilot to the helm,
so art thou, Lord, to me, so art thou, dear Lord, to me.
As the fountain in the garden, as the candle in the dark,
as the treasure in the coffer, as the manna in the ark,
so at thou, Lord, to me, so art thou, dear Lord, to me.
As the music at the banquet, as the stamp unto the seal,
as the medicine to the fainting, as the wine cup at the meal,
so art thou, Lord, to me, so art thou, dear Lord, to me.
As the ruby in the setting, as the honey in the comb,
as the light within the lantern, as the parent in the home,
as the sunshine in the heavens, as the image in the glass,
as the fruit unto the fig tree, as the dew upon the grass,
so art thou, Lord, to me, so art thou, dear Lord, to me

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

Leviticus 5:1-10, page 90

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

Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8, page 1035

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

Sermon

Sacrifice

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 391** Take My Life HENDON

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Hymnal, p. 14

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 Adagio Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

11:00 a.m. Offertory For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of joyful praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

***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 435** We All Are One in Mission
ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

***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** Prelude and Fugue in C J.S. Bach

Take My Life is a hymn of consecration that radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkable full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

The original text of For the Beauty of the Earth was intended to show Holy Communion as a joyful, holy feast, and the refrain was "Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise." Changing "sacrifice" to "this our hymn" of grateful praise has made it more generally a thanksgiving for creation, for our physical senses, for human love, and for everything good which God gives to us.

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 fellowship pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

**AGING MATTERS, Wed@First
October 26-November 9, 4:30 p.m.**

Please join us in the Parlor for a three week series of classes. On October 26 Eve Anthony, CEO of the Athens Community Council on Aging, will provide an overview of the programs, services and volunteer opportunities available to promote the well-being of older adults in our community.

**TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF
October 30, 9:45 a.m.**

Children ages 2 years-old to grade 5 are invited to wear church-friendly costumes to church. Adults, please bring your spare change. We will trick or treat during Sunday School and fill the children's UNICEF coin collection boxes.

**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.

**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, 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.

**HOLIDAY MEALS ON WHEELS
Drivers Needed**

Can you deliver hot meals to disabled or elderly Athenians on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, or New Year's Day? This First Presbyterian Church tradition relieves the regular drivers and gives you a chance to spread a little holiday cheer. Shifts start at 10:00 a.m. and are over by 1:00 p.m. or earlier. Please contact Sally Vandiver at sally.vandiver@gmail.com to help.

**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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Melinda DeMaria, Abigale Bishop

Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Greta Covington

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Cate DeMaria, Chase MacMillan

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Don Lowe, Jo Anne Lowe

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon (head),
Kathy Bangle, Michael Earl, Judy Howell,
David Mendenhall, Rick Simpson

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Keith Oelke,
Kay Spencer

11:00 a.m. Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Jim Pope,
Shirley Pope, Lawton Stephens

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Joe Neighbors

11:00 a.m. Jason Doornbos, Joy Holloway,
Diane Hudgins, Mike Morris

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.

– John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

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 her daughter Beverly McLear by Caryl Woosley.

The rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Graham Epting on October 17, 2016. Graham is the daughter of Melanie and Daniel Epting and the granddaughter of Lee Epting and Bobbie Epting.

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 Diane Adams. You may contact Diane at (706)255-9200 October 23-31. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

ROOTED & REACHING TREE

“Abounding in Thanksgiving” is our fall stewardship theme. Help decorate the Atrium tree with your thanksgivings. Cards and hangers are located beside the tree.

Stewardship Home Gatherings

Our stewardship home gatherings conclude this week. 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 been unable to attend a gathering, please contact Kitty Donnan (706-714-7266 or kittydavedonnan@gmail.com).

This week's gatherings:

Sunday, October 23, 4:00 p.m., Robinson home, 1070 Two Oaks Drive

Sunday, October 23, 5:30 p.m., Covington home, 545 Milledge Circle

Sunday, October 23, 7:00 p.m., Scanlon home, 155 Deerhollow Road

Monday, October 24, 6:00 p.m., Oelke home, 194 Ashbrook Drive

Monday, October 24, 7:00 p.m., Morris home, 598 Fortson Road

Sunday, October 30, 4:00 p.m., Dolson home, 567 Fortson Road

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Sunday School Greeters this week: Brooking DuPriest

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 Cory, 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 23 - Brian Williams will speak about the UGA program, "Blue and You," created to bring together citizens and law enforcement officers.
- October 30 - DVD, The Other Side of History

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 23

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

Called Congregational Meeting

November 6, 11:55 a.m.

The session has called a congregational meeting to elect one ruling elder for the class of 2019. Mary Havick is nominated to fill one open position.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 23

- 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. Youth Group Presbyterian Olympics, Oconee Presbyterian Church
- 5:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, October 24

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Thrift Store Volunteer Day, Bell's Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave

Tuesday, October 25

- 12:10 p.m. Lunch Book Group, Room 124
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, LRG Provisions, 1653 S Lumpkin St

Wednesday, October 26

- 11:30 a.m. Meet & Eat Small Group, The Savannah Room, Georgia Center, 1197 S. Lumpkin St.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 3:00 p.m. Wed@First Programs Begin
- 4:30 p.m. Aging Matters, Eve Anthony from the Athens Community Council on Aging, Parlor
- 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 27

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Rd.
- 7:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Training, Parlor

Sunday, October 30 - All Saints' Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

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

December 13 - Senior Adult Ministry's, "A Cup of Christmas Tea"

December 18 - A Festival of Lessons & Carols

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.**