



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 30, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
All Saints' Sunday and Reformation 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Johann Pachelbel

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Abounding in Thanksgiving

Song of Gathering

**Tree of Promise, keep your vow:
with me then, and with me now.
Springtime blossoms, winter tears,
mark the seasons of my years.
Fashion me, O Lord, to be
always changing as a tree.**

DIX

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord,
For the Lord is good.

God's love endures forever.

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.

Psalm 106:1

*Hymn 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

***Latecomers may be seated.

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

Our Song of Gathering is a stanza of Trees, a new hymn composed by Michael Morgan. Its arboreal imagery is drawn from Psalm 1.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of love, we thank you for your patience. You have given us many guides and helpers to inspire us in faith with an assurance of things hoped for. We confess the ease with which we have settled into a complacent faith, placing our only hope on the things we can see and touch. We have denied ourselves and those close to us the greater hope in the conviction of things not seen. Forgive us for the limits we put on your eternal love.

***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

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 page 856

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

Second Lesson

Luke 19:1-10, page 958

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

Sermon

Tree Man

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 339**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

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

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . .

The stanzas of Be Thou My Vision are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dated to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory For All the Saints Flor Peeters

11:00 a.m. Offertory And I saw a new heaven Malcolm Archer
And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

***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**

Prayer of Remembrance

11:00 a.m. Choral Response: Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, for they rest from their labors, grant peace, O Lord, grant peace.

Katherine Blackshear Boardman
December 21, 2015

Leona Finch
March 26, 2016

William E. Hopkins
December 29, 2015

Gerald Elliott Smith
March 31, 2016

Wayne Franklin Middendorf
January 20, 2016

Daniel Conatser Schab
April 19, 2016

Bessie Cabiness Hopkins
January 22, 2016

Edda Agee
April 27, 2016

Frank Watson Lawson
February 18, 2016

Robert Thomas Cobb
June 9, 2016

Kevin Blair Garrison
February 19, 2016

Cuyler Marshall (Buck) Adams
October 2, 2016

Margaret Gunn Dure
March 11, 2016

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord; may your light shine upon them, grant peace, O Lord, grant peace.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 526** For All the Saints SINE NOMINE

***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** For All the Saints William H. Bates

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

The broad and sweeping tune with which For All the Saints is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

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.

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.

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.

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.

AGING MATTERS, Wed@First

November 2, 4:30 p.m.

Please join us in the Parlor as our three week series of classes continues. This week Jan Turner from the National Story Telling Network and Pat Priest of Rabbit Box will present, "The Art and Power of Story Telling" and help us learn how story telling can help us discover meaning and shape the course of our lives. Please RSVP to the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

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 this year by First Baptist Church. 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.

HOLIDAY 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.

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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Kitty Donnan, Kate Ness

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Cheryl Gazlay

11:00 a.m. Rick Simpson

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Abigale Bishop, Katherine Queen

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
John Adams, David Cole, Michael Earl,
Christopher Pope

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Terry Nestor,
Lisa Oelke

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Stan Bailey,
Martha Elmore

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Bertis Downs, Chuck Roberts,
Jerry Rogers, Ella Stewart

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Only 5% of people give 10% or more.
– The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church given by Carol Bachman.

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 Christine Register. You may contact Christine at (706)310-9960 November 1-15. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Commitment Sunday November 6

During morning worship we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2017. You may also submit your pledge to the church office or online at FirstPresAthens.org. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge, keeping in mind that we are "Rooted & Reaching" in God's love and "abounding in thanksgiving."

International Craft Fair

Friday, November 4, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 6, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Start your Christmas shopping early at our annual sale that supports a variety of our church's missions. Items for sale are from our own members as well as fair trade artisans from Ten Thousand Villages and our missions, such as Haiti, Honduras, Casa de Amistad and Jubilee Partners.

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).

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 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 30 - DVD, The Other Side of History
- November 6 - DVD, Lost Christianities
- November 13 - Joint class with the Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class, meeting in the Moses Waddel Room to hear Imam Adel Amer, Ph D., lecturer in the Department of Religion & Linguistics at the University of Georgia

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 30

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 30 - All Saints' Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Stewardship Home Gathering, Dolson home, 567 Fortson Road
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Halloween Party, The PIT

Monday, October 31

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite

Tuesday, November 1

- 9:00 a.m. All Day Staff Planning Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 12:10 p.m. Lunch Book Group, Room 124
- 1:00 p.m. Holiday Benevolence Market Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Three/Four, Home of Eunice Tritt, 250 High Ridge Dr.
- 7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, November 2

- 11:30 a.m. Meet & Eat Small Group, The Savannah Room, Georgia Center, 1197 S. Lumpkin St.
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 3:00 p.m. Wed@First Programs Begin
- 4:30 p.m. Aging Matters, "The Art and Power of Story Telling," Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Pere Bruno, Bethlehem Ministry, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 3

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Home of Josephine Paine, 640 Riverview Rd.
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Heritage Home, 960 Hawthorne Ave.
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Training, Parlor

Friday, November 4

- 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. International Craft Fair, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. New Voices Class Trip to Rachel Held Evans Lecture, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Saturday, November 5

- 9:00 a.m. Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteer Training, 393 W. Hancock Ave.
- 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. International Craft Fair, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 6 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, Commitment Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. International Craft Fair, Fellowship Hall

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.**