



# 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!

November 6, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Commitment 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.

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

### Greeting

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

### Prelude

Prelude on DIX

Wilbur Held

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

### Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**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!**

Though rightly viewed as a meal of remembrance, the Lord's Supper is also an occasion of anticipation. The text of our Song of Gathering draws on the abundant biblical imagery to evoke the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to share the feast anew "in the kingdom of God."

### Call to Worship

Psalm 106:1

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.

Set to a familiar tune (Dix), Trees is a hymn composed by Michael Morgan. Its arboreal imagery is drawn from Psalm 1.

**\*Hymn Insert**

Trees

Dix

\*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**O God, you give us the new day and you give us your love each day. We confess that all too often we frantically seek to accumulate more than we need or can ever use. We live in fear that we may not have enough. Why do we not trust your promise of generous love and sustenance for our daily needs? Help us to accept your gifts for our life and to share them with the same generous spirit in which you gave them.**

**\*Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response**

Hymn 555, Stanza 3

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heavens, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given. The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was and is, and shall be evermore.**

**\*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.

Our congregational response is the last stanza of Now Thank We All Our God. The hymn was originally written by Pastor Martin Rinkart as a table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Congregational Prayer for Illumination**

Hymn 396, Stanza 1

**O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame, a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!**

**First Lesson**

Jeremiah 17:5-8 page 705

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

**Second Lesson**

Colossians 2:6-7, page 1075

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

**Sermon**

Rooted and Reaching: Abounding in Thanksgiving

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**Dedication of Stewardship Commitments for 2017**

**Hymn 414** As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN

**Hymn 428** We Give Thee but Thine Own SCHUMANN

**Prayer of Dedication of the Commitments for 2017**

Members and friends are asked to bring their pledge cards forward and place them in the baskets as the hymns are sung. You can also bring blue and green cards with your thanksgivings.

\*Those who are able may stand.

## Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

**8:45 a.m. Offertory**      O W A L Y W A L Y      Emma Lou Diemer

**11:00 a.m. Offertory**      Christ Hath a Garden      Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground,  
chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.  
Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand;  
by Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.  
Awake, O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air:  
stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come:  
that he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;  
that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

**\*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

### Prayer of 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.**

We do not come to this table proudly....

**The Lord's Prayer**      Hymnal p. 16

**. . . 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 508**      For the Bread Which You Have Broken      KINGDOM

### Called Congregational Meeting

### \*Benediction

**\*Congregational Response**      A R H Y D Y N O S

**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**      Improvisation on DIX

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

The anthem was written by American composer Gerald Near. Near was born in 1942, studied at the University of Michigan, and has served churches in Rochester, Minnesota, Dallas, Texas, and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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.

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 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.

### **ATHENS VOICES OF TRUTH**

#### **Fall Musical Worship**

**November 6, 4:00 p.m.**

Our sister congregation, Ebenezer Baptist Church, West, will be hosting a concert this afternoon, 205 North Chase Street.

### **AGING MATTERS, Wed@First**

**November 9, 4:30 p.m.**

Please join us in the Parlor as our three week series of classes concludes. This week Kerstin Emerson, Assistant Professor, Institute of Gerontology at the University of Georgia, will discuss the latest research on issues such as the impact of social relationships and loneliness on the physical and cognitive health of older adults. Please RSVP to the church office at 706-543-4338 or [frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org).

### **ANGEL TREE**

**November 13-December 4**

There will be a special Salvation Army Angel Tree in Fellowship Hall. Please choose an angel (infant - 12 year old child) from the tree and buy Christmas presents for less fortunate children.

### **THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING**

**November 20**

You can help give children a home with love and encouragement by participating in the special offering taken for Thornwell Home for Children. Thank you for your generosity.

### **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.

**Lunch Fundraiser:** Come hungry to the Holiday Benovolence Market! Our youth, under the leadership of Chef Magrino, will be providing a delicious lunch for donations to benefit refugees and disaster relief. Eat here or get yours to go.

### **LIVE NATIVITY**

**December 6, 6:00 p.m.**

We need your help! If you can be a wise man (or woman,) shepherd, holy family (families with a baby less than a year old), or help with set up, clean up, greeting, or advertising, please email Elaine Johnson at [elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto:elaine@firstpresathens.org).

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**December 11, 5:00 p.m.**

Our children will lead us in this special tradition for the whole church family, followed by dinner in Fellowship Hall.

### **A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA**

**December 13, 2:00 p.m.**

All senior adults are cordially invited to a festive tea party and time of fellowship sponsored by our Senior Adult Ministry. Please RSVP to the church office at 706-543-4338 or [frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org).

### **A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS**

**December 18, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

Please join us for this time of worship led by the Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers.

## **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.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.** Carol Strickland

**11:00 a.m.** Carol Strickland, Isabelle Seward

#### Readers:

**8:45 a.m.** Keith Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** Matt Bishop

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Joshua Porras, Keila Porras

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** Bobby Heath (head), Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

**11:00 a.m.** Stephen Covington (head), Greta Covington, Celeste Covington, Ann Harper Covington

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Diane Hartzell, Grace Lu, Lisa Oelke, Harry Shuford

**11:00 a.m.** Karen Allen, Carol Dolson, Jeanne Nadenicek, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

**8:45 a.m.** Sally Vandiver

**11:00 a.m.** Madie Fischetti, Sue Gray, Mark Harrison, Jerris Hayes

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Give to God what's right – not what's left over.

– Author Unknown

### FELLOWSHIP HOST

Madie Fischetti

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of James Quincy “Jim” Wilfong, given by the Wilfong family.

### 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 Christine Register. You may contact Christine at (706)310-9960 November 6-15. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

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## Commitment Sunday

During morning worship today we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2017. You may also submit your pledge to the church office or online at [FirstPresAthens.org](http://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.”

## Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday November 13

This year we continue our annual tradition of filling grocery bags with Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before Sunday. Your gifts make a harvest of Thanksgiving.

#### Suggested items:

- |   |                         |   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| • Canned Ham<br>( <i>not refrigerated</i> ) | • Corn                  | • Gravy, cans or jars                       |
| • Cranberry Sauce                           | • Rice                  | • Fresh Sweet Potatoes*                     |
| • Canned Fruit                              | • Stuffing/Dressing Mix | • Brown & Serve Rolls*                      |
| • Green Beans                               | • Cornbread Mix         | • Cookies                                   |
| • Peas                                      | • Mac & Cheese          | *not in bags delivered prior to November 13 |
|   | • Instant Potatoes      |   |

# 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.

- 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

November 6

This morning we will go on a prayer walk through downtown as we pray for our country and veterans in anticipation of Election Day and Veterans Day.

## Called Congregational Meeting Today, 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.

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### THIS WEEK

#### **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
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

#### **Monday, November 7**

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle One, Home of Elinor Terrell, 116 Princeton Mill Rd.
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Two, Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S Lumpkin St.
- 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

#### **Tuesday, November 8**

- 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

#### **Wednesday, November 9**

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Seven, Bride's Room
- 10:30 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference 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. Wed@First Programs Begin
- 4:30 p.m. Aging Matters, "Cutting Edge Issues in the Field of Gerontology," 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, November 10**

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Pkwy.

#### **Sunday, November 13 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday**

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

### LOOKING AHEAD

**November 17** - Men's Fellowship, Trappeze

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

**December 4** - Annual Benevolence Market

**December 6** - Live Nativity

**December 11** - Christmas Pageant and Christmas Dinner

**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

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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)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**