



# 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 13, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Thirty-Third 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

Trumpet Tune in D

David N. Johnson

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

### Song of Gathering

**Let ev'ry voice on earth resound,  
and joyful hearts hold God adored;  
in gladness may God's courts abound  
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

DUKE STREET

The Song of Gathering is from a paraphrase of Psalm 100 by Michael Morgan. The tune DUKE STREET was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer, John Hatton.

### Call to Worship

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

**God's love endures forever.**

Psalm 106:1

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 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

\*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Eternal God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sin. We awaken each day to the new life you give us, yet we fail to see the gift you have given and worry about what the day might bring. Each moment is an opportunity to glorify your name, yet time slips away as we think only of ourselves. The day is soon over, and it has been much the same as others because we have neglected the time you have given. Forgive us for our routines and schedules that fit our desires rather than the work of your kingdom.**

**\*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.

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

The text of the anthem sung by the St. Andrews Choir was written by Sister Polly Rupe of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. The text was adapted by the composer. Churches Carol McClure has served include North Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Georgia, and First Presbyterian Church in Nashville.

**11:00 a.m. Anthem**

Gentle Words

Carol McClure

What the dew is to the flower, gentle words are to the soul;  
such a blessing to your neighbor, you should never withhold.  
Gentle words, so kindly spoken, often soothe the troubled mind,  
while a friendship can be broken by words that are unkind.  
Ever loving Gentle Spirit, thou my constant guardian be,  
so that I might do to others, as I'd have them do to me.

**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**

2 Corinthians 8:1-11, page 1057

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

**Second Lesson**

Luke 10:25-37, page 948

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

**Sermon**

Are You Still Coming Over?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

\***Hymn 326** Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart MORECAMBE

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

The new life in Christ finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death.

**The teaching of apostles and prophets guides people in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.**

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all people in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics.

**But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.**

Life in Christ is life eternal.

**The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that God will consummate the divine work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. Amen.**

**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

**8:45 a.m. Offertory** Improvisation on an Old Irish Air John Coble

**11:00 a.m. Offertory** If Mortal Tongues with Angels Sing  
Mark Schweizer

If mortal tongues with angels sing, and joined with them, my praise I bring,  
yet no love lives within the thing, my clamor is forsaken.

And when all prophesies have flown, and mountains moved by faith alone,  
and if I know what can be known, forsaking love, I'm shaken.

For love is patient, love is kind, not envious, or self-inclined,  
insisting on its way to find, but wends the path rejoicing.

Love bears all things, believes all things, to hope it ever after clings,  
enduring all, love's spirit sings, its expectation voicing.

Let prophesies and knowledge cease,  
and unknown tongues, their joy release,

we only know in part the peace that now we are pretending.

For faith and hope and love abide, these all within our hearts reside,  
yet of these three, love opens wide the path of joy unending.

\***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**

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

The Confession of 1967 addresses the church's role in the modern world. It is one of the twelve confessions of faith in our PC(USA) constitution.

The 11:00 offertory is a setting of 1 Corinthians 13 adapted by the North Carolina composer Mark Schweizer. The music is based on an old Irish tune. The 8:45 offertory is an improvisation on that tune.

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

### \*Hymn 408

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

GERMANY

### \*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

Rondeau

Henry Purcell

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.

### THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY

Thank you for your generous support of this church tradition providing Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Your gifts make a harvest of thanksgiving.

### ANGEL TREE

#### November 13-December 4

There is 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 him or her.

### 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.

### 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 Benevolence 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. 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.

### LIBRARY IMAGINATION

Visit the library on the second floor of the Tinsley-Stern building for Thanksgiving and Christmas craft, baking, decorating, and other ideas.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.** James Dove

**11:00 a.m.** Ron Cox, Chiara Bono

#### Readers:

**8:45 a.m.** Bill Woolbright

**11:00 a.m.** Carol McKay

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Isabelle Seward, Sam Seward

### USHERS

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

**11:00 a.m.** Robert P. Simmons (head), Bob Glasscock, Mickey Register, Georgia Blue Simmons, Robert W. Simmons, John Walden

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Grace Lu, Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke, Kay Spencer

**11:00 a.m.** Jayne Bailey, Stan Bailey, Bob Glasscock, Brenda Glasscock

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

**8:45 a.m.** David Cole

**11:00 a.m.** Diane Adams, Denise Horton, Diane Hudgins, Leslye Queen

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Brad Sperr, Megan Sperr

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

– John Bunyan

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God.

### 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 Hudgins. You may contact Diane at (706)255-7047 November 16-30. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

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## 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.

### Casa de Amistad Baskets

Please help provide low income Hispanic families with food for a special Christmas meal. Either write a check to First Presbyterian Church for \$39.00 marked, “for Casa basket” and the shopping will be done for you!

Or fill a laundry basket, large bucket, or other reusable container with the items below:

- 5 lb Bag of Rice
- 2 lb Bag of Dried Pinto Beans
- Bag of onions
- Chili Peppers (dried red New Mexico pods)
- Cooking Oil
- Mole (brown sauce for meat)
- Masa (flour for making tortillas)
- Can of Jalapeños
- Can of Tomatoes
- Adobe powder (in spice area) or fresh garlic
- Bag of cookies or a cake
- Gift certificate from Los Compadres or Walmart for \$10

Donations are due to the church by December 4. Thank you!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday School Greeters this week: Kendall Kookogey, Robyn McDonald**

## 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: Making Peace with the Past, by Douglas Connelly from the LifeGuide Bible Series.

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 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
- November 20 - Sherri Bozardt, Mission Advancement Officer for GA, Thornwell Home for Children

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 13

Isaiah 58:10 tell us to feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then our light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around us will be as bright as noon. (NLV) In response, we will be coordinating the collection of Thanksgiving food bags during worship and Sunday School today.

## THIS WEEK

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

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Godly Play Room 1

### **Monday, November 14**

- 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, November 15**

- 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, Dominick's, 1430 Capital Avenue, Watkinsville

### **Wednesday, November 16 - Last Wed@First Programs for Fall**

- 11:00 a.m. Weekday School Three Year-Old Thanksgiving Program, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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, November 17**

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Home of Josephine Paine, 640 Riverview Road
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Quiet Oaks, 125 Quiet Oaks Drive
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Trappeze Pub, 269 N. Hull Street

### **Sunday, November 20**

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**November 20** - Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, First Baptist Church, 4:30 p.m.

**November 30** - Presbyterian Women Santa Express Drop Off Deadline, 4:30 p.m.

**December 4** - Annual Benevolence Market, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**December 6** - Live Nativity, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**December 11** - Christmas Pageant and Christmas Dinner, 5:00 p.m.

**December 13** - Senior Adult Ministry's, "A Cup of Christmas Tea," 2:00 p.m.

**December 18** - A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

**December 24** - Christmas Eve Services, 4:00, 6:00, & 8:00 p.m.

**December 25** - Christmas Day Service, 10:30 a.m.

## **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.**