



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!

January 1, 2017
10:30 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas

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. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin, or hymnal.

The nursery will not be provided at this service.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Puer nobis nascitur

Alec Wyton

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Song of Gathering

Hymn 68, Stanza 1

**What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King,
glad tidings of our God to bring.**

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

Stanzas from Hymn 68 are used for our Song of Gathering, Prayer for Illumination, and Benediction Response today. The 18th-century Latin text of the hymn calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ, who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

Call to Worship

In the name of Jesus Christ, we gather in the house of many praises.

May the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of God's light and love!

Let the Spirit descend and transform our common days with a beauty not of our making.

Let us delight in God's beloved Son as we worship together!

*Hymn 229

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***[Latecomers may be seated.]

* Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**You give us a vision of a world made new, O God,
yet we find it so easy to abide in the old.
You promise your presence among us,
yet we seek so often to hide from it.
We continue to mourn for our own way,
though you have promised to wipe the tears from our eyes.
You are the beginning and the end;
the middle we cling to for ourselves.
We confess our nearsightedness
and beg for our eyes to be open to the new creation.
May we enter the coming year made whole by your grace.
In the powerful name of Jesus we pray.**

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 28, Stanza 3

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ is born to save! Christ was born to save!**

***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."

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 68, stanza 3

**O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.**

First Lesson

Psalm 19:7-14, page 488

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

Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:9-10, page 1106

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

Sermon

Wishes, Dreams, and Visions

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 510**

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

QUEBEC

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Hymn 510 is a 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem. It is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.

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

Offertory

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
 for to worship God with, this happy New Year.
 Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
 the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
 Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
 open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go.
 Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
 The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
 Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
 open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
 Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
 The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine

***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 483**

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above MIT FREUDEN ZART

Benediction**Congregational Response**

Hymn 68, Stanza 4

**To God the Father, God the Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in one,
 may every tongue and nation raise
 an endless song of thankful praise.
 our lives may be our gift to you.**

***Postlude**

Swiss Noel

Louis-Claude Daquin

Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward as the clergy direct.

The regal divine imagery in Hymn 483 will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist

Carol Strickland

Reader

Cheryl Gazlay

FLOWERS

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

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

Diane Adams, Rod Canfield

USHERS

Allen Crowell (head), John Adams, Phyllis Crowell, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Mickey Register, Mixon Robinson

GREETERS

Diane Hartzell, Daniel Nadenicek, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Kay Spencer

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

A good deed is never lost; one who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and one who plants kindness gathers love. – St. Basil the Great

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

(706) 543-4338

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/Admin. Assistant
Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Admin. Assistant

Ms. Wendi Finch, Nursery Coordinator
Mr. Greg Purser, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Alyssa Standard, Youth Ministry Intern
Mr. Chuck Hunt, Sunday Morning Manager
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse
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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1

- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 11:35 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, January 2 - Church Office Closed for New Year's Day Holiday

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Teacher Inservice, Weekday School
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, January 3

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Three/Four, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Way
- 7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, January 4

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 5

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, January 8 - Sunday School Resumes, Details on Reverse

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

LOOKING AHEAD

January 8 - Sunday School Resumes, 9:45 a.m.

January 15 - Athens Voices of Truth Concert, 4:00 p.m.

January 15 - Early Bird Registration Deadline, Women's Retreat, April 21-23

January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

January 18 - Wed @First Programs Resume

January 29 - Ruling Elder Ordination and Installation, 11:00 a.m.
Annual Congregational Meeting & Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

January 31 - Primetime Presbyterians Trip to Presbyterian Village, Austell, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join the Thursday Morning Bible Study taught by Dr. John Kipp. Beginning this week, the class will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. The topic will be Genesis 27: 1-45, the story of the stolen blessing.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday Classes for all ages resume January 8, 2017

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.
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 conclude our study of the Gospel of Luke with 1 Thessalonians to follow.
Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

6th - 12th Grade • The PIT

This year we will connect with God in 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday Classes for all ages resume January 8, 2017

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: 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.

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 conclude our study of the Gospel of Luke with 1 Thessalonians to follow.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

6th - 12th Grade • The PIT

This year we will connect with God in 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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1

- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 11:35 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, January 2 - Church Office Closed for New Year's Day Holiday

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Teacher Inservice, Weekday School
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, January 3

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Three/Four, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Way
- 7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, January 4

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 5

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, January 8 - Sunday School Resumes, Details on Reverse

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

LOOKING AHEAD

January 8 - Sunday School Resumes, 9:45 a.m.

January 15 - Athens Voices of Truth Concert, 4:00 p.m.

January 15 - Early Bird Registration Deadline, Women's Retreat, April 21-23

January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

January 18 - Wed @First Programs Resume

January 29 - Ruling Elder Ordination and Installation, 11:00 a.m.
Annual Congregational Meeting & Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

January 31 - Primetime Presbyterians Trip to Presbyterian Village, Austell, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join the Thursday Morning Bible Study taught by Dr. John Kipp. Beginning this week, the class will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. The topic will be Genesis 27: 1-45, the story of the stolen blessing.