



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 8, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Epiphany 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

O Word of God Incarnate

Alec Wyton

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Minute for Mission

Women's Retreat

Meghan Bawcum

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, Stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

Rejoice in God! Marvel in all that God has done!

Our eyes have seen the glory of God in all creation.

Rejoice in God, giver of redemption and grace.

Our eyes have seen God's redeeming love, alive in Jesus.

Rejoice in God, the Spirit of peace and grace.

**Our eyes have seen the power of God,
at work in changing the world.**

*Hymn 327

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

***Latecomers may be seated.

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

The opening four lines of O Word of God Incarnate celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, our Redeemer and our Deliverer: You have loved us and put faith in us, and we have disappointed you. We have forgotten your good works on our behalf and failed to trust your promises. Our world shows little of the justice and righteousness you love. O Lord, be gracious and show mercy to us. Lead us and sustain us by your presence so that we may daily reflect your living word; through Jesus Christ we pray.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***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.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Children, ages 4 through grade 2, are invited to come forward at the 11:00 a.m. service for the baptism.

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Massey Mae McConnell, daughter of Mark and Mary Elizabeth McConnell.

***Question to Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Massey by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? Do we? **We do.**

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Alleluia is the Latin version of the Hebrew word hallelujah, meaning "praise Yah(weh)." In our response, it is set to music by Fintan O'Carroll (1981).

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Baptism Hymn 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM
Children, ages 4 through grade 2, will depart for Children's Church held in the
Godly Play Rooms.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination TALLIS' CANON
**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power be my support; eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

First Lesson 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, page 1077
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem Christmas Joy Mark Schweizer
arr. David M. Janower

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky has withdrawn,
when the kings see their prophesy rightly fulfilled,
when the princes and shepherds have gone;
then the true work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost, to heal the broken hearts,
to feed the hungry, to free the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all people,
to make music in the heart.
When the song of the angels is stilled,
then the true work of Christmas begins.

The anthem is a setting of a poem by Howard Thurman, an African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. The music was composed by Mark Schweitzer and it incorporates the Epiphany hymn O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright.

Second Lesson John 1:10-18, page 968
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Snipe Hunts and the Word Made Flesh
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 306** Fairest Lord Jesus CRUSADERS' HYMN

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

Offertory Jesus, Priceless Treasure Johann Sebastian Bach

***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.**

The offertory is a setting of our Hymn 365. It is part of Bach's collection called Orgelbüchlein or "little organ book," settings of hymns covering the liturgical year.

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

* Hymn 310	Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee	ST. AGNES
* Benediction		
* Congregational Response		Hymn 540, Stanza 1
God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.		
* Postlude	We Christian Folk	Johann Sebastian Bach

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 door.

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.

Women's Retreat

"Loving Yourself as God Loves You," April 21 - 23

Early Bird Registration Deadline January 15

Spring! The time we look forward to after the cold of winter. The time that renews the promise of new life. What a perfect time for women to join together to make and renew friendships and reflect on the biblical teachings that help sustain us as we support each other on our journey through life. Now is the time to spring into action and register for this spring's retreat.

Location: Fellowship Camp and Conference Center on Lake Greenwood, SC

Leader: Mardee Rightmyer

Cost: \$130 early bird until January 15; \$145 after January 15

Register: online or in the Atrium today or January 15

Contact: Carol Strickland about scholarships or for more information

The Athens Voices of Truth Concert

Sunday, January 15, 4:00 p.m.

In celebration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., The Athens Voices of Truth choir will perform in our sanctuary. They will present a concert of gospel music, traditional hymns, spirituals, and beautiful anthems. This unique choir has offered musical education and performance to the Athens community for over 36 years. The Voices of Truth have performed across the southeast, including singing for the opening festivities welcoming the Olympic Torch to Athens in 1996.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

January 16, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

As a celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and commitment to service, Athens-Clarke County is committed to making Monday, January 16, "A Day On, Not A Day Off." Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at Lay Park, 297 Hoyt Street, and volunteers will work from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at one of 18 sites in our community.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Ron Cox

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins (head),

Bill Woolbright, Mary Ben Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell (head),

Phyllis Crowell, Mickey Register,

Mixon Robinson, Rosemary Stancil,

Tom Wilfong

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,

Diane Hartzell, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Rick Simpson, Don Sumner,

Georgiana Sumner

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. – Aesop

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Joe Neighbors

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell, Leslye Queen,
Chuck Roberts, Ed Smith

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

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) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

Listening Sessions

Wednesday January 18, 6:30 p.m. or Sunday, January 22, 9:45 a.m.

Dr. Bruce Lancaster will lead our church through Listening Sessions in January as part of our process of congregational discernment as we prepare for calling a pastor. Please join us in Fellowship Hall for one of these sessions. There will also be a special Listening Session for youth on Sunday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m. in The PIT.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

TODAY, 9:45 a.m.

All adult, youth, and children's classes return this morning after the holiday break. There are many offerings available; details are on page six.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2017 offering envelopes are available for pickup in Fellowship Hall. If yours are not there and you would like some, please contact Roger or Laura in the church office at 706-543-4338.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

January 12

Registration for Fall 2017 begins this week. Our Weekday School serves children ages infant through early five's. For more information and to schedule a tour, call our Director, Elaine Johnson, at 706-206-8180.

WED@FIRST RESUMES JANUARY 18

Watch for the schedule of new and returning classes and activities coming soon.

PRIME TIME PRESBYTERIANS TRIP

January 31, 9:00 a.m.

We will visit the Presbyterian Village in Austell for a tour and complimentary lunch, in part to get an idea of what the future Athens Presbyterian Village might be like. For details and to RSVP, please contact Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706-549-2888 by January 27.

IHN HOST WEEKS

February 19-26, April 2-9

Sign up begins today in the Atrium for our next two Interfaith Hospitality Network host weeks. We are grateful for your strong commitment that makes this ministry possible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School Greeter this week: Steve Whiten
Classes for all ages resume today**

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.

- January 8 - DVD, The Other Side of History
- January 15 - Jamie Scott, Executive Director of the Sparrow's Nest, will be our speaker.

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 8

- 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

Monday, January 9

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle One
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Two, Home of Carol McKay, 126 Deertree Dr.
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, January 10

- 10:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Winder
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, January 11

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Seven, Bride's 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. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Nominations & Elections Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 12

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Registration Begins
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, January 15

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

February 4 - Northeast Georgia Presbytery Church Officer Development Event

February 5 - Souper Bowl of Caring

February 10-11 - Session Retreat

February 17-18 - Youth Ski Trip

February 19-26 - IHN Host Week

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,
Mission & 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.