



# 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 15, 2017  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Second 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

WINCHESTER OLD

Philip Moore

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

The prelude is based on the tune for Hymn 162.

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

### 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

Psalm 100:1-2

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.**

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.

The middle stanzas of O Lord, Our God, How Excellent, a paraphrase of Psalm 8, probe the ancient but enduring paradox of declaring the grandeur of God's creation while realizing how small mortals are in the midst of it all. These words are set to one of the most durable 18th-century English psalm tunes.

### \*Hymn 162

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

WINCHESTER OLD

\*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins. And you love us still. Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible. Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you. Break down the walls, push aside the pride, and help us to trust anew.**

**\*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.

**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**

Psalm 8:1-9, page 482

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

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

New Songs of Celebration Render

John Ferguson

New songs of celebration render to God who has great wonders done; love sits enthroned in ageless splendor; come and adore the mighty One. God has made known the great salvation which all the saints with joy confess. God has revealed to every nation truth and unending righteousness. Joyfully, heartily resounding, let every instrument and voice peel out the praise of grace abounding, calling the whole world to rejoice. Trumpets and organs, set in motion such sounds as make the heavens ring; all things that live in earth and ocean, sound forth the song, your praises bring. Rivers and seas and torrents roaring, honor the Lord with wild acclaim; mountains and stones, look up adoring, and find a voice to praise God's name. Righteous, commanding, ever glorious, praises be sung that never cease: just is our God whose truth victorious establishes the world in peace.

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).

The anthem is based on a Genevan tune (created for Psalm 118 but also used for Psalm 98 in the 1562 edition of the Genevan Psalter) has worked successfully with several English texts. Here it sets a 20th-century paraphrase of Psalm 98 by Erik Routley. It owes much of its effectiveness to the author's skill with multisyllabic words.

**Second Lesson** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, page 1055  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Our World: Diverse or Divided?  
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn 285** God, You Spin the Whirling Planets AUSTRIAN HYMN

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from The Theological Declaration of Barmen  
**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation. As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.**

The text of God, You Spin the Whirling Planets was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity.

**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** Rendez á Dieu James Biery

**\*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**

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 563** Lift Every Voice and Sing LIFT EVERY VOICE

**\*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** Improvisation on Rendez á Dieu John Coble

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, the text and tune of Lift Every Voice and Sing have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

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.

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**Women's Retreat**  
**"Loving Yourself as God Loves You," April 21 - 23**  
**Early Bird Registration Deadline Today**

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

Contact: Carol Strickland about scholarships or for more information

**The Athens Voices of Truth Concert**  
**Today, 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 Athens Voices of Truth have performed across the southeast, including singing for the opening festivities welcoming the Olympic Torch to Athens in 1996.

**Annual Congregational Meeting & Dinner**  
**January 29, 5:30 p.m.**

Please join us for the annual congregational meeting in Fellowship Hall when the annual report will be presented, and a report from the Nominating Committee will be given. Dinner will be provided and everyone is invited to attend. There is no charge for the dinner, but please register by contacting the church office at [frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) or 706-543-4338 to help us plan.

**MLK, JR. DAY OF SERVICE**

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

Athens-Clarke County is committed to making tomorrow, "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.

**IHN HOST WEEKS**

**February 19-26, April 2-9**

Sign up continues 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.

**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](mailto:jhowell@uga.edu) or 706-549-2888 by January 27.

**BENEVOLENCE MARKET**

Thank you for making a big impact with your symbolic gifts at this past December's market, which totaled approximately \$21,000 for local non-profit agencies.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Liturgists:**

**8:45 a.m.**

Carol Strickland

**11:00 a.m.**

Carol Strickland, Lorenzo Fischetti

**Acolytes:**

**11:00 a.m.** Aidan Farley, Cael Farley

**Readers:**

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

**11:00 a.m.** Tom Landrum

### USHERS

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

Bill Woolbright, Mary Ben Woolbright

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

John Adams, Phyllis Crowell,

Mickey Register, Mixon Robinson,

Tom Wilfong

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** June De Nadai, Barbara Laughlin,

Mary Peace, Sally Vandiver

**11:00 a.m.** Carol Dolson, Dan Nadenicek,

Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

**8:45 a.m.** Harry Shuford

**11:00 a.m.** Don DeMaria, Madie Fischetti,

Jerris Hayes, Joy Holloway

### FELLOWSHIP HOST

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The man who dies rich dies disgraced.

– Andrew Carnegie

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Wayne F. Middendorf given by the Middendorf family.

The rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Julianne Grace Welch on January 3, 2017. Julianne Grace is the daughter of Kevin and Jennie Welch.

### 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 Jerry Rogers. You may contact Jerry at (706)769-4469 January 16-31. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

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### 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 in preparing to call 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.

### Wed@First Resumes January 18

We resume our Wed@First programs for the semester this week. Make a reservation to come to dinner at 5:45 p.m., the best in town for the price! Prior to dinner, plan to attend a class at 4:30 p.m. on Shakespeare's Richard II or Gentle Yoga. At 5:00 p.m. the Cherub and St. Andrews children's choirs rehearse. This week, stay following dinner from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. for a "Listening Session" led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster as part of our process to prepare to call a new pastor. On subsequent Wednesdays (January 25 – February 22), Bruce will offer a class on "Faith and Politics: What's a Christian to Do?" Other special classes and events at 6:30 p.m. are planned for March.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday

## 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.

- 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 15

- 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. The Athens Voices of Truth Concert, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Concert Reception, Atrium
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

### Monday, January 16 - Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Closed for Holiday
- 9:30 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Lay Park, 297 Hoyt St.
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle One, Home of DeDe Guest, 160 Wickersham Dr.
- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Thrift Store Volunteer Day, Bell's Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave.

### Tuesday, January 17

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Council Meeting, Room 308
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 5:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary

### Wednesday, January 18 - Wed@First Programs Resume

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 3:30 p.m. Knit for Kids & More, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's Richard II, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrew's Choir, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Listening Session, Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, January 19

- 5:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### Sunday, January 22

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching

## LOOKING AHEAD

**January 22** - Listening Session, 9:45 a.m., Youth Listening Session, 6:00 p.m.

**January 22** - Youth Ski Trip Meeting for parents & youth, 7:00 p.m.

**January 25** - Geneva Stonecipher in concert with the UGA Symphony Orchestra, 8:00 p.m., Hodgson Concert Hall

**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

## **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,  
Mission & 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.**