



# 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 22, 2017  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
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

Processional in B-flat

David N. Johnson

### 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.

### \*Hymn 411

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

\*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.

### \*Call to Confession

\*Those who are able may stand.

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

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, Arise, Your Light Is Come! was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.  
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.  
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another;  
we allow the past to hold us hostage.  
In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin.  
Remind us of the promises you make in baptism  
so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

**\*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.

At 8:45 a.m., the service resumes with Hearing the Word of God on page 3.

**11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism**

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Marshall Evan Esary, son of David and Alice Marshall Esary and grandson of Drew and Sheila Marshall.

**\*Question to Congregation**

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

**\*Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Hymnal, p. 14

**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.**

**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

## 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** Isaiah 9:1-4, page 624

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** They Cast Their Nets in Galilee  
David McK. Williams

They cast their nets in Galilee just off the hills of brown;  
such happy, simple fisher-folk before the Lord came down.  
Contented, peaceful fishermen, before they ever knew  
the peace of God that filled their hearts brimful, and broke them too.  
Young John who trimmed the flapping sail, homeless in Patmos died.  
Peter, who hauled the teeming net, head down was crucified.  
The peace of God, it is no peace, but strife closed in the sod.  
Yet, let us pray for but one thing – the marvelous peace of God.

**Second Lesson** Matthew 4:12-23, page 881

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

**Sermon** Follow Me Dr. Carol Strickland

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn Insert** Will You Come and Follow Me KELVINGROVE

**\*8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith**  
from "A Declaration of Faith" (PCUS 1977)

**In forming his people and sending them into the world**

**Jesus called individuals to be disciples.**

**They were to share the joy of his companionship,**

**to understand and obey his teachings,**

**and to follow him in life and death.**

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.**

**Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ**

**is God's undeserved gift to each of us.**

**It is also God's demand upon every one of us,**

**never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.**

**Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,**

**we strive to become more faithful and effective**

**in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

**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**

The first four stanzas of the ballad-like hymn Will You Come and Follow Me are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

The 117th General Assembly of the PCUS adapted this contemporary statement of faith as a reliable aid for study, liturgy, and inspiration.



## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.**

Bruce Miller

**11:00 a.m.**

Bruce Lancaster, Katherine Queen

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Lorenzo Fischetti, Jackson Parker

#### Readers:

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

**11:00 a.m.** Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** John Simpson (head),

Bill Woolbright, Mary Ben Woolbright

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

Terry McRae, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale,

Mixon Robinson, Rosemary Stancil,

Tom Wilfong

### GREETERS

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

Keith Oelke, Mary Peace

**11:00 a.m.** Kathy Bangle, Shirley Evans,

Margaret Johansen, Lawton Stephens

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

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

**11:00 a.m.** Diane Hudgins, Mike Morris,

Jerry Rogers, Ella Stewart

### FELLOWSHIP HOST

Terry Nestor

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

What I've realized is that life doesn't count for much unless you're willing to do your small part to leave our children – all of our children – a better world. – Barack Obama

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of CPL Evan Andrew Marshall and in honor of grandson Marshall Evan Esary, given by Drew Marshall.

### 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 22-31. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

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## Annual Congregational Meeting & Dinner

**January 29, 6:00 p.m. - Please note time change**

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.

### New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church and becoming a member, we invite you to attend our New Member class.

**Sunday, February 12, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Informational class led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Staff Conference Room, light supper included

**Sunday, February 19, 4:00 p.m.**

New Member Tea, home of Susan Ferguson, prospective members received by the Session

**Sunday, February 26, 11:00 a.m.**

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office at 706-543-4338.

# 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 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. Attending the Listening Session today.

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 22 - Attending the Listening Session
- January 29 - Dr. Jose Cordero will speak on the public health initiative P2i (Preconception to Infancy).

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

**New Voices** • Room 302

Study of the book, Searching for Sunday, by Rachel Held Evans. Attending the Listening Session today.

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

**Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class**

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Saga of Jacob from Genesis. Attending the Listening Session today.

Teacher: John Kipp

**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 and Alyssa Standard

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## Wednesday @First

**Faith and Politics: What's a Christian to Do? Led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster**

January 25 - The Bible and Politics, What does the Bible say about politics?

February 1 - Christian Citizenship, How do our Christian convictions inform our political convictions?

February 8 - Church and State, Faith and Politics, Can faith and politics have a constructive conversation?

February 15 - Inciting Civility, How do we deal with hot-button issues?

February 22 - God's Politics, Who speaks for God?

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 22

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Listening Session, Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Listening Session, The PIT
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Ski Trip Meeting for parents & youth, The PIT

### Monday, January 23

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

### Tuesday, January 24

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Doughnuts with Dad, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Hilltop Grille, 2310 W Broad St.

### Wednesday, January 25

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Doughnuts with Dad, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, The Savannah Room, Georgia Center, 1197 S. Lumpkin St.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 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
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Faith & Politics: What's a Christian to Do?, Moses Waddel Room
- 8:00 p.m. UGA Symphony Orchestra with Geneva Stonecipher, Hodgson Concert Hall

### Sunday, January 29

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**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 17-19** - 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

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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.**