



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!

February 12, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sixth 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

Aria

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission Red Cross Blood Drive

Song of Gathering

Hymn 481, Stanza 1

Praise the Lord, God's glories show, Alleluia!

Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!

Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!

All that see and share God's love. Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1-3

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

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

***Hymn 464** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of love, we find it so easy to recite the creed but so difficult to live what we say we believe. Even when we see we are failing you, we do not readily change our ways. We too often prefer to live in our own selfish, solitary world than abide in Jesus and love one another. Redeem us and restore us to the fullness of your divine community.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Children, ages Pre-K through grade 5, are invited to come forward to lead the Call to Worship at the 11:00 a.m. service and stay through the baptism.

Latecomers may be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



***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 anthem is a setting of a traditional Shaker tune from the South Union Shaker Settlement, South Union, Kentucky (1843). It is sung by the St. Andrews Choir and the Chancel Choir.

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Love Is Little

Traditional Shaker
arr. Mark Schweizer

Love is little, love is low, love will make our spirits grow;
grow in peace, grow in light; love will do the thing that's right.
Love is gentle, love is small, love will find the best of all;
find the peace, find the light, love will do the thing that's right.
Love is silent, love is strong, love will sing a quiet song;
sing of peace, sing of light, love will do the thing that's right.
Love is wonder, love is grace, love will bind all in its place;
bind the peace, bind the light, love will do the thing that's right

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism are Oliver Fitzgerald Stemke, son of Kevin and Lizzy Stemke, assisting Ruling Elder Mary Havick, and Mary Grace Middendorf, daughter of David and Amanda Middendorf, and granddaughter of Bruce and Mimi Middendorf, assisting Ruling Elder Mixon Robinson.

***Question to Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and and nurture Oliver and Mae by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them 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.**

**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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 321, Stanza 1
**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson 1 Corinthians 13:4-13, page 1049
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson 1 John 3:18-24, page 1113
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Three Degrees of Love Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 335** Though I May Speak O WALY WALY

8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed Hymnal, p. 14

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
. . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Improvisation on HYFRYDOL John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis
If ye love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may abide with you forever,
ev'n the spir't of truth.

***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 376** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

***Postlude** HYFRYDOL Ralph Vaughan Williams

Children, ages Pre-K through grade 1, are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1,3 the first two stanzas of Hymn 335 are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

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.

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.

Today, 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 Fran & Richard Lane, 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.

YOUTH SKI TRIP

February 17-19

Our youth leave Friday afternoon for Montreal to join other Presbyterian youth for a weekend of skiing, worship, and fellowship. Please pray for their safety and spiritual growth during their time away.

IHN HOST WEEK

February 19-26

Our first Interfaith Hospitality Network host week for the year and for our new coordinating team begins next weekend. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered! To help with one of our last remaining jobs please sign up in the Atrium or contact Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net.

PTP TRIP TO WHITE HALL MANSION

February 21, 10:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will tour the White Hall Mansion in Athens this month. First Presbyterian Church member Elaine Thacker will be our tour guide. Elaine and her late-husband, Sam, lived in the mansion for sixteen years. We will then enjoy lunch together at Peppino's restaurant. Please RSVP to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706-549-2888 by February 17.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

February 26, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please help save up to three lives by donating blood. Reserve an appointment online at redcrossblood.org. You may also sign up in the Atrium starting today, or by contacting the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

ATHENS NURSES CLINIC

Hygiene Bags

We have an opportunity to support the patients of Athens Nurses Clinic through the collection of hygiene bags. Last year, our church collected supplies to fill over 100 bags! Recently, we received a call requesting more bags. If you'd like to contribute, we have set up a shelf with bins in the basement by the Coke machine. Thank you!

Items needed:

Shampoo	Conditioner	Soap	Lotion
Toothbrush	Toothpaste	Small deodorant	
Comb	Shaving cream	Razor	New socks
New washcloth			

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thanks to your generosity, the youth collected \$1,280.46 for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank last Sunday. The Falcons may have lost, but our neighbors who are struggling with hunger and poverty won!

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland, Chiara Bono

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Cash Havick, Jackson Parker

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Mac Corry

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head), Don Hill,
David Mendenhall

11:00 a.m. Joe Hermanowicz (head),
David Cole, Michael Earl, Erika Hermanowicz,
Margaret Johansen, Ed Law, Jacki Macker

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clenden-Shaw,
June De Nadai, Faye Marshall, Kay Spencer

11:00 a.m. Barbara Comfort, Sydney Jackson,
Tommy Jackson, Susan Landrum

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

No one has ever become poor by giving.
– Anne Frank

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Jim Scanlon, Judy Scanlon

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Robbie Bryan, Jody Corry,
Greta Covington, Mary Havick

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the members and guests of First Presbyterian Church, given by Joe and Erika Hermanowicz.

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.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

The University of Georgia's University Chorus performing

Eternal Light: A Requiem

by Howard Goodall

Tuesday, February 28, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Under the direction of Lauren Elizabeth Whitham

Peng-Chian Chen, piano

John Coble, organ

Monica Hargrave, harp

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 Pre-Kindergarten 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.

Pre-Kindergarten - 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, The Story of Scripture: the Unfolding Drama of the Bible, by Robbie Fox Castleman 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.

- February 12 - We will meet with the children in **Fellowship Hall** to experience Godly Play.

- February 19 - DVD, Lost Christianities

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

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

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Saga of Jacob from Genesis.

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

Wednesday@First

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

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

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 12

- 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. New Member Class, Staff Conference Room
- 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
- 5:50 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, February 13

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 8:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. New Life Bible Church, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Road

Tuesday, February 14

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, February 15

- 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. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Faith & Politics: What's a Christian to Do?, Moses Waddel Room

Thursday, February 16

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room

Friday, February 17

- 4:00 p.m. Youth depart for Ski Trip
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Party, Presbyterian Student Center

Sunday, February 19

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

LOOKING AHEAD

February 12, 19 & 26 - New Member Class, Tea, Reception

February 17-19 - Youth Ski Trip

February 19-26 - IHN Host Week

February 21 - Primetime Presbyterians Trip to White Hall Mansion

February 21 - Prayers for Healing

February 26 - Red Cross Blood Drive

February 28 - The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series
UGA University Chorus Concert

March 1 - Ash Wednesday Services, 12:00 and 6:30 p.m., Children & Family Time, 5:00 p.m.

May 30-June 2 - Vacation Bible School

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Jerris Hayes, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2017

Allen Crowell
Don DeMaria
Susan Ferguson
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

CLASS OF 2019

Robbie Bryan
Jody Jenkins Corry
Greta Terrell Covington
DeeAnn Cox
Mary Havick
Joe Hermanowicz
Richard Lane
Mary Peace
Lawton Stephens
Dan Trier

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.