



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 19, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Seventh 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

Voluntary in D

John Stanley

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

Monthly Prayers for Healing

Harry Shuford

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 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

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 during the Song of Gathering at the 11:00 a.m. service to lead the Call to Worship. Afterwards, they are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

Latecomers may be seated.

Hymn 482 employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 105 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. In your great mercy forgive us our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

***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.

The Decalogue

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

- (Left) **you shall have no other gods before me.**
- (Right) **You shall not make for yourself an idol.**
- (Left) **You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.**
- (Right) **Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.**
- (Left) **Honor your father and your mother.**
- (Right) **You shall not murder.**
- (Left) **You shall not commit adultery.**
- (Right) **You shall not steal.**
- (Left) **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- (Right) **You shall not covet....anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

Congregational Response

FOREST GREEN

**God's law is perfect and gives life, revives the weary soul;
God's testimonies all are sure, wisdom for all to hold.
The statutes of the Lord are just and give the heart delight;
God's precepts are direct and pure and give the eyes clear sight.**

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."
Latecomers may be seated.

The congregation is invited to read the Ten Commandments antiphonally (left side and right side alternating). John Calvin, the "father of Presbyterianism," included the singing of the Decalogue in his liturgy following the confession and pardon as a guide for Christian conduct in gratitude for the forgiveness of sins. The complete text for the Ten Commandments may be found in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18, page 105

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

11:00 Anthem Teach Me, O Lord Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Second Lesson Matthew 22:34-40, page 902

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

Sermon Love Your Neighbor Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 421** The Church of Christ in Every Age WAREHAM

***Affirmation of Faith** A Creed from the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

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 These Are the Holy Ten Commandments
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.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 298** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy IN BABILONE

***Benediction**

In *The Church of Christ in Every Age*, a challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy offers a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

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

*Congregational Response

AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

*Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in G

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

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 TEA & SESSION MEETING

Today, 4:00 p.m.

Our prospective new members will gather for a tea and to be received by the Session this afternoon at the home of Fran & Richard Lane, 145 Riverhill Court.

IHN HOST WEEK

February 19-26

Our first Interfaith Hospitality Network host week for the year begins today. Please pray for our guests and volunteers during this week of ministry.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

February 21

This informal group meets on the third Tuesday each month in the sanctuary to pray with and for others in the congregation and beyond.

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 and you can receive a \$5 Amazon Gift Card from the Red Cross. You may also sign up in the Atrium, or contact the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

We also need help the day of the drive with one hour shifts greeting donors as they arrive. Please contact Joe Neighbors at jbneighb@bellsouth.net to volunteer.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Our Men's Basketball team is 3 - 1 on the year. We play every Monday night at Tuckston United Methodist Church at 6:30, 7:15, or 8:15 p.m. Come join us to play or cheer us on! Game times are posted in the bulletin and online on the church calendar. You may also contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com for more information.

ATHENS NURSES CLINIC

Hygiene Bags

We are supporting the patients of Athens Nurses Clinic through the collection of hygiene bags. If you'd like to contribute, we have set up a shelf with bins in the basement by the Coke machine in the basement. Thank you!

Travel size items needed:

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

New socks & washcloths

ASH WEDNESDAY - CHILDREN & FAMILY TIME

March 1, 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Our children and families are invited to meet in the Narthex between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. to experience Lenten stations together in the Sanctuary as small groups. Materials will be provided for families to create their own Lenten calendars. Dr. Lancaster will spend time with each family and talk about the service traditions of Ash Wednesday.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Bruce Lancaster

11:00 a.m.

Bruce Lancaster, Abigale Bishop

Acolytes:

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

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Harry Shuford

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head), David Cole, Don Hill

11:00 a.m. Joe Hermanowicz (head), Erika Hermanowicz, Margaret Johansen, Jacki Macker, Cash Morris, Chris Pope

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw, June De Nadai, Barbie Hillman, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Susan Landrum, Steve West

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Kitty Donnan

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Of all the varieties of virtue, liberality is the most beloved. – Aristotle

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Dan Trier

11:00 a.m. Joe Hermanowicz, Richard Lane, Lawton Stephens, Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Anne Simpson, given by Rick Simpson.

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

**S. P. Soup Group*
March 3, 17, 31, and April 7**

Join Carol Strickland at her home on four Friday evenings in Lent for a simple soup supper and experimentation with some ancient spiritual practices. Let her know by March 1 at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org or 706-765-7671 if interested.

*Spiritual Practices Soup Group

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 19 - DVD, Lost Christianities

- February 26 - DVD, The Other Side of History

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

There is no Sunday School this week as the youth group is at Montreat Ski Weekend. Any youth not on the retreat are encouraged to help in the Children's Ministry Suite.

Led by: Kim Ness and Alyssa Standard

Wednesday@First

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

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

Coming in March:

Praying the Psalms, a Lenten study led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 19 - IHN Host Week begins

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, home of Fran & Richard Lane, 145 Riverhill Ct.
- 5:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, February 20 - Church Office Closed for President's Day

- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. First United Methodist, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Road

Tuesday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Council Meeting, Room 308
- 10:30 a.m. Primetime Presbyterian Trip to White Hall Mansion
- 1:15 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 5:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Craft Public House, 1040 Gaines School Rd.

Wednesday, February 22

- 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
- 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 23

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Athens Community Council on Aging, 135 Hoyt St.

Saturday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Stated Meeting, Reid Memorial Presbyterian, Augusta
Installation of the Rev. Hilary Shuford as General Presbyter,
Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) preaching

Sunday, February 26

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

LOOKING AHEAD

February 26 - Red Cross Blood Drive, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

New Member Receptions, 9:50 a.m. & 12:05 p.m.

February 28 - The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

UGA University Chorus Concert, 8:00 p.m.

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

March 3, 17, 31 and April 7 - S. P. Soup Group (Spiritual Practices Soup Group)

March 8-22 - "Praying the Psalms," Wed@First Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.

March 26 - Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon, 12:05 p.m.

April 2-9 - IHN Host Week

April 13 - Maundy Thursday Service & Dinner, 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.