

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Don Quixote
by Pablo Picasso

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!

March 19, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Lent

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.

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

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Sondra K. Tucker

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

TALLIS' CANON

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

Children, ages Pre-K - grade 5, may come forward during the Song of Gathering at the 11:00 a.m. service to lead the Call to Worship.

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord,
the Lord's name be praised.

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

*Those who are able may stand.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46.

***Hymn 260**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, our Judge and Redeemer, sometimes we are all talk, empty words without form or substance. We talk about faith, but dare not live in the risk of it. We talk about love, but do not put into action. Give us the courage of our convictions, so that what we do may be the evidence of what we say.

***Silent Prayer**

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

***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.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Numbers 14:6-12, page 131

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

11:00 a.m. Psalm

Psalm 95

Hal H. Hopson

Refrain (sung first by the choir, then sung by choir and congregation where indicated)

All with joy - ful ex - ul - ta - tion let us sing to God our praise; to the Rock of our sal - va - tion loud ho - san - nas raise

The setting of Psalm 95 by Hal Hopson will be led by the St. Andrews Choir. The music is based on a Hasidic melody.

Thankful tribute gladly bringing, let us come before God now, loud with psalms our praises singing, joyful in God's presence bow. **Refrain** God's own hand holds earth's deep places, God made mountains, trees, and hills; see the seas whose bounds God traces, see the land God's bounty fills. **Refrain** This is our own God who leads us, we the people of God's care; with a shepherd's hand God feeds us as God's flock in pastures fair. **Refrain** O how great a God, and glorious, is the Lord of whom we sing; over idol gods victorious, great in might our God and King. **Refrain** God from whom such might revealing let us come, with reverence meet, now before our Maker kneeling, let us worship at God's feet. **Refrain** While God offers peace and pardon let us hear God's voice today, lest, if we our hearts should harden, we should perish on our way. **Refrain**

Second Lesson Psalm 95, page 560
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon God's Passions: Trust Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 430** Come Sing, O Church in Joy! DARWALL'S 148TH

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good and makes
everyone equally in God's image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a
covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

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 If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee
Johann Sebastian Bach

11:00 a.m. Offertory If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee
Jody W. Lindh

If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
and hope in him through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
and bear thee through the evil days;
who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the Rock that naught can move.
Only be still and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent;
no doubt our inmost wants are known
to God who chose us for his own.
Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;
in all thy labor faithful be,
and trust God's Word, though undeserving,
thou yet shalt find it true for thee;
God never yet forsook in need
the soul that trusts in him indeed.

***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**

In 1983, the PC(USA) was formed by the reunion of what were the Northern and Southern streams of the Presbyterian denominations in the USA. The Brief Statement of Faith was written to articulate the common identity Presbyterians share. This creed is arranged in a trinitarian framework that is meant to be used in worship. This excerpt is from the section about God.

The hymn If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee (Hymn 282 in our hymnal) is a testimony of experience. The original German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 281** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 2

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Postlude** Improvisation on If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

John Coble

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.

Books for Keeps Book Drive

March 19-26

Help make sure no child in our community goes through summer without great books to read. Please donate your used books as part of our book drive. There will be boxes in the Atrium through next Sunday, as well as in the reception area and Fellowship Hall.

Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children's books. Contact Jane Mann at jmann49@bellsouth.net or Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com with any questions.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

March 21, 5:30 p.m.

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March 23, 6:30 p.m.

We will host our next gathering at the home of Stephen Covington, 545 Milledge Circle. March Madness basketball will be enjoyed, along with plenty of food and fellowship. For more information and to be included on the email list, please contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com. Please also contact Dan if you're interested in hosting future gatherings.

PW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

March 26, 12:15 p.m.

All women in the congregation are invited to a luncheon marking the founding of Presbyterian Women in 1922. Circle members are providing delicious salads and birthday cake. After lunch John Kipp will present a program entitled "Who is Jesus According to Other Abrahamic Faiths?" in the Moses Waddel Room. Please RSVP to the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or 706-543-4338 by March 21 to help us plan.

PTP TRIP TO CHÂTEAU ÉLAN

March 28, 10:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will go to Château Élan in Braselton this month for a tour of the winery. Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch together at Cafe Elan. Please RSVP to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888 by March 22 to reserve your seat on the van.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland, Abigale Bishop

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Lane Holloway, Chase MacMillan

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman

11:00 a.m. Rick Simpson (head),
Kitty Donnan, Michael Earl, Ed Law,
Christine Register, Steve West

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. June De Nadai, Carroll Gaillard,
Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Susan Landrum,
Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Wealth shines in giving rather than in hoarding,
for the miser is hateful, whereas the generous
person is applauded.

– Boethius, Roman statesman and philosopher

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. David Cole

11:00 a.m. Christine Register, Denise Horton,
Richard Stone, Arlene Shirley

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Chuck Roberts, Heather Roberts

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to
the glory of God and in memory of Marian
Carr and Andrew S.C. McKay given by
Carol McKay.

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** 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.

Easter Mobile Design Meeting Today, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Do you have creative talent to share? If you would like to help design and construct an Easter mobile for Fellowship Hall, please join us for this planning meeting. Contact Carol Strickland at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org with any questions.

DOOR Weekend Mission Trip June 9-11

This summer we will send a team to Atlanta for a “Discover Weekend.” Sponsored by DOOR, a faith-based urban network, participants will be challenged to see the face of God in the city as they spend time listening, volunteering, worshiping, and reflecting on their experiences. Lodging will be in a local church. The cost is \$130 with partial scholarships available. Our team will be intentionally intergenerational with space for ten adults and ten high schoolers. Beginning Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon, this is the perfect experience for anyone who can’t spend a week in Haiti or Honduras and wants to serve in the mission of the church.

Contact Rob and Susan Haire if interested at hairer@gmail.com

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 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, 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.

- March 19 - Sr. Margarita from Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela will discuss her work in the Pinewoods neighborhood.
- March 26 - Anna Berrier Lawrence from UGA's Office of Disability Services will speak about Destination Dawgs, a program to help students with disabilities.

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

Study of the Acts of the Apostles.

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

Study of 1 Thessalonians.

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

WED@FIRST

March 22-29, 6:30 p.m.

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

With few exceptions, the psalms are not the voice of God. Rather, they give voice to our common humanity and bring power, shape, and authority to what we know about ourselves in relation to God. This Lenten study will explore the psalms as tools for praying to collaborate in God's work in our world.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 19 - Third Sunday of Lent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Book Fair for Children (Sunday through Friday), Children's Ministry Suite
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. Easter Mobile Design Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:50 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, March 20

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. New Life, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

- 11:45 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. Wed@First Programs Begin
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:30 p.m. Praying the Psalms, Moses Waddel Room

Thursday, March 23

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 343 Price St, Statham
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Home of Stephen Covington, 545 Milledge Cir.
- 8:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Beech Haven, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Sunday, March 26 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

LOOKING AHEAD

March 26 - Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon, 12:15 p.m.

March 28 - Primetime Presbyterians Trip to Chateau Elan, 10:30 a.m.

March 28 - First Friends, Sr. Sol, 6:00 p.m.

March 30 - "All God's Creatures" Animals & Art Activities, Courtyard, 5:30 p.m.

April 2-9 - IHN Host Week

April 9 - Palm Sunday and Palm Procession

April 13 - Maundy Thursday Service & Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

April 14 - Good Friday Service, Presbyterian Student Center, 7:00 p.m.

April 15 - Easter Egg Hunt, The Hill, 11:00 a.m.

April 16 - Easter Services & Brunch

May 7 - Weekday School 50th Anniversary Celebration

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.