

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



The Best Supper
by Jan Richardson

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 26, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Wilbur Held

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

**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.**

TALLIS' CANON

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 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

*Those who are able may stand.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*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.**

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory The King of Love my Shepherd Is
Charles V. Stanford

11:00 a.m. Offertory The King of Love my Shepherd Is
Edward C. Bairstow
Text may be found at Hymn 171

*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 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need RESIGNATION

*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 Fugue in D Minor Johann Sebastian Bach

The offertories in both services are settings of Hymn 171. The text has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased when it was joined with this Irish melody.

Hymn 172 is Isaac Watt's paraphrase of Psalm 23. He develops a theme of the house of heaven with an inspired conclusion not found in the psalm itself: "No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home." The tune is a folk hymn from the southern Appalachian mountains.

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.

PW Birthday Luncheon
Today, 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. If you did not have a chance to RSVP, we still welcome you to join us.

Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open
Passport to Peru!

Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School 2017 at First Presbyterian Church!

This program is open to children entering Pre-K through 5th grade in fall 2017.
Online registration can be found on the home page at firstpresathens.org.

We need your help! To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

PROJECT SAFE THRIFT STORE

Volunteer Day

March 27, 10:00 a.m.

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. The thrift store is in the Bell's Shopping Center at 995 Hawthorne Ave. You may bring any items in good condition for donation, along with rags and cleaning products. To learn more about Project Safe, please visit project-safe.org and for questions please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com.

FIRST FRIENDS

March 28, 6:00 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to our monthly gatherings at local restaurants for dinner out. This month we will meet at Sr. Sol, 2455 W. Broad St. For questions or to make reservations, please contact Nancy Bostrom at bostrom26@charter.net. We look forward to seeing you there!

"ALL GOD'S CREATURES"

Animals & Art Activities

March 30, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Church families are invited to bring their children and friends to this Weekday School program in the courtyard. All will experience a variety of God's animals in a hands-on way. There will be fun art activities for children, too! Please join us for this wonderful activity for families. For more information please contact Elaine Johnson at elaine@firstpresathens.org.

IHN HOST WEEK

April 2-9

We're looking forward to welcoming our next guests with love and warmth. There are a few spots left to help. To volunteer please sign up in the Atrium or contact Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net.

IHN will be offering a training class April 25, 6:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We encourage anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to attend the 90 minute class to sign up with Michelle Clendenen-Shaw at michelle.shaw@usan.com or Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Bruce Lancaster

11:00 a.m.

Bruce Lancaster, Rachel Huff

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Joshua Porras Allen,

Keila Porras Allen

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Joe Neighbors

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head),

Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman

11:00 a.m. Rick Simpson (head),

Margaret Johansen, Ed Law, Jacki Macker,

Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Robert Simmons

GREETERS

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

Don Lowe, JoAnne Lowe

11:00 a.m. Karen Allen, Kathy Bangle,

Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness.

– Lucius Annaeus Seneca

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Dan Trier

11:00 a.m. Robbie Bryan, Jody Corry,

Greta Covington, Mary Havick

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Dick Ferguson, Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Sarah Ann Richards and W. Alex Smith.

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 Lily Dedications

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, April 10**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a pew pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at (706) 543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 16 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor Of

Given by

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 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
Discussion of various topics using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum led by rotating team of teachers.
• March 26 - Jean Martin Willaims on "Priscilla the Tentmaker of Corinth"

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room
Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.
• March 26 - Anna Berrier Lawrence from UGA's Office of Disability Services will speak about Destination Dawgs, a program to help students with disabilities.
• April 2 - 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
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 - Last Wed@First Dinner & Programs until Fall
March 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 26 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Books for Keeps Book Drive, Atrium
- 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. Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 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, March 27

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Thrift Store Volunteer Day, Bell's Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave.
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 28

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Spring Pictures, Courtyard
- 10:30 a.m. Primetime Presbyterians Trip to Château Élan, Meet at Kohl's, 1991 Epps Bridge Pkwy.
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Sr. Sol, 2455 W. Broad St.

Wednesday, March 29 - Last Wed@First Dinner & Programs until Fall

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Spring Pictures, Courtyard
- 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. Praying the Psalms, Moses Waddel Room

Thursday, March 30

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Bountiful Hills, 200 Bolton Dr., Commerce
- 5:30 p.m. "All God's Creatures," Animals & Art Activities, Courtyard
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Redeemer Presbyterian, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, March 31

- 6:00 p.m. Soup Group, Home of Carol Strickland & Jack Palmer, 1141 Nona Dr.

Sunday, April 2 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

April 30 - Youth Sunday

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.

706-543-4338, 185 EAST HANCOCK AVENUE, ATHENS, GA 30601-2719