



# 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!

April 23, 2017  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Second Sunday of Easter

## 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.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

### Greeting

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

### Prelude

This Joyful Eastertide

Alec Wyton

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

**Minute for Mission** Pastor Nominating Committee

Lewis Hudgins

### Song of Gathering

Hymn 119, Stanza 1

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!**

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

Psalm 103:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
**bles God's holy name.**

After the Call to Worship, children, ages Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

### \*Hymn 115

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

The 8th-century Eastertide hymn Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. The tune was created for this text by Arthur S. Sullivan, a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Lord, our minds have grown accustomed to words about Easter, and our hearts have been hardened by many repetitions of its truth. We find ways to compromise the Gospel, and our lives have been changed very little by your call to faith and repentance. Touch our living once more this morning, O God, with the power of your Holy Spirit and break through our closed and calloused understanding. Forgive our failures of faith and trust, and inspire us once more with your love.**

**\*Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response**

Hymn 104, Stanza 1

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

**\*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.**

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.

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

After the Passing of the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K through grade 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Congregational Prayer for Illumination**

Hymn 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

**First Lesson**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32, page 994

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem**

This Joyful Eastertide

Dutch carol  
arr. Charles Wood

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen.  
My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber  
till trump from east to west, shall wake the dead in number. Refrain  
Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.  
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. Refrain

The verbal and musical elements of the anthem mesh so well because the words were written to fit this Dutch tune. The news of Christ's resurrection is joyfully conveyed by the ever-higher phrases and final cascade of notes at the end of the refrain.

**Second Lesson** John 19:41-42; 20:11-18, page 990  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

The Garden Tomb

Dr. John Kipp

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn insert** Hymn of Promise PROMISE

**\*Affirmation of Faith** 1 Cor. 15:1-6, adapted

**This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins  
according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared  
first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

**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**

**Offertory** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Paul Manz

**\*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**

The writing of Hymn of Promise was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Elliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after the piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral. Hymn of Promise is sung weekly by one of our choirs, The Mellows.

The offertory is based on Hymn 111.

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

### \*Hymn 122

Thine Is the Glory JUDAS MACCABEUS  
The Refrain will be sung after each stanza

### \*Benediction

### \*Congregational Response

Hymn 118, Stanza 3

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth the song begin,  
let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.**

### \*Postlude

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain James Biery

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.

### **DOOR MISSION TRIP MEETING, Tonight, 7:30 p.m.**

We are thrilled to have 12 youth and 12 adults signed up for our intergenerational mission trip to Atlanta focusing on issues around homelessness. At our first meeting tonight we'll go over logistics for the weekend, focusing on building our community and learning more about the issues surrounding homelessness. For more information, contact Kim Ness at [kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org).

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY PRIMER**

**April 24, 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Come to the Staff Conference Room to start learning about Stephen Ministry, a system for organizing and training laypeople to give one-to-one Christian care to persons going through divorce, job loss, grief, and other life challenges. This summer we will be recruiting those interested in becoming Stephen Ministers at FPC. The presentation will be repeated May 7 at 9:45 a.m.

### **YOUTH SUNDAY**

**April 30, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

Our youth are hard at work preparing for Youth Sunday. We look forward to supporting them as they lead us in worship at both services.

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

**Thank You Breakfast  
April 30, 10:00 a.m.**

Our wonderful Nursery, Sunday School, and Children's Church volunteers are invited to join the children for a special breakfast in the Children's Ministry Suite. We appreciate the many volunteers who make Sunday mornings so much fun for our children.

### **WEEKDAY SCHOOL**

**50th Anniversary Celebration  
May 7, 11:00 a.m.**

Please join us during worship, followed by a reception and school open house. We will have current and former teachers with us and special activities for this memorable occasion.

### **MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING**

**May 14**

On Mother's Day we will join more than 200 Presbyterian churches in Georgia in support of the Caring Hands Fund for Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Our gifts help to provide much needed care and services for more than 400 older residents (mostly widows) of Presbyterian Homes who have outlived their financial resources. Thank you for your generosity.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.** Kim Ness

**11:00 a.m.** Kim Ness, Cate DeMaria

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Isabelle Seward, Sam Seward

#### Readers:

**8:45 a.m.** Jim Dove

**11:00 a.m.** Chuck Toney

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** Carl Bergmann (head),  
Mary Peace, James Seagraves

**11:00 a.m.** Stephen Covington (head),  
Matt Bishop, Ron Cox, Robert Simmons

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Carla Buss, Carroll Gaillard,  
Terry Nestor

**11:00 a.m.** Jayne Bailey, Kathy Bangle,  
Melinda DeMaria

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

**8:45 a.m.** Denise Horton

**11:00 a.m.** Joe Attaway, Jason Doornbos,  
Sue Gray, Ella Stewart

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Phyllis Crowell, Lois Neighbors

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Real charity doesn't care if it's tax-deductible  
or not. – Dan Bennett

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to  
the glory of God and in celebration of the  
marriage of Maria Irene Cramer and Jeffrey  
Everett Royal.

### 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 on the prayer  
cards in the pew pads, by phone to the church  
office, 706-543-4338, or through the Prayer  
Request link on our website, [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org).

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## Primetime Presbyterians Antique Car Tour

**Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.**

Please join us for our April gathering. Athens businessperson and car collector George Bugg will show us his antique cars and trucks which he has been assembling for over twenty years. At over 87 cars, his collection is one of the largest in the country and includes a 1963 Studebaker Hawk, a 1932 Hudson (which is one of only five known to exist), a 1912 Model T, and a 1934 Ford sedan - the same model that the Bonnie and Clyde gang used to rob banks.

We will meet at his warehouse at 131 Newton Bridge Industrial Way where his array of cars is stored. After the tour we will enjoy brunch at the Heirloom Cafe on Chase Street. Please RSVP to Judy Howell at [jhowell@uga.edu](mailto:jhowell@uga.edu) or 706 549-2888 by April 25.

## 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](http://firstpresathens.org).

We need your help! To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at [natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org).

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.**

## 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

Discussion of various topics using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum led by rotating team of teachers.

**Inquirers** • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- April 23 - Julie Farmer from United Way's Wee Read Program will share information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.
- April 30 - Dr. Anneliese Singh who will speak about her work with transgender children.

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

### Blessing of the 5th Graders

**Sunday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.**

We will hold a blessing of our 5th Graders as we mark their transition into middle school. Natalie Bishop has prepared a small gift for each youth as a reminder of their time in children's ministry, a big step in their faith journey. Parents will then meet with Kim Ness to talk about the youth ministry program, before our Middle School mission trip meeting at 6:30 p.m.

We are excited to welcome this new group into The PIT! For questions please contact Natalie at [natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org) or Kim at [kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org)

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, April 23

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. John Kipp preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 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
- 5:20 p.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. DOOR Mission Trip Meeting, The PIT

### Monday, April 24

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Primer/Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### Tuesday, April 25

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, The Savannah Room, Georgia Center, 1197 S. Lumpkin St.

### Wednesday, April 26

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grille, 2310 W. Broad St.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet Recital, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 5:15 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### Thursday, April 27

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Rd.
- 7:00 p.m. A Conversation in Abraham's Tent, Congregation Children of Israel, 115 Dudley Dr.

### Friday, April 28

- 9:15 a.m. Coffee & Jesus, Parlor

### Saturday, April 29

- 7:45 a.m. Water station at Twilight Criterium 5K
- 10:00 a.m. Primetime Presbyterians Antique Car Tour, 131 Newton Bridge Industrial Way

### Sunday, April 30 - Youth Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services

## LOOKING AHEAD

**April 30** - Youth Sunday, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Children's Ministry Thank You Breakfast, 10:00 a.m.

Blessing of the 5th Graders, 5:00 p.m.

**May 7** - Stephen Ministry Primer, 9:45 a.m.

Weekday School 50th Anniversary Celebration, 11:00 a.m.

**May 14** - Mother's Day

High School Graduate Recognition, 11:00 a.m.

**May 21** - Scottish Reformation 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

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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.