

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!

May 7, 2017
11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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.

Greeting

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

Adagio and Andante from Concerto I
George Frideric Handel

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!**

The original Dutch text of We Gather Together was a patriotic song written at the end of the 16th century to celebrate the release of the Netherlands from Spanish rule. Its theme is the providence of God and the prayer "O Lord, make us free!" The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

Call to Worship

Gather us together, the young and the old, teacher and learner,
the stuck in the mud, the table turner.
Gather us together, the lost and lonely, broken and breaking,
ones who are seeking, and ones who are waking.
Gather us together, the flawed and the awed.
Gather us together, our gathering God.

*Hymn 559

We Gather Together

KREMSER

*Those who are able may stand.

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY WEEKDAY SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

History

Elaine Johnson
Weekday School Director

Parent Testimonies

Bill Bushnell
Jody and Chris Pope

Teacher Recognition

Jerris Hayes
Clerk of Session, Former Weekday School Committee Chair

Prayer

Jerry Rogers
Elder, Weekday School Committee Chair

Hymn 304

Jesus Loves Me !

JESUS LOVES ME

All children are invited to come forward to sing.

The congregation is invited to stand and join in singing stanza 2.

After Hymn 304, children ages Pre K - Kindergarten, are invited to Children's Church or may stay with their families. The nursery is available for younger children.

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.**

Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:13-16, page 923
Georgia Blue Simmons
Weekday School Alumna

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

Sermon

Such As These

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

11:00 a.m. Offertory

Bread of the World

Richard Shephard

Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead.
Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be thy feast to us the token
that by thy grace our souls are fed.

The anthem's text, by Reginald Heber, divides into distinct halves, the first four lines being an extended address to Christ, and the last four being a series of petitions. The new musical setting was written by contemporary English composer Richard Shephard.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 16

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread

Please partake as you are served.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 272**

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

***Benediction**

11:00 a.m. Weekday School present and former faculty and staff are invited to follow the pastors out after the benediction.

***Congregational Response**

AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Though a lack of punctuation in God of the Sparrow makes the text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God’s eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

***Postlude**

Grand Chœur

Théodore Salomé

Following the service, all are invited downstairs to the Weekday School for a reception, open house, and special activities in celebration of our 50th Anniversary. All former teachers and students are invited to add their handprint (leaf) to the WDS tree mural.

Nurseries for infants - preschoolers, 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.

Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open Passport to Peru!

Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

We are looking forward to a wonderful week together! This program is open to children entering Pre-K through 5th grade in fall 2017. The children will be immersed in the vibrant culture of Peru where they will discover God's good gifts of love, comfort, patience, peace, and joy for us all.

Please register online for Vacation Bible School at firstpresathens.org by **May 8** so that we can make sure your child's Passport to Peru t-shirt arrives in time for VBS.



1966 - 2016

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Early Childhood Education

Following the service today, please come downstairs to the Weekday School to continue our celebration! There are stairs going down to the school from the Atrium and hosts to show you the way through Fellowship Hall to the elevator, if you prefer.

Classrooms will be open for touring, photos of the Weekday School through the years will be shown on our Smart Boards in the classrooms, and memorabilia will be displayed in the lobby. There will also be a place to give your name and address to be kept abreast of Weekday School news in the future! Enjoy some cake and punch as you visit with friends.

Former teachers and students are invited to add their handprint to the "BIG OAK" at the end of our main Weekday School hall. There will be teachers and our muralist there to assist you.

We so hope you all enjoy this day of celebration of our Weekday School, and our church who made it possible. Thank you First Presbyterian Church of Athens!

The Weekday School would like to express our sincere gratitude to all former faculty and staff for their dedication to the children and our school. We would like to specifically recognize our Weekday School directors for their leadership and love of children:

Mrs. Molly Rice	1966-1967
Mrs. Nancy Patterson	1967-1987
Mrs. Ann Jones	1987-1997
Mrs. Lu Ann Perri	1997-2008
Mrs. Elaine Johnson	2008-Present

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

Bruce Lancaster

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Cash Havick, Ben Ness

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Mac Correy (head),
Randy Dudley, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
Jim McDonald, Robyn McDonald,
Terry McRae, Gilbert Milner

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Terry Caven, June De Nadai,
Carrol Gaillard, Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Greta Covington,
Stephen Covington

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Thank the Lord that you can give instead of
depending on others to give to you.

– Author Unknown

RECEPTION HOST

Weekday School

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Lawton Stephens

11:00 a.m. Jody Corry, Greta Covington,
Mary Havick, Joe Hermanowicz

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the
glory of God and in memory of Virginia and
Rudy White, given by Larry, Louise, Bob,
and Laura White and in celebration of the
Weekday School 50th Anniversary.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY PRIMER

Today, 9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.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.

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 of Presbyterian Homes who
have outlived their financial resources. Thank
you for your generosity.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION

May 14, 11:00 a.m.

We look forward to honoring our high school
graduates next Sunday in worship, followed
by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

SCOTTISH REFORMATION SUNDAY

May 21, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Our annual celebration of our Scottish heritage
at both worship services, along with recognition
of local and state dignitaries at 11:00 a.m.

COLLEGE GRADUATE RECOGNITION

We would like to congratulate all of our 2017
college graduates in the June edition of Columns.
If you would like to see a graduate recognized,
please contact Nan at nan@firstpresathens.org **by
May 13** with the graduate's name, institution,
degree, future plans, and a photograph.

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 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.

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

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

- May 7 - Dan Coenen will speak about the Supreme Court and other topics.
- May 14 - Our annual brainstorming day.

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 7 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, Weekday School 50th Anniversary

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Stephen Ministry Primer, Staff Conference Room
- 12:05 p.m. Weekday School 50th Anniversary Celebration, Weekday School
- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane

Monday, May 8

- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Seven, Bride's Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Homemade, 1072 Baxter St.
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. IHNA Coordinators' Meeting, The PIT
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, May 11

- 10:30 a.m. Weekday School Pre-K Graduation, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Weekday School Reception & Lunch, Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Talmadge Terrace, 801 Riverhill Dr.
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Friday, May 12

- 9:00 a.m. Last day of Weekday School for Spring
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, UGA Baseball Game

Sunday, May 14

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

LOOKING AHEAD

May 14 - Mother's Day Offering

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

May 21 - Scottish Reformation Sunday

May 28 - Summer Schedule begins: 10:00 a.m. Worship, no Sunday School

May 30-June 2 - Vacation Bible School and Middle School Mission Trip

June 8-10 - Core Godly Play Training

June 9-11 - DOOR Weekend Mission Trip

June 25-July 1 - Montreat Worship & Music Conference

July 23-29 - Montreat Youth Conference

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. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Ms. Jordan Osborne, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Alyssa Standard, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Geneva Stonecipher, Church Music Intern

**PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**