



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!

May 14, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Fifth 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

Berceuse

Louis Vierne

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Mother's Day Offering

Carl Nichols

8:45 a.m. Song of Gathering

Hymn 220, Stanza 1

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forthtell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

11:00 a.m. Song of Gathering Thank You, God

Mike Wilson

Thank you, God, for mothers, and for fathers, too!
This is how we thank you now for everything you do!
From the early morning to the setting of the sun,
they show us in many ways how Jesus' work is done.
Thanks for all their caring and for making learning fun.
Thank you most for sharing Jesus Christ, your only son.

The 11:00 a.m. Song of Gathering is sung by the Cherub Choir.

*Call to Worship

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

Psalm 103:1

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

*Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

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.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned in so many ways. There are sins that no one else knows about, and there are sins that everyone knows about. Some of our sins deeply trouble us, but there are other sins that we simply ignore. We live a faith that is more often out of convenience than commitment. We pray you would forgive us and enable us to give ourselves in the way Christ gave himself for us.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

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

8:45 a.m. Introduction of New Member

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Owen Laurence Guest, son of Laura Beth and Keith Guest, Jr.

***Question to Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Owen by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Hymnal, p.14

Baptism Hymn 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM

The Prayer for Illumination is the first stanza of the hymn O Word of God Incarnate. The opening four lines celebrate the attributes of Christ that are revealed through Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah.

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 Romans 12:9-21, page 1036

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem All Things Bright and Beautiful Richard Shephard

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. Refrain
The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. Refrain
He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. Refrain

The 11:00 anthem is sung by the St. Andrews Choir. It is a new setting of a familiar text.

Second Lesson Matthew 5:38-48, page 883

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

Sermon The Challenge of the First Mile Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***8:45 a.m. Hymn 386** O for a World AZMON

***8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed Hymnal, p.14

Everything longed for in Hymn 386 is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical shalom.

11:00 a.m. Recognition and Blessing of our High School Graduates

CAMPBELL ABBOTT Athens Christian Georgetown College
ED FERGUSON, JR. Athens Academy University of Georgia

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
. . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Today we receive the Mother's Day special offering in support of the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Please make checks to FPC and note, "Pres Homes" or use the envelopes in the Fellowship pads. Thank you for your generosity.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory For the Beauty of the Earth Wilbur Held

11:00 a.m. Offertory If Mortal Tongues with Angels Sing
Mark Schweizer

If mortal tongues with angels sing, and joined with them, my praise I bring,
yet no love lives within the thing, my clamor is forsaken.
And when all prophesies have flown, and mountains moved by faith alone,
and if I know what can be known, forsaking love, I'm shaken.
For love is patient, love is kind, not envious, or self-inclined,
insisting on its way to find, but wends the path rejoicing.
Love bears all things, believes all things, to hope it ever after clings,
enduring all, love's spirit sings, its expectation voicing.
Let prophesies and knowledge cease, and unknown tongues, their joy release,
we only know in part the peace that now we are pretending.
For faith and hope and love abide, these all within our hearts reside,
yet of these three, love opens wide the path of joy unending.

The offertory anthem is a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13 set to an Irish tune by North Carolina composer Mark Schweizer.

***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**

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Isabelle Seward

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Lane Holloway, Katherine Queen

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Campbell Abbott

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Mac Correy (head),
Don Lowe, JoAnne Lowe

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head), Bob Bostrom,
Robbie Bryan, Terry McRae, Arlene Shirley

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clenden-Shaw,
Carroll Gaillard, Keith Oelke, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Martha Elmore, Bob Glasscock,
Brenda Glasscock, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Robbie Bryan, Allen Crowell,
Susan Ferguson, Lawton Stephens

RECEPTION HOST

Youth Ministry

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

If you see your brother [or sister] in need, it doesn't matter if you already gave somewhere else. You should be open to the idea of God using you to meet their unexpected need.

– Andy Stanley

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Frank and Sue Parker, given by Mary Peace.

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.

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

May 28, 10:00 a.m.

May 21 will be our last Sunday with two services. Over the Memorial Day weekend, May 28, we will go to our summer schedule of one combined service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School will not meet over the summer.

BOOKLESS BOOK GROUP

May 24, 11:30 a.m.

A group of women meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month to enjoy lunch and conversation. They meet at a variety of restaurants and invite anyone interested to join them. Their next meeting will be at DePalmas, East Side, 1965 Barnett Shoals Rd. For questions contact Lynn West, adrianlynnwest@yahoo.com.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS THANK YOU

Kitty Donnan filled her car twice with the books collected at our book drive. Thank you! They will be sold at the annual book sale in August to raise money to buy new books for children at area elementary schools.

This year's book distributions are going on now. Six thousand children will pick out 12 books each to take home "for keeps!" Learn more at booksforkeeps.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We received \$2,547.00 for our Easter special offering, allowing the church to share God's love with neighbors in need around the world by aiding in disaster, hunger, and development. Thank you for giving generously.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Last day of Sunday School May 21

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 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

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 14 - Our annual brainstorming day.

- May 21 - 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

Vacation Bible School - Passport to Peru!

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

Church doors will open each morning at 8:45 a.m. and VBS Fun will begin at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to walk your child into the church at the Weekday School Entrance at the back of the church. Parent Pick-up/Car Line will begin at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday – Thursday with a car line at the back parking lot beginning at the Weekday School Entrance. On Friday we will finish the VBS week all together, parents and children, in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. We are looking forward to a wonderful week together!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 14 - High School Graduate Recognition, Mother's Day Offering

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:30 a.m. Meet & Greet New Member, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Reception for High School Graduates, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 15

- 5:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, May 16

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Stated Presbytery Meeting, Monticello Presbyterian Church
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, May 17

- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, May 18

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Arbor Terrace, 170 Marilyn Farmer Way

Saturday, May 20

- 2:00 p.m. Wedding Reception for Phil & Hilda Shepard English, Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. New Member Social, Home of Lois & Joe Neighbors, 1030 Forrest Hills Dr., Watkinsville

Sunday, May 21 - Scottish Reformation Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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 4 - Pentecost, Special Offering, Wear red!

Usher & Greeter Refresher Training, 11:05 a.m.

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

August 13-20 - IHNA Host Week

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. Yamini Pulusu, Website Technician
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.**