



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 21, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Scottish Reformation Sunday

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.

Bagpipe Prelude

***Procession** Highland Cathedral Traditional piping tune

***Hymn 420** God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1

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

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

11:00 a.m. Introduction of Honored Guests

Prayers for Elected and Appointed Officials

*Congregational Response

ELLACOMBE

**Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.**

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

This service is adapted from an early Scottish worship service used by John Knox.

Hymn 420 was used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930. It was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor; its Welsh hymn tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

from Psalm 139

**God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know our thoughts, our weaknesses,
our motivations, our sins.
And you love us still.
Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible:
When we wonder how you could love us just as we are,
when we forget our intricate construction,
fearfully, wonderfully made, in your image!
Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you.
Break down the walls, push aside the pride,
and help us to trust anew.**

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



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

***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. Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Chatham Payne Johnson, daughter of Nolan and Sara Oelke Johnson.

***Question to Congregation**

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

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

Baptism Hymn 492 Baptized in Water BUNESSAN

Each stanza of Baptized in Water, a text about baptism, begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune from the Isle of Mull in Scotland, first transcribed in the 19th century.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 396, Stanza 1

**O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!**

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 6:1-8, page 162

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem My God, How Wonderful Scottish Psalter, 1615
arr. Oscar R. Overby

My God, how wonderful thou art, thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat in depths of burning light!
How wonderful, how beautiful, the sight of thee must be,
thine endless wisdom, boundless power, and awful purity!
Yet I may love and worship thee.
My God, how wonderful thou art, thou everlasting friend;
on thee I stay my trusting heart, till faith in vision end.

The anthem is a setting of the tune DUNDEE, which dates back to the Scottish Psalter of 1615. The text was written by English pastor and hymn writer Frederick William Faber in 1849.

Second Lesson Psalm 8, page 482
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon You Know Your God Is Too Small If...
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 280** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound AMAZING GRACE

***11:00 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** from The Scots Confession
We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

The Scots Confession was written in 1560 when the Scottish Parliament declared Scotland a Protestant nation and asked the clergy to frame a confession of faith. Beginning with a pledge of unconditional commitment to the triune God, this confession sets forth three marks of the true and faithful church in terms of preaching, the sacraments, and church discipline.

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

Offertory Callin Mo Ruin-Sa Donald Ross

***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 text and tune of Hymn 376 occur in most English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 376** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

***Benediction**

***Recession** Scotland the Brave Traditional piping tune

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.

Scottish Reformation Worship Procession

Great Highland Bagpipes, Henry Frantz
Drum, Fran Frantz
Scottish and Tartan Flag Bearers
Beadle, Lee Epting
Chancel Choir

Clerk of Session, Jerris Hayes

Reverend Clergy, Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Dr. Carol Strickland, and Dr. John Kipp

Elected and Appointed Government Officials

The Honorable Bill Cowsert	State Senator, District 46
The Honorable Frank Ginn	State Senator, District 47
The Honorable Nancy Denson	Mayor of Athens
The Honorable Dodd Ferrelle	Mayor of Winterville
Mr. C.R. Chisholm, Jr.	Solicitor General
The Honorable Lawton E. Stephens	Chief State Court Judge
The Honorable Patricia Barron	Chief Magistrate Court Judge
The Honorable Benjamin Makin	Magistrate Court Judge
The Honorable Ryan Hope	Municipal Court Judge
Mr. Sonny Wilson	Coroner, Athens-Clarke County
Mrs. Diane Bell	Commissioner, District 7, Athens-Clarke County
Dr. Demond Means	Superintendent, Clarke County School District
Dr. Jack Parrish	Interim Superintendent, Clarke County School District
Mr. Charles Worthly	Board of Education Member, District 6
Ms. Carol Williams	Board of Education Member, District 7
Mr. John Knox	Board of Education Member, District 8

An Invitation for Fellowship

If after Kirk ye bide a wee,
there’s some wad like to speak with ye.
If after Kirk ye rise and flee,
we’ll all seem cold and stiff to ye.
The one that’s in the seat with ye
is stranger here than ye, maybe.
All here ha’e got their fears and cares.
An ye your soul unto our pryers.
Be ye our angel unawares.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

Baptismal Elders:

Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke (grandparents of Chatham Payne Johnson)

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Katherine Queen

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Abigale Bishop, Kate Ness

Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Matt Bishop

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
Cate DeMaria, Don DeMaria, Maggie DeMaria,
Melinda DeMaria, Jim McDonald

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Carroll Gaillard, Barbara Laughlin, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Nonie Hale, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum

RECEPTION HOST

Lee Epting

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Charity begins at home and generally dies from lack of outdoor exercise. – Author Unknown

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Nancy Wilson, given by Carla Buss.

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.

Scottish Reformation Sunday History

Why do we have this celebration in May, when Reformation Sunday is the last Sunday in October? That day commemorates the day in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses that started the Protestant Reformation. While the Scots were influenced by Luther's teachings, Scottish clergyman John Knox was the main leader of the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. Due to the turmoil caused by the Reformation, Knox spent time in exile, including in Geneva where he encountered and was influenced by John Calvin. Knox returned to Scotland on May 2, 1559. In August of 1561, Knox and several other ministers presented the Scots Confession to Parliament, where it was approved. The story doesn't end there, but the return of Knox to Scotland was an important part of our history as Presbyterians.

This traditional service, combined with the custom of praying for elected officials, began in Washington, D.C. in 1940. The Rev. Peter Marshall, a Scotsman and Chaplain of the United States Senate for many years, saw that elected and appointed civil servants were often cursed but seldom blessed. Each year, he invited them all to come to his church on this special day so that he and the congregation could ask God's richest blessings on them as they conducted the affairs of state and performed the duties of the offices to which they had been elected or appointed. We continue to keep this great tradition alive.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Today is the last day of Sunday School until August 20, 2017

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 21 - Scottish Reformation Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Last Sunday School until August 20, 2017
- 12:05 p.m. Reception for Scottish Reformation Sunday, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. IHNA Volunteer Training, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Watkinsville
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Monday, May 22

- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, May 23

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Five Bar, 269 N Hull St., #100

Wednesday, May 24

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, DePalmas, 1965 Barnett Shoals Rd
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310
- 6:00 p.m. DOOR Mission Trip Dinner, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, May 25

- 6:00 p.m. IHNA Volunteer Training, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.

Sunday, May 28 - Summer Schedule begins

- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching, No Sunday School

LOOKING AHEAD

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

May 30 - Jubilee Partners Work Day

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

June 4 - Pentecost, Wear RED!

Pentecost, Special Offering

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.**