



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!

August 13, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Adagio and Allegro

John Stanley

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 481, Stanza 1

Praise the Lord, God's glories show, Alleluia!

Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!

Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!

All that see and share God's love. Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Everlasting, ever-loving God, teacher, creator,
giver of knowledge and freedom,

**Let us never lose our sense of wonder about the world
you have given us.**

God of Abraham and Sarah, you lead us to new understandings
when we least expect them.

**Let us never see ourselves as too young, too old, or too wise
to learn new lessons from you.**

Gracious God, eternal God, you have given us curiosity
about our creation, ourselves, and all things unknown.

**Grant that we might always use your gifts to build a world
where peace, justice, love, and hope reign in wisdom
and in truth.**

*Those who are able may stand.

The opening line of Hymn 263 was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17, and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The Welsh melody is shaped by many three-note units.

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 service, children ages Pre-K - grade 2 are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

The text of the anthem is Psalm 119:33 set by English composer Thomas Attwood, who served St. Paul's Cathedral and the Chapel Royal in London.

***Hymn 263** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, you showed us how to love in the person of Jesus Christ. We confess how little we resemble him in our lives. We speak of love, but resist the sacrifices love requires. We are driven too often by ambition and conceit. We fight for our own views by arguing without understanding. Gracious God, fill us and shape us by your Spirit so that we may live and work for your purposes.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



***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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

O WALY WALY

Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes; eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom make me wise.

First Lesson

Proverbs 1:2-7, page 573

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.

Second Lesson

Matthew 7:28-29, page 885

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

Sermon

Keepers of the Unbroken Circle

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 282** If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. 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 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
Helmut Walcha

***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

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee is a testimony in experience. The text, based on Psalm 55:22, was created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being almost penniless following a robbery.

Hymn 262 was written for 19th-century centennial celebrations of the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

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SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 262** God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand
NATIONAL HYMN

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

***Postlude** If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

Carol Strickland

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Erin Osborne

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Mary Peace, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Michael Earl (head),
Dan Horton, Denise Horton,
Sydney Jackson, Terry McRae

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. June DeNadai, Carroll Gaillard,
Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Carol Dolson, Shirley Evans,
Margaret Johansen, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class for all 9th graders begins August 20 during Sunday School. An **informational meeting** for parents and youth will be held **tonight, 5:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

August 20

Everyone is invited to join a Sunday School class any time. If you aren't currently attending Sunday School, fall is the perfect time to try out a new class. Information about classes for all ages is on the reverse side of this page.

Parents and Children, please join us on August 20 at 9:45 a.m. in the Children's Ministry Suite. Once children have met their new Godly Play Guides and are engaged in fun activities with their Sunday School friends, Ms. Natalie will give parents a tour of the Godly Play Rooms. She will also share more about our Sunday morning schedule, the many ways children can serve in worship and be a part of the outreach mission of the church, as well as upcoming events for children and families.

YOUTH KICKOFF

August 20, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Youth and parents: join us for a Potluck Pool Party at The Hill. Learn about the year, reconnect with friends and fill out forms! Fun for all.

SAM SUNDAY: Celebrating our Senior Adult Ministry, August 27

Please join us for worship at either 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. as we honor our senior saints. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow the 11:00 a.m. service.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

September 5-9

There are additional portrait session times available for our new Pictorial Directory. Please sign up online, in the Atrium, or by contacting the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM STEPHEN MINISTERS?

Those going through death, divorce, unemployment, or other life crises will receive God's love through this program. Additionally, Stephen Ministers will grow greatly, and the whole church will be strengthened.

Fall Kickoff Brunch

Today, 9:45 a.m.

Join us after the 8:45 a.m. worship service today for the congregation-wide Fall Kickoff Brunch in Fellowship Hall. Information about adult Sunday School classes will be available.

There will also be an **IHNA Open House** in The PIT **today from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Come see how we welcome our guests.

Bearing Fruit: Ways to Serve Forms

Are you ready to bear fruit? Look for volunteers in the Atrium this morning to assist you in entering your 2017-2018 Ways to Serve form online. If you don't have one, there are extra forms available in the Narthex and Atrium. There are also instructions and a video on the church website (FirstPresAthens.org) explaining how to fill out the form online.

We hope you will choose many ways to be involved in the life of the church.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series
presents

Music for Organ and Brass

**John Coble, Organist with
The Georgia Brass Quintet and
The Bulldog Brass Quintet**

Sunday, August 20, 4:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins August 20, 9:45 a.m.

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

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Volunteer & Staff Coordinator: Jennifer Abbott

Infants • Nursery Baby Room

Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom

Room Lead: Mary Smith

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

Pre-Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Our elementary aged children will experience Godly Play during Sunday School. Godly Play encourages children to explore their faith through story, helps them gain religious language, and helps them grow their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten • Room 127

Godly Play Guides: Susan Ferguson, Karen Phillips, Heather Roberts, Dan Trier

1st Grade - 2nd Grade • Room 126

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Stacey Bowden, Mary Elizabeth McConnell, Carmen Meadows, Jayne Mendenhall

3rd Grade • Room 125

Godly Play Guides: Greta Covington, Madie Fischetti, Cathi Lancaster, Chuck Roberts

4th Grade - 5th Grade • Room 124

Godly Play Guides: Jody Corry, Denise Horton, Matt Jones

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 310

Study of the book, Half Truths by Adam Hamilton.
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.

- August 20 - DVD, The Other Side of History
- August 27 - Aging Gracefully – what to do for yourself & your parents, Trippe Ross, ACCA.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

New Voices • Room 308

Study of the book, Short Stories by Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Study of John with other books of the New Testament to follow.

Led by: Richard Stone

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Study of Matthew with an introduction and then continuing with chapter 8.

Teacher: John Kipp

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of Micah, one of the minor prophets, followed by a study of Hebrews.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH - The PIT

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

MIDDLE SCHOOL – re:form

Lounging on bean bags, our MS class will use the re:form curriculum - creative, funny animated videos and group activities - to engage in tough faith questions.

Teachers: Jordan Osborne, Erik Ness, Fred Tunmer

9th GRADE CONFIRMATION – CnC (Confirm not Conform)

This year we are using a confirmation program that celebrates questions and choices. Together, we will create a space where youth can explore the breadth of the Christian tradition, ask questions, express doubts, and discover what they truly believe. This is a year-long class with Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

Teacher: Kim Ness, Robbie Bryan

HIGH SCHOOL – d365

The demands of high school can feel overwhelming, but finding just a few minutes each day to connect to God can help lighten the load. D365.org is an app that sends daily devotions to your phone encouraging you to pause-listen-think-pray-go on a different verse from scripture. On Sundays, we'll look back to see how they impacted our week, and dig a little deeper into the scripture.

Teacher: Megan Bawcum, Natalie Bishop

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 13

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:30 a.m. IHNA Open House until 12:30 p.m., The PIT
- 9:45 a.m. Fall Kickoff Brunch, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class Informational Meeting, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 5:30 p.m. IHNA Host Week begins, The PIT

Monday, August 14

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, August 15

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 9:00 a.m. FPC hosts Northeast Georgia Presbytery Stated Summer Meeting

Wednesday, August 16

- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, August 17

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 11:00 a.m. Meet Your Teacher, Weekday School
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Parents (Only) Meeting, Weekday School

Sunday, August 20

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

LOOKING AHEAD

August 20 - Sunday School Begins

Stephen Leader Commissioning

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Music for Organ & Brass
Youth Kickoff at The Hill

August 22 - First Friends, Brett's Casual American, 3190 Atlanta Hwy.

August 26-27 - Confirmation Retreat

September 5-9 - Pictorial Directory Photos

September 10 - All-Church Picnic

September 13 - Wed@First Fall Season Begins

New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church and becoming a member, we invite you to attend our New Member class.

Sunday, September 17, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Informational class led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Staff Conference Room, light supper included

Sunday, September 24, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea, home of Greta & Steve Covington, prospective members received by the Session

Sunday, October 1, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office at 706-543-4338.

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. 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. Jennifer Abbott, Nursery Volunteer & Staff Coordinator
Mr. Chuck Hunt, Sunday Morning Manager
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Jordan Osborne, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Yamini Pulusu, Website Technician

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