



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 20, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Twentieth 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

Choral

Joseph Jongen

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

God has begun a good work within us and we have been called to continue that work until the day when Christ Jesus returns.

**Let us continue to grow in knowledge and understanding,
so that we can clearly discern what really matters.**

We share in God's grace, and God's love for the world overflows through our love for one another.

God who calls us is faithful,

so let us praise and glorify God's purpose for our lives.

*Those who are able may stand.

The author of Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, preached on January 1, 1773. He called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

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

AMAZING GRACE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we want to follow you wherever you lead us. We know we need wisdom to make good choices about how we live. We need courage to do the right thing when the wrong way is easier. We need love so that we can share it with others day after day. We pray for the grace to do your will as we move forward from this day.

***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!

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

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34, page 721

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-21, page 1114

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

Sermon

They Say You Can't Command People to Love

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*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.**

11:00 a.m. Stephen Leader Commissioning

Dawn Frisch, Larry Gray, and Carol Strickland

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

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 stanzas of There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than our limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

Today we commission our first Stephen Leaders. While this commissioning reminds our congregation that caring ministry is a part of the life of every Christian, it specifically recognizes those who are offering themselves to organize, teach, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, the trained caregivers who will minister to hurting people in our congregation and community.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 450**

O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM

***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**

Prelude and Fugue in C

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

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. Cheryl Gazlay

11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

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

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

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carroll Gaillard, Keith Oelke,
Lisa Oelke

11:00 a.m. Martha Elmore, Marie Ledford,
Tim Ledford, Jerry Rogers

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Boatwright

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of Linda and Fred Wallace.

A rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of James Brad Sirzyk on August 10, 2017. James is the son of David and Sarah Bailey Sirzyk and the grandson of Stan and Jayne Bailey.

A rosebud is also placed in honor of the birth of Margaret Christina Van Dyck on August 14, 2017. Margaret is the daughter of Margaret and Dane Van Dyck and the granddaughter of Madeline and Phil Van Dyck.

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 to the church office, (706)543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Today, 9:45 a.m.

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 today at 9:45 a.m. in the Children's Ministry Suite. Once children have met their new Godly Play Guides, 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

Today, 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. Email Kim Ness with any questions at kness@firstpresathens.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stop by the info table in the Atrium today to learn about this new ministry which trains and organizes members to provide one-to-one care to others who are grieving, depressed, or experiencing one of life's stresses. Could God be calling you to this ministry?

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

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

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

September 10, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited! Enjoy time with your church family at Sandy Creek Park. Sign up today in the Atrium or online at firstpresathens.org. \$7 per person, \$20 max per family.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

June 9-16, 2018

We believe in the power of partnership. Come learn more about this intergenerational experience working alongside the people of Olancho, Honduras. Open to adults and current 9th-12th graders. Informational meeting **Sunday, September 17, 12:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Contact Kim Ness, kness@firstpresathens.org or Denise Horton, denisehorton@gmail.com for more information.

Bearing Fruit: 2017-2018 Ways to Serve Forms

Thanks to all who have returned their Ways to Serve forms. If you have not had a chance to fill yours out, there are several ways you may do so: complete a form located in the Atrium or Narthex and place it in the offering plate, enter the form online at firstpresathens.org (instructions and video included), or contact Jennifer in the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

We are very grateful for the many ways you are choosing to be involved in the life of our 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

Today, 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins Today, 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 helps children to explore their faith through story, gain religious language, and 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 20

- 8:45 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Welcome to Godly Play Parent Meeting (with children), Children's Ministry Suite
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching, Stephen Leader Commissioning
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Music for Organ & Brass
- 5:15 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Kickoff at The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane

Monday, August 21

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Begins, Weekday School
- 11:30 a.m. Church office closing for Solar Eclipse

Tuesday, August 22

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Brett's Casual American, 3190 Atlanta Hwy.

Wednesday, August 23

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Bone Island Grillhouse, 2055 Oconee Connector
- 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, August 24

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer

Saturday, August 26

- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class departs for Retreat

Sunday, August 27 - SAM Sunday: Celebrating our Senior Adult Ministry

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

LOOKING AHEAD

August 27 - Children's & Youth Choir Rehearsals Resume on Sunday Evenings

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
A light supper is provided and childcare is available. Please RSVP by September 13 to help us plan.

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 Lucy in the church office
at lbell@firstpresathens.org or 706-543-4338 by September 13.

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

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Mr. Wesley Bowden, Congregational Care
Mr. Christian Cordon, Mission & Outreach
Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry

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