



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 27, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
SAM Sunday: Celebrating our Senior Adult Ministry

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

Trumpet Tune in C

David N. Johnson

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

RideShare@First
Dot's Closet@First

Judy Scanlon
Madeline Van Dyck

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

Give glory to God, worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is full of power and majesty.
In God's temple we cry, "Glory!"
**Let us worship the Lord who gives us strength
and blesses us with peace!**

*Those who are able may stand.

Many people sing Our God, Our Help in Ages Past unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

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 anthem is a setting of an excerpt of Albert Schweitzer's The Quest of the Historical Jesus, written in 1906. The music is by American composer Jane M. Marshall.

***Hymn 210**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Faithful God, you have called us into a journey with your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As we walk in the light as he himself is the light, we would live the truth of his life. Lead us safely through the temptation to live primarily for the satisfaction of our desires. Save us from being careless with the creation you have given us to care for. Forgive our living below the best we know. Receive us again, we pray, into the fullness of your love.

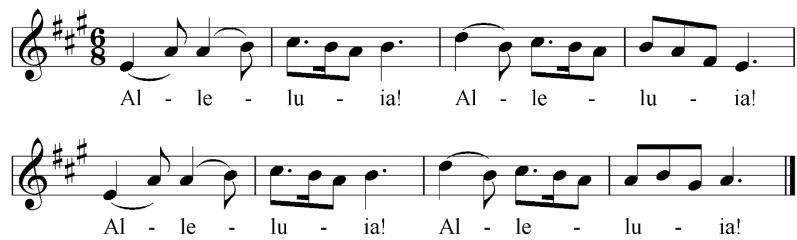
***Silent Prayer**

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

Philippians 1:3-11, page 1070

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

He Comes to Us

Jane M. Marshall

He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, he came to all those who knew him not, he speaks to us, he speaks the same word: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.

○ Morning Star, how fair and bright thou beamest forth in truth and light!

○ Sovereign meek and lowly.

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, my Lord and Master, thou hast won my heart to serve the solely!

Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all victorious rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

Second Lesson Acts 10:34-43, page 1004
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon If You Could Write Your Epitaph
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 439** In Christ There Is No East or West ST. PETER

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We give thanks for the gifts of older adults,
those here today and those who have gone on.
We thank you for their knowledge and wisdom learned
through experience,
for their love and mercy deepened by years of practice,
for their patience and perspective,
their guidance and grace.

We give thanks for their extraordinary journeys
through joy and sorrow, rough going and smooth.

We are grateful for their example of faithfulness.

We are grateful for their commitment and service.

We ask your blessing on the older adults of our congregation.

Grant them strength of body, mind, and spirit.

Assure them of your abiding presence.

We pray also for all caregivers of the elderly,
that they may find daily renewal for their calling
and act with gentleness and compassion.

Enable us all continually to grow in love of you and service to
one another throughout our span of years.

In times of diminishment and loss, comfort us.

Fill young and old alike with your Holy Spirit,
that, as a community of faith, we may all share in the
accomplishment of your work in the world
and together reflect the fullness of your image
from generation to generation,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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 Improvisation on ST. PETER John Coble

***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 of Hymn 439 formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

This is our fifth year honoring our senior saints and celebrating our Senior Adult Ministry with a special Sunday. We want to recognize those who set an example for us and continue to lead the way in promoting the health and growth of First Presbyterian Church.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Although Hymn 555 is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas began as a humble family table prayer during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648).

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

* Hymn 555	Now Thank We All Our God	NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
* 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	Now Thank We All Our God	Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Following 11:00 a.m. worship, all are invited to a SAM Sunday reception in Fellowship Hall, celebrating our Senior Adult Ministry and in honor of our senior saints.

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. Terry Caven

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),

Mary Peace, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Joe Neighbors (head),

Phyllis Crowell, Bob Glasscock,

Lois Neighbors, Peggy Reigle, Tom Reigle

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Barbara Laughlin, John Simpson

11:00 a.m. Annie Laurie Dodd,

Richard Lane

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of John Wesley Reed and Michael Warren Reed, given by Patti Reed.

The flower arrangements in Fellowship Hall are placed in honor of our Senior Adult Ministries.

A rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Lowry Reagan Messich on August 19, 2017. Lowry is the daughter of Reid and Kaitlin Messich.

RECEPTION HOSTS: Members of the Congregational Care Commission

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Could God be calling you to become a Stephen Minister? They are members who receive training to offer one-to-one Christian care to persons struggling with the death of a loved one, chronic illness, unemployment, divorce, or other life stressors. Please stop by the Atrium table for info.

FPC 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A committee has been working for 2 1/2 years collecting our church's history. This fall they are expanding to various sub-committees and would like your help. The next meeting is Tuesday, **August 29, 5:00 p.m.** You are invited to come find out how you might wish to participate. You may email Diane Adams at dianea@bhhsblanton.com or call her at 706-255-9200.

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.

WED@FIRST FALL SEASON BEGINS

September 13

Our Fall program will have the theme "Fruit of the Spirit." Each week we will focus on a different Christian virtue ("fruit") from Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. Activities begin as early as 3:00 p.m. Dinner opens at 5:45 p.m. Our after dinner program is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please help us plan by making a reservation online at firstpresathens.org or by contacting the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org. \$8 adults, \$5 children & students, \$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.

PTP TRIP TO CDC MUSEUM

September 22, 9:00 a.m.

The Prime Time Presbyterians will visit the museum at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for a guided tour followed by lunch at Pho Bac, a Vietnamese restaurant nearby. The RSVP deadline is Wednesday, September 13. Please RSVP to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706-549-2888.

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, Moses Waddel 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.

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

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

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

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

- August 27 - Aging Gracefully – what to do for yourself & your parents, Trippe Ross, ACCA.
- September 3 - DVD, The Old Testament

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Living on a Prayer • Room 303

Study of various topics relating to family, marriage, children, and work/life balance. Socials outside of class.
Facilitators: Bryans, Holloways, McConnells

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. This year we'll take time to pause-listen-think-pray-go on a different verse from scripture using the app d365.org as our guide. On the fourth Sunday of the month, the high school class will also meet with Natalie Bishop to help plan and lead Children's Church.

Teacher: Megan Bawcum

THIS WEEK

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

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. SAM Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:30 p.m. Middle School/High School Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 5:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, August 28

- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. IHNA Training, Union Christian Church, Watkinsville

Tuesday, August 29

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. History Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, August 30

- 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 31

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

Sunday, September 3 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

September 5-9 - Pictorial Directory Photos

September 10 - All-Church Picnic

September 13 - Wed@First Fall Season Begins

September 17 - Honduras Mission Trip Informational Meeting

September 17 & 24 - New Member Class and Tea

September 22 - Prime Time Presbyterian Trip to CDC Museum, Atlanta

October 1 - The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Organist Marilyn Keiser

October 7 - Blessing of the Animals

October 15 - Choir Dedication Sunday

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.

Join us for our first Blessing of the Animals in the upper parking deck.
Carol Strickland will offer a blessing for our furry friends. All leashed pets are welcome.
Invite your animal-loving neighbors and friends!

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.**