



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!

September 3, 2017

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Second 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

Prelude on THE CALL Michael Burkhardt

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission Stephen Ministry Larry Gray

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit...
thus you will know them by their fruits.**

Let our worship proclaim our service to Jesus and honor God's name.
Let our lives offer blessings to God!

Fruit is a frequent and striking image in the Bible (here Galatians 5:22 and Matthew 7:17, 20) for one's way of life.

***Hymn 485** To God Be the Glory TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of Genesis and Revelation, you have given us life and the power to live it all the way to the end. We confess that all too often we are arrogant and overconfident when things go well for us; frightened and desperate when things go wrong. It is not that we are ungrateful, O God, we simply forget how good you are in all things and for all time. Forgive our forgetful faith and restore us to life in the full memory of Jesus Christ.

The American gospel song To God Be the Glory became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

*Those who are able may stand.

***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 at the 11:00 service, children ages Pre-K - grade 1 are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

***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 Hymn 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our darks 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 1 Peter 1:18-21, page 1106

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

Second Lesson Isaiah 55:1-9, page 671

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

Sermon Who Packs Your Parachute? Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 508** For the Bread Which You Have Broken KINGDOM

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Jesus, Priceless Treasure Johann Sebastian Bach

11:00 a.m. Offertory The Call Alexander Brent Smith

Come, my Way my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death!
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love!

***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 author of For the Bread Which You Have Broken, the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy was written by American composer Hal Hopson.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."

A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward as the clergy direct.

11:00 a.m. – Please partake as you are served.

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

* Hymn 538	Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing	SICILIAN MARINERS
* Benediction		
* Congregational Response		Hymn 507, Stanza 5
	Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.	
* Postlude	Toccata	Johann Pachelbel

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. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Judy Harrison

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (Head), Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman

11:00 a.m. Mike Morris (head), Tom Landrum, Tanna Nicholson, David Mendenhall, Christine Register, Mickey Register, Mixon Robinson

GREETERS

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

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Carol McKay, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Frank Sherrill

FLOWERS

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

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

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

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

Please visit pda.pcusa.org to assist with relief efforts in Houston through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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. If you can not find an available appointment time, please sign the sheet in the Atrium or contact Jennifer in the church office; she is keeping a list and will contact you about making alternative arrangements.

If you had your picture taken and have not received your complimentary portrait in the mail, they are available for you to pick up in the Atrium.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC CANCELLED

Due to low reservations received so far and many comments from members that they will be out of town, the All Church Picnic has been cancelled for September 10. We look forward to rescheduling it for sometime next year. Stay tuned!

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. Stay for our after-dinner program from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Please make a reservation online, with the church office, or on the Fellowship Pad **by Monday at 12:00 p.m.** for each Wednesday. \$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. Please **RSVP by Wednesday, September 13** to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706-549-2888.

IHNA HOST WEEK

October 15-22

Sign-up in the Atrium today for our last Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week of the year. You may also check the online calendar or email Patty Whiten (pattywhiten@windstream.net) to volunteer. Thank you for helping provide warm shelter and warm hospitality to our guests.

GO FORTH SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Our new Stephen Ministry program will help us fulfill our church's mission. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, attend an informational session September 10 or 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room; contact Carol Strickland, Larry Gray, or Dawn Frisch; or stop by the Atrium table today.

Applications are due September 24.

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 will be provided and childcare is available.

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.

- September 3 - DVD, The Old Testament
- September 10 - Howard Sugiuchi, "REMEMBER 9066 - Internment of Japanese-Americans During WWII"

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

Once a month our three Sunday Schools come together for a time of fellowship. TODAY, we are hosting **Breakfast with Bruce and Cathi!** Join us at 9:45 a.m. for bagels, donuts, apples to apples and lots of laughter!

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 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, September 3 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, September 4 - Church Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 5

8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Carol Strickland, 1141 Nona Dr.
5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.
2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Wednesday, September 6

12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
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
4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Thursday, September 7

8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
2:00 p.m. The Mellows Meeting & Rehearsal, Room 202
3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Friday, September 8

12:30 - 6:30 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Saturday, September 9

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Sunday, September 10

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

LOOKING AHEAD

September 10 - All Church Picnic Cancelled - watch for rescheduling info next year

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

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.
Dr. 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
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, Children's Music Assistant
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.