



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 10, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Third 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

Grave and Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Stephen Ministry

Dawn Frisch

Song of Gathering

O QUANTA QUALIA

**Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.**

Call to Worship

Love is a fruit of the Spirit.

Jesus told us to love one another in the same way he loved us.

Let our worship proclaim our service to Jesus and honor God's name.

Let our lives offer blessings to God!

*Hymn 457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**God, we confess that we do not always understand your ways.
We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns
and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing.
We confess that we are quick to give up when things get
difficult, and quick to question your presence and your power.
Forgive us and grant us patience to wait for your good timing.
Open our eyes to recognize your leading in our lives –
to listen for your gentle whisper when we least expect it.
And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience,
trusting in your leading even when we cannot yet see
the outcome.**

*Those who are able may stand.

The original French text of Hymn 457, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition

***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."

***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.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism The Rev. Hilary Neufeld Shuford

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Madelyn Lea Moore, daughter of Jonathan and Meagan Veness Moore.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Madelyn 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 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM

After the Baptism, 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 Hymn 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark 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 Romans 11:1-6, page 1034

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

The anthem is a chorus from Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah. The text is 1 Kings 19:11-12.

11:00 a.m. Anthem Behold! God the Lord passed by! Felix Mendelssohn

Behold! God the Lord passed by! And a might wind rent the mountains around, brake in pieces the rocks, brake them before the Lord: but yet the Lord was not in the tempest. Behold! God the Lord passed by! And the sea was upheaved, and the earth was shaken: but yet the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there came a fire: but yet the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came a still small voice; and in that still voice, onward came the Lord.

Second Lesson 1 Kings 19:1-18, page 322

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

Sermon

Grace for a Squeezed Lemon

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 356** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

***8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** from The Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful humanity. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, the text of Hymn 356 is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update Steve Covington

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.

Steve Covington is Recording Secretary of the PNC. Other members of the committee are: Lewis Hudgins, (Chair), Ron Bogue, Sarah Bryan, Erika Hermanowicz, Fran Lane, and Melinda DeMaria

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Adagio Felix Mendelssohn

***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**

A North American Congregational minister wrote Hymn 540 as a Christian expansion of the root sense of "good-bye": God be with ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 540** God Be with You Till We Meet Again RANDOLPH

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium.

***Postlude** Toccata on NETTLETON John Coble

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

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Jackson Parker

Baptismal Minister:

The Rev. Hilary Neufeld Shuford

Baptismal Elder:

Roger Burbage

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Fischetti, Sam Seward

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Harry Shuford

11:00 a.m. Ann Harper Covington

USHERS

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

Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman

11:00 a.m. Mike Morris (head), Betsy Canfield,

Rod Canfield, Diane Hudgins, Jacki Macker,

Cash Morris, Chuck Toney

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carroll Gaillard, Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. Tim Chester, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the Ethiopian New Year, given by the Ness family.

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.

Wed@First Fall Season Begins September 13

Our after-dinner program from 6:30-7:30 p.m 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.

Upcoming schedule:

September 13: Patience, State of the Church

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Dr. Carol Strickland,
Lewis Hudgins

September 20: Peace, Summer Experiences

Youth Group

September 27: Gentleness, Approaching Suicide

Madeline Van Dyck, Robyn McDonald

Please see the full schedule of activities, beginning at 3:00 p.m., on the calendar page of the bulletin.

Dinner opens at 5:45 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL CHURCH PICNIC CANCELLED

Due to low reservations, the All Church Picnic has been cancelled for today. We look forward to rescheduling it for sometime next year.

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

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

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU?

We're seeking compassionate listeners willing to be trained as Stephen Ministers. If interested, attend an informational session **today or next Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** in the Staff Conference Room; contact Carol Strickland, Larry Gray, or Dawn Frisch; or stop by the Atrium table. **Applications are due September 24.**

PROJECT SAFE VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

September 11

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP MEETING **September 17, 12:00 p.m.**

Our church will return to Olancho, Honduras June 9-16, 2018. Come to this informational meeting in Fellowship Hall to learn more about this trip open to adults and current 9th-12th graders. Contact Kim Ness, kness@firstpresathens.org or Denise Horton, denise-horton@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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Peace & Global Witness Offering **October 1**

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive this special offering which enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Twenty-five percent of this offering goes to support a local peacemaking effort chosen annually by our Session. This year's local portion will support the Athens Justice Coalition of Care.

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.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you did not find an available appointment time, it's not too late! Please contact Jennifer in the church office 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 church office.

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 10 - Howard Sugiuchi, "REMEMBER 9066 - Internment of Japanese-Americans During WWII"
- September 17 - Will Power on theology.

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 the Gospel 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 the Gospel of Matthew.

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 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 10

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. **All Church Picnic Cancelled** - watch for rescheduling info next year
- 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

Monday, September 11

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Volunteer Work Day, Bell's Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 1, Staff Conference Room
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission & Finance Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, September 12

- 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

Wednesday, September 13

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. International Craft Fair Planning Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Bone Island Grill, 2055 Oconee Connector
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 3:30 p.m. Knit for Kids & More, Room 304
- 4:30 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Scribes, Pastor's Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's King John, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrew's Choir, Room 202
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Fruit of the Spirit, Patience, State of the Church, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 14

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Magnolia Estates of Oconee, 1641 Virgil Langford Rd., Watkinsville
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Trapeze Pub, 269 N Hull St.

Sunday, September 17

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching

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.