



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 17, 2017

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Fourth 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.

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

O God Beyond All Praising

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

○ 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.

Love is patient; love is kind;

love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Let us open ourselves to give and receive love.

*Those who are able may stand.

Hymn 487 is not just a morning hymn, though the stanzas in our hymnal may not convey how thoroughly the original 19th-century German text deals with different times throughout the day. The tune was composed for this English text

***Hymn 487** When Morning Gilds the Skies LAUDES DOMINI

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, we have been in trouble and yet told no one.
 We have isolated ourselves in our pain instead of reaching out.
 We have suspected others are suffering but we did not ask.
 We have observed lives falling apart and did not inquire.
 Forgive us. Banish all fear and shame. Fill us with your
 hope and assure us of your unfailing love through Jesus Christ.**

***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.

After the Passing of the Peace, children, ages Pre-K - grade 1, 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.**

Our setting of Psalm 13 is taken from Michael Morgan’s Psalter for Christian Worship.

First Lesson Psalm 13, page 484

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

Psalm 13 (insert) PASSION CHORALE

The anthem is a setting of an anonymous text found written on a basement wall in Cologne, Germany. It had been written by someone hiding from the Gestapo during the holocaust.

Second Lesson Mark 5:24b-34, page 917

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem Even When God is Silent Sumner Jenkins

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
 I believe in love even when feeling it not.
 I believe in God even when God is silent.
 I believe in the silence.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-800-273-TALK.

Sermon Alone in the Crowd Dr. Carol Strickland

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

Guest Organist and Choir Director:

Michael Morgan

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Bruce Lancaster

11:00 a.m. Bruce Lancaster, Kate Ness

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Cate DeMaria, Lane Holloway

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

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

Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman

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

Matt Bishop, Ed Law, Tanna Nicholson,

Georgia Blue Simmons, Robert Simmons,

Robert W. Simmons

GREETERS

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

Chase Parker, Shelly Parker

11:00 a.m. Melinda Miller, Frank Sherrill,

Ally Simmons

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Jane and Jim McGown's 45th wedding anniversary.

A rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Conley Rae Parks on September 10, 2017. Conley is the daughter of Christopher and Abby Parks and the granddaughter of Carla Wilson Buss and Carl W. Bergmann.

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.

This morning we welcome Michael Morgan, Seminary Musician at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. For many years Michael served as organist at Atlanta's historic Central Presbyterian Church. Columbia Seminary, along with the Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA), published Michael's Psalter for Christian Worship, a metrical version of the book of Psalms.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

Marilyn Keiser, Concert Organist

October 1, 4:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HURRICANE IRMA RELIEF

Please visit pda.pcusa.org to assist with relief efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Irma through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

STEPHEN MINISTRY DEADLINE

Are you a caring, compassionate person willing to journey alongside another through a difficult time? If interested, attend an informational session **today 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.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP MEETING Today, 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.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

September 21, 9:00 a.m.

All men are invited to gather for dinner at Trapeze Pub, 269 N. Hull St. this Thursday. Please note date change from last week.

FIRST FRIENDS

September 26, 6:00 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to our monthly gatherings at local restaurants for dinner out. This month we will meet at Chops & Hops, 2 S. Main St., Watkinsville. For questions or to make reservations, please contact Nancy Bostrom, bostrom26@charter.net. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

CHOIR DEDICATION SUNDAY

October 15

Please save the date for this annual celebration of our music ministry when we honor members of our choirs and they also publicly commit themselves to offering their time and talents by serving in one or more of our choirs.

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.

Wed@First Fall Season

Our after-dinner program from 6:30-7:30 p.m. has the theme "Fruit of the Spirit." Each week we are focusing on a different Christian virtue ("fruit") from Paul's Epistle to the Galatians.

Upcoming schedule:

September 20: Peace, Summer Experiences
Youth Group

September 27: Gentleness, Approaching Suicide
Madeline Van Dyck, Robyn McDonald

October 4: Kindness, College, Waddell Fellows
Andy Cooke, Presbyterian Student Center

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.

\$8 adults, \$5 children and students, \$20 max per family.

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 17 - Will Power on theology

- September 24 - 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 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 17

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 12:05 p.m. Honduras Mission Trip Informational Meeting, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Class, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, September 18

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Parlor
- 11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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 19

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Coordinating Meeting, Room 308
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, September 20

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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, Peace, Summer Experiences, Youth Group, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 21

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 11:30 a.m. Critical Conversations Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Quiet Oaks, 125 Quiet Oak Dr., Crawford
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Trappeze Pub, 269 N Hull St.

Friday, September 22

- 9:00 a.m. Prime Time Presbyterian Trip to CDC Museum, Kohl's parking lot, Epps Bridge Pkwy.

Sunday, September 24

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

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.