



# 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 24, 2017  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Twenty-Fifth 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

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above Charles W. Ore

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### 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.

**We love because God first loved us.**

Let our love offer blessings to God!

**Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.**

\*Those who are able may stand.

The third stanza of Hymn 483's image of God as mother is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Bretheren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

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

The anthem is based on the early American tune LEANDER from Tennessee Harmony, 1818. The arranger, Crawford R. Thoburn, is Chancel Choir Director of First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles, NY. The text was written by Washington Gladden in 1897.

**\*Hymn 483** Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above  
MIT FREUDEN ZART

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord, forgive us for hardness of heart, where your word cannot take root. Forgive us for shallowness of mind, where your word withers away. Forgive us for the deception of wealth, where your word is choked by its consuming power. Grant that our lives may be fertile soil, where your word flourishes and yields a harvest of faith, hope, and love.**

**\*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.

**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** 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, page 1058

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** Behold, a Sower! Crawford R. Thoburn

Behold a sower! from afar goes onward forth with might;  
the rolling years the furrows are, the seed, the growing light;  
for all the just God's Word is sown, it springeth up always;  
the tender blade is hope's young dawn, the harvest, love's new day.  
O Lord of life, to you we lift our hearts in praise for those,  
your prophets, who have shown your gift of grace that ever grows,  
of truth that spreads from shore to shore, of wisdom's widening ray,  
of light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.  
Shine forth, O Light, that we may see, with hearts all unafraid,  
the meaning and the mystery of things that you have made;  
shine forth, and let the long dark past beneath the beam grow bright;  
shine forth, and touch the future vast with your untroubled light.  
Light up your word; the ancient page from all past bondage free,  
light up our way; lead forth this age in love's large liberty.  
Oh! light within us dwell, through us your radiance pour,  
that word of life all truth may tell, and praise you ever more!

**Second Lesson** Luke 8:1-8, page 943  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** A Sermon on the Amount Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn 552** Give Thanks, O Christian People  
ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS

**God has not taken his people out of the world, but has sent them into the world to worship God there and serve all humankind. We worship God in the world by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people. Our cries for help and our songs of praise are never for ourselves alone. Worship is no retreat from the world; it is part of our mission.**

**We serve humankind by discerning what God is doing in the world and joining God in that work. We affirm that the Lord is at work, especially in events and movements that free people by the gospel and advance justice, compassion and peace.**

**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.**

**Moment for Mission** Bearing Fruit: Growing in Generosity Chuck Toney

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** Improvisation on LEANDER 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**

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 428** We Give Thee but Thine Own SCHUMANN

**\*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.**

**\*Postlude** Prelude and Fugue in F Major  
Johann Sebastian Bach

The text of Give Thanks, O Christian People was written by a Presbyterian Director of Christian education in Washington, D.C., to honor the ministry of a colleague who was leaving the area. It is an effective reminder that God's people serve in many vocations and ministries. The tune adapts a secular German song.

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.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.** Carol Strickland

**11:00 a.m.** Carol Strickland, Cate DeMaria

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Chiara Bono, Kate Ness

#### Lay Readers:

**8:45 a.m.** Keith Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** John Walden

### USHERS

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

**11:00 a.m.** Steve Covington (head),  
Matt Bishop, David Mendenhall,  
Christine Register, Mickey Register,  
Mixon Robinson

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Carrol Gaillard, Jim Dove

**11:00 a.m.** Bob Glasscock, Marie Ledford,  
Tim Ledford

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Susan and Dick  
Ferguson family

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of Chris and Cheryl Gazlay's 50th wedding anniversary.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

## The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

## Marilyn Keiser, Concert Organist

**October 1, 4:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary**

### 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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Caring nurtures the seed of God's love – in the care receiver's heart and in yours. Interested? Contact Carol Strickland, Larry Gray, or Dawn Frisch; or stop by the Atrium table.

**Applications are due today.**

### 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!

### FOOD SUNDAY

**October 1**

Next Sunday we will collect non-perishable food items for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting **canned soup and sweet peas**. Thank you for donating 448 items in September, which was a huge help to the Food Bank!

### 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.

### CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING,

**October 8**

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 8 at 11:55 a.m. to elect ten Ruling Elders for the class of 2020.

### 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.

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## 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 27:** Gentleness, Approaching Suicide

Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse, Robyn McDonald, LCSW

**October 4:** Kindness, Campus Ministry and Waddel Fellows

Andy Cooke, Presbyterian Student Center

**October 11:** Joy, Music

Dr. John Coble

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, to gain religious language, and to 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, Judges Returning to God by Donald Baker.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

**Inquirers** • Moses Waddel Room

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

- September 24 - DVD, The Old Testament

- October 1 - 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 24

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Home of Greta & Steve Covington, 545 Milledge Cir.
- 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. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

### Monday, September 25

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### Tuesday, September 26

- 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, Chops & Hops, 2 S. Main St., Watkinsville
- 6:00 p.m. Weekday School Family Pizza Night, Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, September 27

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe, 227 Prince Ave.
- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 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, Gentleness, Approaching Suicide, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### Thursday, September 28

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Bentley Assisted Living, 50 Sumner Way, Jefferson

### Sunday, October 1

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

### October 1 - Food Sunday

World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering

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

### October 7 - Blessing of the Animals

### October 15 - Choir Dedication Sunday

### October 15-22 - IHNA Host Week

### October 29 - Reformation Sunday, 500th Anniversary of Protestant Reformation

## **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

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## **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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**