



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!

October 1, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

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.

Greeting

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

Prelude A Meditation on "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Gerre Hancock

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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.

God calls us to a feast – the joyful feast of the people of God!

The table is set, where Christ's compassion and love are served
as we break bread together.

**The table is set, where Christ's suffering and sacrifice are
poured out as fine wine.**

God calls us to a feast – to feast with Christ in the kingdom of God!

***Hymn 461**

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

We know the ways in which our sin separates us from God. We want to love as Jesus commanded, but we too often catch our selves justifying the injustice of hunger, poverty, war, and all the prejudices we didn't know we had. Forgive us so that the lessons we learn at the Spirit's nudging may help bring the peace and love you seek in our families, the church, and the world.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

*Those who are able may stand.

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

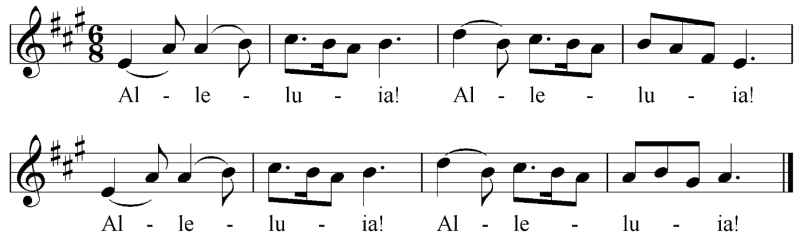
Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

We officially welcome our 2nd Graders as they begin to join their families for worship in the sanctuary and participate in communion this year:

Wright Cook
Harper Havick
Jennings Holloway
Wallace Michalek
Andrew Miller
Lachlan Morris
Tenny Ness
Charlie Phillips
Declan Wilder

***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

Receiving the sacrament of baptism are Courtney and Dewitt Pittman.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Courtney and Dewitt by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church? If so, please stand.

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

Introduction of New Members

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 454, Stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson Psalm 1, page 479

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

Second Lesson Daniel 5:13-17, 23-28, page 811

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

Sermon Dining at a Banquet of Consequences Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 504** Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether UNION SEMINARY

Moment for Mission Peace and Global Witness Offering
Lawton Stephens

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Improvisation on DOVE OF PEACE John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory Behold, the Tabernacle of God Robert J. Powell
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you, and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are: for the love of whom you do this day celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia.

The anthem was written by American composer Robert Powell, who has published over 300 compositions for organ, choir, handbells and instrumental ensembles. This anthem was composed in honor of Marilyn Keiser on her tenth anniversary at All Souls' Episcopal Church in Asheville, NC.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

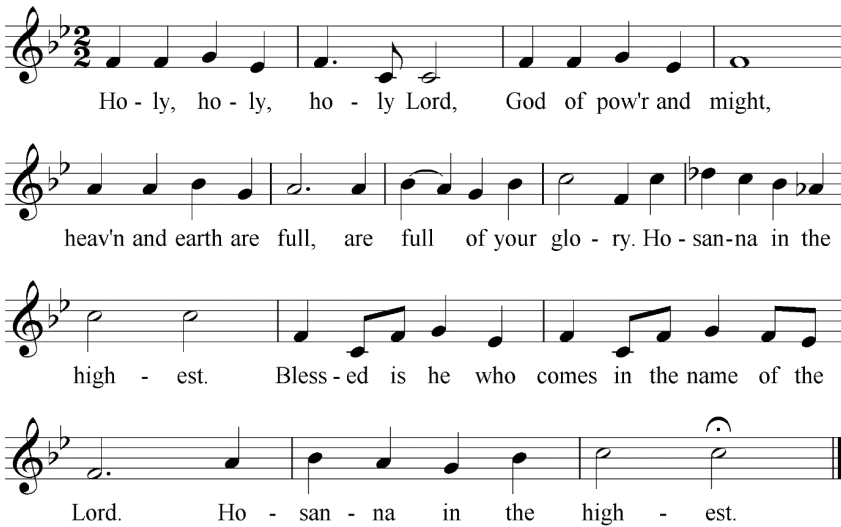
Lift up your hearts.

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.

"...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

Hymnal, p. 16

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

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

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 507** I Come with Joy DOVE OF PEACE

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Postlude** Grand Chœur Théodore Salomé

Following worship,
all are invited to a
reception to welcome
our new members.

Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Chiara Bono

Baptismal Elder:

Jerris Hayes

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop, Logan Bono

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergman (head),

Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell (head),

Phyllis Crowell, Kitty Donnan, Ed Ferguson,

Ed Law, Mixon Robinson

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove, Carroll Gaillard,

Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Carol McKay,

Frank Sherrill

RECEPTION HOST: Fellowship &
Evangelism Commission

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Susie Mendenhall, given by the Mendenhall family.

A rosebud is placed in the sanctuary in honor of the birth of Elin McCord Moolman on September 20, 2017. Elin is the daughter of Sarah and Russell Moolman and the granddaughter of Mac and Gail Smith.

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.

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 (or lower deck if raining).

Dr. Carol Strickland will offer a blessing for our pet friends. All leashed animals are welcome.

Invite your animal-loving neighbors and friends!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Peace & Global Witness Offering

October 1

Today 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.

GEORGIA CARES MEDICARE INFO

October 8, 9:55 a.m.

The Inquirers Sunday School Class invites everyone to join them as they host Joe Wisenbaker from the Athens Area Council on Aging on October 8. He will present information on their Georgia Cares program, providing information on Medicare drug and health benefits. Enrollment in Georgia Cares is from October 1 - January 1.

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

October 10

If you did not find an available appointment date, the make-up day is October 10. Please contact Jennifer in the church office to schedule a time.

You can pick up your complimentary portrait in the church office.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

Marilyn Keiser, Concert Organist

October 1, 4:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary**

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:

October 4: Kindness, Campus Ministry and Waddell Fellows
Andy Cooke, Presbyterian Student Center

October 11: Joy, Music
Dr. John Coble

October 18: Self-Control, Civility, Dr. Bruce Lancaster

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.

- October 1 - DVD, The Old Testament
- October 8 - Joe Wisenbaker, Athens Area Council on Aging, Georgia Cares Medicare information

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Living on a Prayer • Room 303

Study of the book, Sabbath in the Suburbs by MaryAnn McKibben-Dana. 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, October 1

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:40 a.m. New Member Reception, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. New Member Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents
Organist Marilyn Keiser, Sanctuary
- 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, October 2

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 1, Pastor's Conference Room
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Room 310
- 11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:30 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, October 3

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Fall Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Way
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, October 4

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Fall Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
- 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. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff 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, Kindness, Campus Ministry and Waddel Fellows, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 5

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Avery Place, 124 Avery St., Winterville
- 3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room

Sunday, October 7

- 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.