



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 8, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Seventh 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, Our Faithful God Johannes Brahms

The prelude is based on Hymn 277. The text of the hymn is suggested for reflection during the prelude.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, Stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit

The Lord has done such wonderful things for us.

Let us be glad!

Wherever we go, we go forth as people of the living God,

Let us begin this day with rejoicing!

*Those who are able may stand.

How Great Thou Art, a tuneful retelling of the salvation story, began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

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 a paraphrase of Isaiah 62:1-3 set to music by American composer Jennifer Stammers. Stammers is choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church in Atchinson, Kansas.

***Hymn 467**

How Great Thou Art

○ STOREGUD

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of Grace, we confess our ingratitude for all that you have done for us, our impatience when prayers seem to be ignored, our selfishness when prompted to give or share, our unfaithfulness when wandering from your way. We ask for your forgiveness so that we might be renewed, refreshed, and redeemed for service in your kingdom.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



***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 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

Psalms 14:1-7, page 485

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

For Zion's Sake

Jennifer L. Stammers

For Zion's sake I'll not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn, like a burning torch, like the sun in the west. And all the nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings shall see your glory. From the mouth of the Lord shall you be called, in his hand, a crown of beauty. I will rejoice in the Lord my God, my whole being shall ever exalt him! His praise will spring up from all the lands. Like a garden that blossoms before him. For Zion's sake I will not rest!

Second Lesson Romans 1:1-7, 18-23, page 1026

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

Sermon

Saying Grace

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 261** God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us
O QUANTA QUALIA

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)
**In life and death we belong to God.
We trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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 IHNA Carrol Gaillard

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us Flor Peeters

***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 420** God of Grace and God of Glory
CWM RHONDDA

Called Congregational Meeting

*Benediction

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS
**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

***Postlude** Agincourt Hymn John Dunstable

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, the text of Hymn 261 conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.

Our next Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week is October 15-22.

Guests are welcome to stay and observe the brief congregational meeting.

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

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Kate Ness

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Sammy Pope, Nixon Roberts

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Henry Logan

11:00 a.m. Abigale Bishop

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell (head),
Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum, Jacki Macker,
Joe Neighbors, Lois Neighbors

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carrol Gaillard, Faye Marshall,
Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Frank Sherrill, Ella Stewart,
John Walden

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Madie Fischetti

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Christie Lamar Patterson, given by Sue Ellen Patterson.

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

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 11: Self-Control, Civility
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

October 18: Joy, Music
Dr. John Coble

October 25: Generosity, Stewardship
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GEORGIA CARES MEDICARE INFO

Today, 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, Today, 11:55 a.m.

The Session has called a congregational meeting for today at 11:55 a.m. to elect ten Ruling Elders for the class of 2020.

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.

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.

COFFEE & JESUS

October 13, 9:05 a.m.

The Weekday School will be hosting an informal devotion time in the Weekday School lobby and everyone is invited! Come on in after you drop off your little one in carpool for a short devotion, some coffee, and time to chat. Come as you are, sweat pants or work attire! Just COME!

ATHHALF PRE-RACE SERVICE

October 22, 6:30 a.m.

We will host a brief worship service in Fellowship Hall before the AthHalf race. The service is informal and open to anyone who would like quiet reflection and inspiration for the half marathon ahead. It will include scripture, prayer, music, and a message from the Rev. Craig Topple. The dress for the service is "athletic casual." There will be no 8:45 a.m. worship service that Sunday.

PTP Trip to Oconee Hill Cemetery

October 17, 9:30 a.m.

This month the Prime Time Presbyterians will enjoy a walking tour of Oconee Hill Cemetery led by well-known Athens historian Charlotte Thomas Marshall. All senior adults are invited to join us. We will meet at the Sexton's House at 9:30 a.m. to tour the house, then begin the walking tour. Afterwards we will have lunch at Eastside Loco's on Barnett Shoals Road.

Please RSVP by October 12 to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888.

Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Can you paint or are you willing to learn? Our team has been working all summer renovating one of the family houses at Jubilee Partners, a Christian service community in nearby Comer that offers hospitality to refugees.

The exterior siding is ready for painting. While painting volunteers are working outside, the building volunteers will put up sheetrock inside, which will be ready for painting once the exterior painting is complete.

Please contact Richard Lane at rlane@uga.edu or 706-543-1074 for questions and to get directions to the house at the Jubilee Partners property.

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 8 - Joe Wisenbaker, Athens Area Council on Aging, Georgia Cares Medicare information
- October 15 - Brian Dotts, author of The Elusive Thomas Jefferson: Essays on the Man Behind the Myths

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

Staff Conference Room

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 8

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:55 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 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, October 9

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, October 10

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Fall Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 - 8:30 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Wednesday, October 11

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grille, 2310 W. Broad St.
- 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. 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, Self-Control, Civility, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 12

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Mulberry Grove, 343 Price St., Statham

Friday, October 13

- 9:05 a.m. Coffee & Jesus, Weekday School Lobby

Sunday, October 15

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 15 - Choir Dedication Sunday

October 17 - PrimeTime Presbyterians Trip to Oconee Hill Cemetery

October 15-22 - IHNA Host Week

October 22 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service, no 8:45 service

October 24 - First Friends, George's Lowcountry Table, 2095 S Milledge Ave

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

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.