



# 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 15, 2017  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Choir Dedication 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.

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

I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath Robert J. Powell

### 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!**

The Song of Gathering is from a paraphrase of Psalm 117 by Isaac Watts.

### Call to Worship

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit

**Let us enter God's house with thanksgiving;  
and come into God's presence with praise.**

For God is good, with unfailing love that lasts forever.

**Shout with joy to God, all the earth!**

\*Those who are able may stand.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and Eternal God, we confess that we worship the power of money and celebrity, the influence of privilege and prejudice, the dominion of deception and derision. We have little room in our lives for your justice and mercy, your grace and righteousness. Forgive our idolatry and restore us to a life of true worship of the Lord of all life so that we may live by the power of your love.

\*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."

Today we honor the ministry of our six choirs: Cherub Choir, St. Andrews Choir, Celebration Singers, Chancel Choir, The Mellows, and the Handbell Choir. The anthem is sung by the St. Andrews Choir, Celebration Singers, and Chancel Choir.

After the Anthem, children, ages Pre-K - grade 1, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

\*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. Dedication of Choirs**

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** How Can I Keep from Singing? arr. Mark Schweizer

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentations.  
I hear the real, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Above the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knell ringing;  
when friends rejoice, both far and near, how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell or dungeon vile, our thoughts to them are winging.  
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?  
What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can snake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

**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 14:1-7, page 485  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**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 298** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
IN BABILONE

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from The Belhar Confession

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another....**

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

**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.**

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**8:45 a.m. Offertory** Improvisation on ENGELBERG  
John Coble

**11:00 a.m. Offertory** The Chorister's Prayer  
K. Lee Scott  
Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple;  
grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,  
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*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 253** I'll Praise My Maker  
OLD 113TH

**\*Benediction**

Hymn 298 offers a reminder that the model for our dealing with others should be God's generosity rather than human tolerance. The text is set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody.

Hymn 253 is a paraphrase of Psalm 146 by Isaac Watts. It was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, SC) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set here is the one Watts had in mind for it.

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

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**\*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**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified William H. Bates

**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, Logan Bono

**Acolytes:**

**11:00 a.m.** Lane Holloway, Lizzie Simmons

**Lay Readers:**

**8:45 a.m.** Cheryl Gazlay

**11:00 a.m.** Tim Chester

**USHERS**

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

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

**GREETERS**

**8:45 a.m.** Carla Buss, Michelle Clenden-Shaw,  
Jim Dove, Barbara Laughlin

**11:00 a.m.** Kathy Bangle, Julie Sanks,  
Frank Sherrill

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Brenda and Bob Glasscock

**FLOWERS**

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Robinson McKay, Jr. and Max Louis Wendler, given by Carol McKay.

**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.



**We’ll be giving you a call real soon!**

Last year, we invited you to one of 24 home-meetings to visit with Dr. Lancaster as we prepared for Commitment Sunday. This year, our mission is to phone all the folks in our congregation before Commitment Sunday, November 5. We’re excited about all that’s going on at FPC this year!

We just want to say, “Hi”, “Thank You”, and “We sure have a great church, don’t we?” Consider everything from powerful mission to the wonderful fellowship and congregational care, our energetic children and youth, the inspiring music, the stimulating adult education. And, yes, the preaching isn’t too bad either!

This will be a first for our church and probably for all who will be making the calls. But that’s okay. First Presbyterian Church of Athens is a great place to enjoy, grow, and share our faith; and we should all be thrilled to share the good news!

Your Stewardship Committee

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **HURRICANE MARIA RELIEF**

The people of Puerto Rico still need our help. Please visit [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org) to assist with relief efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Maria through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

### **COFFEE & JESUS**

**October 20, 9:05 a.m.**

The Weekday School will be hosting a 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 service in Fellowship Hall before the AthHalf race. The informal service open to anyone who would like reflection and inspiration for the race 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. service that day.**

### **REFORMATION SUNDAY/TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF, October 29**

We will celebrate Reformation Sunday highlighting the 500th anniversary of the year Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, launching the Reformation.

Children ages Pre-K - grade 5 are invited to wear church-friendly costumes to church. Adults, please bring your spare change. We will trick or treat during Sunday School and fill the children's UNICEF coin collection boxes. This year you may even have a few Martin Luthers, Katherine Luthers, and John Calvins visit your Sunday School classrooms!

### **ALL SAINTS' EVENING PRAYER**

**November 1, 6:30 p.m.**

This service in the sanctuary, following dinner, will be a time of remembering members of our church who have passed away over the last year, as well as all loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant. It will include prayers, hymns, a choral anthem, and a reading of names of those who have passed in the last year.

### **INTERNATIONAL CRAFT FAIR**

**November 3 and 5, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Start your Christmas shopping early at our annual sale that will support our church's 2018 Honduras Mission Trip by offering items from our own members as well as fair trade artisans from other countries. Please bring items for sale to the church office October 31 - November 2. Please contact Mary Burton for more information and to volunteer during the sale: 706-543-9619, [marybu@charter.net](mailto:marybu@charter.net), or 706-340-2814 (texts).

### **THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY, November 12**

This year we will continue our annual tradition of filling grocery bags with Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Bags will be available Sunday, October 29 and November 5. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before November 12.

## **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 18:** Joy, Music  
Dr. John Coble

**October 25:** Generosity, Stewardship  
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

**November 1:** Faithfulness, All Saints' Evening Prayer Service

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 15 - Brian Dotts, author of *The Elusive Thomas Jefferson: Essays on the Man Behind the Myths*
- October 22 - Rodrigo Barillos from WINGS, which works for reproductive health in Guatemala

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 15 - Choir Dedication Sunday**

- 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. Personnel Committee Meeting, Staff Conference 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, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. IHNA Host Week begins, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Bowling, Showtime Bowling Center, 555 Macon Hwy.

### **Monday, October 16**

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### **Tuesday, October 17**

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Muffins with Mom, Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 a.m. PrimeTime Presbyterians Trip to Oconee Hill Cemetery, 297 Cemetery St.
- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Coordinating Meeting, Room 308
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Room 310

### **Wednesday, October 18**

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Muffins with Mom, Fellowship Hall
- 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. 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, Joy, Music, Fellowship Hall

### **Thursday, October 19**

- 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, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Rd.
- 5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### **Friday, October 20**

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

### **Saturday, October 21**

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Stated Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Cornelia

### **Sunday, October 22**

- 6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, the Rev. Craig Topple preaching, Fellowship Hall
- No 8:45 a.m. service**
- 11:00 a.m. Service, 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

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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.**