



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 22, 2017
11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Ninth 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.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Prelude on THAXTED David M. Cherwien

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

from Psalm 96

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!
For the Lord is coming!
**He is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and all the nations with his truth.**

The nephew of the famous William Wordsworth wrote Hymn 470 to remind us that we should make the Sabbath a day of rest, glad worship, and a joyful reminder of Christ's resurrection. The tune name recalls the secular German song adapted for use with several hymns.

*Hymn 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness
ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God with us, we confess that all too often we consider our personal agendas to be your will and we hurt others in our desire to get what we want. We ask you to tumble us off the throne of our pride, and redirect us into finding our worth in your love. Lord have mercy on us.

***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.

Hymn 498, addressed to a newly-baptized child, begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Robert Hale Davis, son of Ben and Margaret Davis.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Robby by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

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

Baptism Hymn 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM

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

2 Corinthians 9:11-15, page 1058

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

Anthem

O God, Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst
arr. Richard Proulx

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay:
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessing without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal gift is sown
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we will triumph through our sorrows and rise to praise you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The anthem is a text written by Michael Perry in 1982, set to a tune Gustav Holst adapted from his own work Jupiter (from The Planets). The anthem setting is arranged by American Richard Proulx (1937-2010).

Second Lesson Exodus 35:1-9, 21, page 81

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

Sermon A Fistful of Dollars: The Bad, the Ugly, and the Good

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 414** As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

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

Offertory Now Thank We All Our God Emma Lou Diemer

***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 555** Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***Benediction**

Although Hymn 555 is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

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

***Congregational Response**

AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

***Postlude**

Toccata on THAXTED

David M. Cherwien

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: Carol Strickland, Jimmy Bishop
Baptismal Minister: The Rev. Margaret Davis
Baptismal Elder: Ed Law
Acolytes: Shirley Gilleland, Kate Ness
Lay Reader: Margaret Johansen

USHERS

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell (head),
Phyllis Crowell, Ed Ferguson, Diane Hudgins,
Chris Pope, Arlene Shirley

GREETERS

Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Marie Ledford, Tim Ledford

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: The Davis family,
Carol Dolson, Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of Dr. Vernon Chaffin’s 99th birthday, given by Mrs. Ethel Chaffin.

A rosebud is placed on the Communion Table in honor of the birth of Raymond Joseph Hughes on October 2, 2017. Raymond is the great grandson of Millie Warren.

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 call all of our members 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!

First Presbyterian Church of Athens is a great place to enjoy, grow, and share our faith; we should all be thrilled to share the good news!

Your Stewardship Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

TRAINING, Today, 2:00 p.m.

This afternoon Lori Carr from The Cottage will be leading our volunteers and staff who work with children and youth through a child abuse education training called Darkness to Light as well as reviewing the updated PC(USA) Child Protection Policy.

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 in Fellowship Hall that will support our church's 2018 Honduras Mission Trip. Items will be available 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, or 706-340-2814 (texts).

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 5

During morning worship we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2018. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge as we seek to "bear fruit" in every good work.

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.

Angel Tree

There will be a special Salvation Army Angel Tree in Fellowship Hall November 12 - December 7. Please consider purchasing Christmas gifts for one or more of the 150 Salvation Army "angels" (infant - 12 year old child) selected by our church. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel."

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 25: Generosity, Stewardship

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

November 1: Faithfulness, All Saints' Evening Prayer Service

November 8: Love, Interfaith Education: Judaism

Rabbi Eric Linder

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 22 - Rodrigo Barillos from WINGS, which works for reproductive health in Guatemala
- October 29 - Karen & Tim Burg, will speak on being foster parents

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 22

- 6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, the Rev. Craig Topple preaching, Fellowship Hall
No 8:45 a.m. service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
12:15 p.m. Stewardship Training, Fellowship Hall
2:00 p.m. Child Protection Policy Training, Moses Waddel Room
4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
5:00 p.m. New Member Social, Home of Lois & Joe Neighbors, 1030 Forrest Hills Dr., Watkinsville
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, October 23

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Godly Play Room
5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
6:00 p.m. Stewardship Training, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 24

- 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, George's Lowcountry Table, 2095 S Milledge Ave.
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Room 310

Wednesday, October 25

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Homemade, 1072 Baxter 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, Generosity, Stewardship, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 26

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Bountiful Hills, 200 Bolton Dr., Commerce
6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Rooftop, Georgia Theater, 215 N Lumpkin St.

Friday, October 27

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Fall Break

Sunday, October 29 - Reformation Sunday

- 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
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.