



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 29, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Reformation 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Johann Sebastian Bach

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
**God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**
God's love surrounds us every day;
our God is merciful and gracious.
**We shout for joy to the Lord,
rejoicing in God's mighty works!**

*Those who are able may stand.

The original French text of Hymn 457, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

***Hymn 457** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art TOULON

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of the faithful and Redeemer of the faithless, we confess that we want to be a church ever-reforming, yet we cling to comfortable ways and memories of how it used to be. We want to honor your promise to make all things new, yet we are fearful of insights which challenge old assumptions and how it's always been. We want to live unashamed by the gospel, yet we are paralyzed by our fear of what others may think of us. Forgive us, we pray, and allow us to live by faith for faith.

***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.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism are Dewitt "Tripp" Alexander Pittman III and Townes Michael Pittman, sons of Dewitt and Courtney Pittman.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Tripp and Townes by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them 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

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

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 Acts 2:37-47, page 995

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem Lord, in Thy Mercy Grant Us Peace

Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace throughout all generations;
thou art alone our sword and shield, Lord who dost guide the nations.
Defend us, O God, we pray thee.

Second Lesson Romans 1:16-17, page 1026

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

Sermon Protestants: We Stand Alone Together

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The anthem is a setting of a text by Martin Luther, which was based on the Latin text Da nobis pacem. Mendelssohn, inspired by a Lutheran Hymnal, composed this piece in 1831.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 396** O for a Closer Walk with God CAITHNESS

***8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** from The Scots Confession

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

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
Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

***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 260** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN' FESTE BURG

***Benediction**

Hymn 260, sometimes called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation" is based on portions of Psalm 46, scripture being the inspiration for a number of Luther hymns. The final stanza is Luther's vow, and ours, to cling to God's word and truth in spite of the stresses of this life.

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

We All Believe in One God

J.S. Bach

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, Cash Havick

Baptismal Elder:

Leslye Queen

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Aidan Farley, Cael Farley

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Christine Register

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell (head),
Phyllis Crowell, Kitty Donnan, Diane Hudgins,
Jacki Macker, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Mary Dudley, Carroll Gaillard,
Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Melinda Miller, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale,
Carey Walden, John Walden

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS: Kitty Lay,
Sally Vandiver

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of Ann Bryan Downs and in memory of Bertis E. Downs III, given by Bertis Downs.

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

REFORMATION SUNDAY/TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF, Today

Today we 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.

During Sunday School, children ages Pre-K - grade 5 will trick or treat for UNICEF. Please help fill the children's coin collection boxes. This year you may even see a few Martin Luthers, Katherine Luthers, and John Calvins!

THE ARK FAMILY PACKS

Today - December 5

The Ark is launching a drive benefiting foster families who will have a new family member arrive in the near future! Often these families receive little to no advance warning and may not have all the supplies they need to welcome a child into their home. There will be a donation box in the Atrium until December 5 with a list of items needed on the box.

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.

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.

FOOD SUNDAY

November 5

Next Sunday we will collect non-perishable food items for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting **Saltine crackers, canned pasta, and Hamburger Helper**. Thank you for donating 489 items in October!

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. You may 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).

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.

LAST 2 WED@FIRST FOR FALL

November 8 & 15

We will conclude with a visit from Rabbi Eric Linder on November 8 and Imam Adel Amer on November 15. Please welcome these guests from other faith traditions. Details below.

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:

November 1: Faithfulness, All Saints' Evening Prayer Service

November 8: Love, Interfaith Education: Judaism
Rabbi Eric Linder

November 15: Love, Interfaith Education: Islam
Imam Adel Amer

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 29 - Karen & Tim Burg, will speak on being foster parents
- November 5 - The Rev. Bob Googe will speak on Envision Athens

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 29 - Reformation 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
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School & High School Halloween Party, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Parent Social, The PIT

Monday, October 30

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:00 p.m. New Ruling Elder Training, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, October 31

- 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. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, November 1

- 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. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part 1, Room 308
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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. All Saints' Evening Prayer, Sanctuary

Thursday, November 2

- 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, Highland Hills, 1660 Jennings Mill Rd., Bogart
- 3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room

Friday, November 3

- 9:00 a.m. International Craft Fair, Fellowship Hall
- 9:05 a.m. Coffee & Jesus, Weekday School Lobby

Sunday, November 5 - Commitment Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, Daylight Savings Time begins

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

LOOKING AHEAD

November 5 - International Craft Fair continues, Fellowship Hall

November 12 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

November 15 - Last Wed@First for Fall

November 19 - Thornwell Offering

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, Tate Center Grand Hall

Holiday Benevolence Market, Tate Center Grand Hall Corridor

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.