



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!

November 5, 2017
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Commitment 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 Voluntary on OLD HUNDREDTH Henry Purcell

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering Hymn 220, Stanza 1

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

Call to Worship

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

God's generosity is boundless.

We come to a table filled with God's love.

Let us be glad and rejoice with praise!

***Hymn 481** Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show LLANFAIR

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and justice, we confess how easy it is to concentrate on our own pleasures, taking note of the plight of many in the world only as the news momentarily grabs our attention. We are so consumed by our own agendas that our concern for the needs of others shrinks all too rapidly. We become conformed to the world's standards rather than facing the challenge of conforming to those of Christ. Stir up your Spirit in us, Lord, that we may experience the happiness and blessing of being your disciples in more than name only.

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

FPC 2nd Graders are our Communion Helpers. Bringing in the bread and cup today are Andrew Miller and Lachlan Morris.

Originally cast as two eight-line stanzas, Hymn 481 is a 19th-century paraphrase of Psalm 150, slightly shortened when it was set to the present tune with recurring Alleluias. The Welsh tune is actually older than the text and its name means "the church of St. Mary."

*Those who are able may stand.

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 1, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

Members and friends are asked to bring their pledge cards forward and place them in the brass containers as the hymns are sung.

The 11:00 offertory anthem is a hymn of consecration that repeats the word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions, giving full weight to the word "all" at the end. The text is by Frances Ridley Havergal. The composer is Director of Music and Organist of Christ United Methodist Church in Kettering, Ohio.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***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 396, Stanza 1

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame, a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

First Lesson

2 Corinthians 8:1-15, page 1057

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

Second Lesson

Mark 12:41-44, page 926

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

Sermon

What Does Generosity Look Like? Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Dedication of Stewardship Commitments for 2018

Hymn 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

Hymn 428 We Give Thee but Thine Own SCHUMANN

Prayer of Dedication of the Commitments for 2018

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory BEACH SPRING

Wilbur Held

11:00 a.m. Offertory Consecration

Frederick Chatfield

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, the thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

***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

Prayer of 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.

We do not come to this table proudly....

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 508** For the Bread Which You Have Broken KINGDOM

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 555, Stanza 3

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

***Postlude** Poco vivace Hermann Schroeder

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward to receive the bread and dip it into the cup.

11:00 a.m. – Please partake as you are served.

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread.

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

Commitment Sunday

During morning worship today we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2018.

Additional pledge cards are available in the Fellowship Pad and the Narthex.

You may also submit your pledge to the church office or online at FirstPresAthens.org.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge as we seek to “bear fruit” in every good work.

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, Joanne Fischetti

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Celeste Fischetti, Nixon Roberts

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Bobby Heath (head),
Keith Oelke, John Simpson

11:00 a.m. Judy Howell (head),
Judy Harrison, Mark Harrison, Ed Law,
Christine Register, Mickey Register

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Carroll Gaillard,
Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Bob Glasscock, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Julie Sanks

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God.

A rosebud is placed in the sanctuary in honor of the birth of Grigsby Turner Gaither on October 25, 2017. Grigsby is the grandson of Bruce and Cathi Lancaster.

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.

Holiday Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, FPC volunteers deliver meals to home-bound seniors, allowing year-long volunteers to take a holiday break. If you are interested in delivering meals, please contact Sally Vandiver at sally.vandiver@gmail.com. Donations for the meals can be made by writing a check to First Presbyterian with "Meals on Wheels Holiday Donation" noted on the bottom.

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.

Final Two Weeks:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT FAIR

Today, 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.

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.

SPIRITUALITY AND AGING

November 11, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend this thoughtful and inspirational workshop led by the Rev. Dr. Miriam Dunson, a PC(USA) pastor, missionary, chaplain, educator, and author. It will be held at St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, 3195 Barnett Shoals Rd. Reservations (\$10 each) are due by noon tomorrow. 706-546-7553

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. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before November 12.

ANGEL TREE

November 12 - December 7

There will be a special Salvation Army Angel Tree in Fellowship Hall. 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."

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING

November 19

You can help give children a home with love and encouragement by participating in the special offering taken for Thornwell Home for Children. Thank you for your generosity.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, November 19, 4:30 p.m.

All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors in the Grand Hall of the Tate Center on the UGA campus for this worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et al.), followed by the Holiday Benevolence Market. Parking will be free.

HOLIDAY BENEVOLENCE

MARKET, November 19, 5:30 p.m.

This year's market will be held in conjunction with the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship (please see above). It will immediately follow worship at 5:30 p.m. in the corridor outside the Grand Hall. You will have the opportunity to buy "symbolic gifts" from more than 30 local non-profit organizations. Shopping lists will also be available in the Atrium throughout November for those unable to attend in person.

Casa de Amistad Baskets

Please help provide low income Hispanic families with food for a special Christmas meal. Either write a check to First Presbyterian Church for \$40.00 marked, "Casa Baskets" **by December 2** and the shopping will be done for you!

Or fill a laundry basket, large bucket, or other reusable container with the items below:

- 5 lb Bag of Rice
- 2 lb Bag of Dried Pinto Beans
- Bag of onions
- Chili Peppers (dried red New Mexico pods)
- Cooking Oil
- Mole (brown sauce for meat)
- Masa (flour for making tortillas)
- Can of Jalapeños
- Can of Tomatoes
- Adobe powder (in spice area) or fresh garlic
- Bag of cookies or a cake
- Gift certificate from Los Compadres or Walmart for \$10

Baskets are due to the church **by December 9**. Gracias!

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.

- November 5 - The Rev. Bob Googe will speak on Envision Athens
- November 12 - Jennifer Weishaupt from Girls Rock Athens will join us

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, November 5 - Commitment Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. International Craft Fair, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. New Ruling Elder Training, Staff Conference Room
- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Combined Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 7:00 p.m. Honduras Trip Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, November 6

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, November 7

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Way
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, November 8

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Bride's Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, DePalma's Italian Cafe - West Side, 2080 Timothy Rd.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Critical Conversations Group, 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
- 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, Love, Interfaith Education: Judaism, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 9

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Pkwy.

Friday, November 10

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

Sunday, November 12 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. John Kipp preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

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.