



# 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 12, 2017  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Thirty-Second 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

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Johann Sebastian Bach

### 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

Generosity is a fruit of the Spirit.

**Filled with the Spirit, the early church spent much time together in worship.**

They broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.

**Come, let us worship God with generous hearts and minds.**

### \*Hymn 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

The original Latin text of Hymn 15, based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13), consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Sin takes root and grows when we cut ourselves off from God, cherish resentment, and fail to respond to God’s love. We have surely sinned. Our lamps are not trimmed and our lives are not prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ. We have not listened well to the anguish of others or encouraged faith among family and friends. The distraction of many things has kept us from meditation and prayer. We are witnesses against ourselves, for we have vowed our loyalty and then have gone our own way. Merciful God, we seek your forgiveness.**

**\*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.

**11:00 a.m. Anthem**

Jubilate Deo

Carol McClure

Sing a song of praise, Jubilate Deo! Sing a song of praise to the Lord our God; sing a song of praise, Jubilate Deo! Sing a song of praise to the Lord our God; Jubilate Deo! Amen.

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and responding, “And also with you.”

The 11:00 Anthem is sung by the St. Andrews Choir.

After the 11:00 a.m. Anthem, children, ages Pre-K - grade 1, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite.

**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**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, page 1079

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

**Second Lesson**

Matthew 25:1-13, page 905

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

**Sermon**

Ten Maids Awaiting

Dr. John Kipp

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 543**

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. (continued)**

By blending the end of day and end of life, the imagery of the well-known Victorian hymn Abide with Me has made it valuable for both evening services and funerals. Although the author wrote his own music for it, the present tune has been firmly associated with this text for over 150 years.

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**11:00 a.m. Blessing of “30 Hour Famine” Participants**

**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**      Abide with Me      Flor Peeters

**11:00 a.m. Offertory**      Keep Your Lamps!      Spiritual  
arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don’t get weary. Children, don’t get weary.  
Children, don’t get weary ‘til your work is done.  
Christian, journey soon be over. Christian, journey soon be over.  
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

**\*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.**

Hymn 538, a hymn of corporate benediction, is one of several using the same first line. It was written by a Baptist pastor who dedicated his entire ministry to a small church in rural Yorkshire. The tune used here was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## **SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 538**      Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing  
SICILIAN MARINERS

**\*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.**

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

**\*Postlude**      “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us      Paul Manz

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.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists:

**8:45 a.m.** Wes Bowden

**11:00 a.m.** Kim Ness, Lorenzo Fischetti

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Joanne Fischetti, Lane Holloway

#### Lay Readers:

**8:45 a.m.** Keith Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** Luke Osborne

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** Bobby Heath (head),  
Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** Judy Howell (head), Ron Cox,  
Ed Law, Tanna Nicholson,  
Christine Register, John Walden

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Carroll Gaillard, Diane Hartzell,  
Mary Peace

**11:00 a.m.** Nonie Hale, Carol McKay,  
Dewitt Pittman

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Susan Ferguson

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of all our veterans, given by Randy Dudley.

The flowers are placed in the narthex to the glory of God and in honor of Clark Thomason and Patrick Fortson Jackson, who were married in our sanctuary on November 11, 2017.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## Last Wed@First Dinner & Programs for 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.

**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

### THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY

Thank you for your generous support of this church tradition providing Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Your gifts make a harvest of thanksgiving.

### 30 HOUR FAMINE

This weekend our youth have been participating in the 30 Hour Famine. Today they will worship at 11:00 a.m., help with the Thanksgiving food bags, then have a full day of activities focused on the causes and impacts of hunger on the individual and the larger world. Youth will also participate in a food-based service project...all while experiencing hunger for themselves. They will break the fast this evening at 6:00 p.m. with a family-style meal in Fellowship Hall.

### 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.

### ANGEL TREE

#### Today - 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.

### LIVE NATIVITY

#### November 30, 6:00 p.m.

We need your help! If you can be a wise man (or woman,) shepherd, holy family (families with a baby less than a year old), or help with set up, clean up, greeting, or advertising, please email Elaine Johnson at [elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto:elaine@firstpresathens.org).

### ADVENT + CHRISTMAS AT FPC

Please visit our website, [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org), for a list of Advent and Christmas services and activities as we prepare for the coming of our Savior.

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## Casa de Amistad Baskets

Please help provide low income Hispanic families with food for a special Christmas meal. You may 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 12 - Jennifer Weishaupt from Girls Rock Athens will join us.
- November 19 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine.

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

**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 12 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. John Kipp preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Youth & Family Combined Dinner & Fellowship, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

### **Monday, November 13**

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

### **Tuesday, November 14**

- 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 15 - Last Wed@First for Fall**

- 11:00 a.m. Weekday School Three-year-old Thanksgiving Program, 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 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: Islam, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### **Thursday, November 16**

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Talmadge Terrace, 801 Riverhill Dr.

### **Sunday, November 19**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **November 19** - Thornwell Offering

- Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, 4:30 p.m., Tate Center Grand Hall
- Holiday Benevolence Market, 5:30 p.m., Tate Center Grand Hall Corridor

### **November 28** - First Friends, 6:00 p.m., DePalma's Eastside, 1965 S. Barnett Shoals Rd.

### **November 30** - Live Nativity, 6:00 p.m.

### **December 3** - First Sunday of Advent, "Christmas at the Movies" Sermon Series begins David LaMotte concert and dinner at Presbyterian Student Center, 6:00 p.m.

### **December 10** - Christmas Pageant & Dinner, 5:00 p.m.

### **December 11** - The Messiah Sing-Along, Oconee Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m.

### **December 14** - Senior Adult Ministry Christmas Tea, 2:00 p.m.

### **December 17** - A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

## **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

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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.**