



# 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!

January 7, 2018  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Epiphany 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

Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany Maurice Duruflé

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!  
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!  
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!  
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!**

### Call to Worship

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

**May the heavens be opened for us that we may catch a glimpse of God's light and love!**

Let the Spirit descend and transform our common days with a beauty not of our making.

**Let us delight in God's beloved Son as we worship together!**

**\*Hymn 446** Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken AUSTRIAN HYMN

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We resist the challenges of discipleship that call us to repentance and transformation. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. We ask this in Jesus' name.**

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

\*Those who are able may stand.

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 Harper Havick and Teninait Ness.

The Nazi appropriation of the tune of Hymn 446 for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author has indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusions to several other passages.

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

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, the text of Hymn 171 has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when The English Hymnal, 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

### \*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 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 23, page 491

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

### Second Lesson

John 4:7-15, page 971

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

### Sermon

Start With the End in Mind

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

### \*Hymn 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

#### 8:45 a.m. Offertory

ST. COLUMBA

Charles Villiers Stanford

#### 11:00 a.m. Offertory

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,  
for to worship God with, this happy New Year.  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.  
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,  
open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go.  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.  
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,  
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

### \*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

### Great 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...**

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."

A - men, A - men, A - men.

### The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

### Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

### Communion of the People

### Prayer after Communion

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

\*Hymn 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

\*Benediction

The musical setting of the communion liturgy was written by American composer Hal Hopson.

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

**\*Congregational Response**  
**Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

Hymn 535

**\*Postlude** In You is Gladness Johann Sebastian 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

**Liturgist:**

Carol Strickland

**Lay Readers:**

**8:45 a.m.** James Dove

**11:00 a.m.** Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** James Dove (head),  
David Cole, Carroll Gaillard

**11:00 a.m.** Harry Shuford (head),  
Greta Covington, Sue Gray, Jane McGown,  
Arlene Shirley, Madeline Van Dyck

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor,  
Mary Peace, John Simpson

**11:00 a.m.** Carol Dolson, Carol McKay,  
Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Ally Simmons

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Greta Covington

### FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Erwin Veres by his wife, Diana Owen.

### TO AID IN WORSHIP

**If you need to leave the sanctuary** during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium.

**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 fellowship pads.

## Wed@First Begins January 17

Wed@First provides an opportunity to experience Christian fellowship and growth in a relaxed atmosphere. It features a delicious dinner, childrens’ choirs, and classes for adults on a variety of topics beginning as early as 3:00 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. Dinner opens at 5:45 p.m.

Please make dinner reservations on the Fellowship Pad, online at [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org), or by contacting the church office **by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.** (\$8 for adults, \$5 children/students, \$20 max per family). Our after-dinner program, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., will begin with a study led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, “How the Bible Came to Be.”

### How the Bible Came to Be, January 17-February 7

We profess the Bible as God’s Holy Word. But just how and when and by whom were those words written down, and who decided that these words would be in the Bible?

This will be a four week study of how the Bible came to be the Bible.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **2018-19 WEEKDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

#### **Begins January 11**

Please call our director, Elaine Johnson, at 706-206-8180 to schedule a tour. Our Weekday School is celebrating 51 years of serving Athens children, ages infant through 5 years.

### **FPC MEN'S BASKETBALL**

#### **Begins January 15**

If you're interested in joining the FPC Men's Basketball team, please contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com. Games will be Monday nights at 6:30, 7:15, or 8:15 and are played at Tuckston United Methodist Church on Lexington Rd.

### **IHNA HOST WEEK**

#### **February 4-11**

Sign-up in the Atrium today for our first Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week of the year. You may also check the online calendar or email Patty Whiten (pattywhiten@windstream.net) to volunteer. Thank you for helping provide warmth of shelter and hospitality to our guests.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS**

#### **25 Year Reunion, February 25**

Save the date! All past and present members are invited to a reception from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Athens Cotton Press. Class members especially hope to reconnect with their founding mothers. More details to come.

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT, April 20-22**

#### **Early Bird Registration through February 1**

Treat yourself to a soul-nourishing weekend away. We will return to Fellowship Camp where this year's speaker, Linda Morningstar, will lead us in, "Patterns & Rhythms: Receiving the Gift of Order in Chaos." \$130 by February 1, \$165 after February 1. Scholarships available. Contact Carol Strickland, cstrickland@firstpresathens.org.

### **COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE**

The response to Commitment Sunday has been good. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged.

There are still a number of members from whom we hope to hear. It will help our church leaders plan the 2018 budget if we can receive pledge. You may turn in your pledge in the offering plate, in the church office, or you may pledge online. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge.

## **The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents**

### **The Voices of Truth**

#### **Choral Concert**

**January 14, 4:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary**

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**

**January 15, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

As a celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and commitment to service, Athens-Clarke County is committed to making Monday, January 15, "A Day On, Not A Day Off." The Kick-Off Celebration will be 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Clarke Central High School gymnasium, and volunteers will work from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at one of more than a dozen sites in our community.

To see the complete list of participating organizations and register, visit [uga.givepulse.com/group/events/118913](http://uga.givepulse.com/group/events/118913). You can also sign up with the individual agencies or the day of the event at Clarke Central High School.

For many years, FPC members have helped at the Project Safe Thrift Store, so please join fellow members there if you would like. However you sign up, please list your First Presbyterian Church affiliation. We know our members are active throughout Athens. Let others know it, too!



# SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY

**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, Mary Elizabeth McConnell, Carmen Meadows

**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.

- January 7 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine.
- January 14 - David Alper, Congregation Children of Israel, on the class's upcoming visit to the synagogue.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

**Living on a Prayer** • Room 303

Study of the book, Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancey. 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 Acts of the Apostles 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

## SUNDAYS in the PIT

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness, Youth Interns: Nettie Jester and Jordan Osborne

The youth are fortunate to have their own special space, lovingly called "The PIT," located on the basement level. The PIT features small group break-out rooms, a kitchen, pool tables, and comfortable couches to just hang out.

**SUNDAY MORNINGS** 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us for an informal time of fellowship and fun including donuts and devotion. **Confirmation Class** also meets during this time. This class gives students an opportunity to deepen and confirm their faith in Jesus Christ, learn the basic theology of the Christian faith, and what it means to identify with the PC(USA). Led by: Meghan Bawcum, Robbie Bryan, Erik Ness

**SUNDAY EVENINGS**

On Sunday evenings, we come back together to explore our faith through activities focused on mission, discipleship, and lots of fun!

**TONIGHT**

**MS Youth Group:** Exploring Epiphany

**HS Youth Group:** Preparing palms for Ash Wednesday

### Typical Sunday Evening Schedule:

- |           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:00-5:30 | Celebration Singers choir rehearsal |
| 5:30-6:30 | Middle School youth group           |
| 6:30-7:00 | Combined youth dinner               |
| 7:00-8:30 | High School youth group             |

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, January 7 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School resumes for all ages
- 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. 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, January 8**

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Circle 2, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### **Tuesday, January 9 - Church office opens at 10:30 a.m.**

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room

### **Wednesday, January 10**

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe and Fresh Market, 815 N. Chase St.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### **Thursday, January 11**

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Registration Begins

### **Friday, January 12**

- 4:30 p.m. Youth depart for Ski Trip

### **Sunday, January 14**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Hilary Shuford preaching

## LOOKING AHEAD

- January 14 -** Voices of Truth Concert, 4:00 p.m.  
Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, 5:00 p.m., First Baptist Church
- January 15 -** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, 9:30 a.m.
- January 17 -** Wed@First Programs and Dinner Begin
- January 23 -** PTP Trip to UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, 9:30 a.m.  
First Friends, 6:00 p.m., Craft Public House
- January 24 -** Bookless Book Group, 11:30 a.m., South Kitchen + Bar
- January 28 -** Congregational Meeting and Lunch, 12:00 p.m.  
Athens Area Presbyterian Youth Skate Night, 6:00 p.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  
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, Administrative Assistant for  
Congregational Care & Membership  
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**

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.**