



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 14, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
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.

Greeting

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Craig Phillips

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

A fruit of the Spirit is patience.
**We've come to worship God,
who loved us before we were yet born,**
whose presence never leaves us,
and whose love for us never ceases.
This is our God. Let's worship together!

*Those who are able may stand.

When Morning Gilds the Skies is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

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

The anthem is a text by Beverly Easterling, set to music by South Carolina composer Robert J. Powell.

***Hymn 487** When Morning Gilds the Skies LAUDES DOMINI

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others. We confess that forgiving those who have hurt us at times seems impossible. Yet with you, all things are possible. We come to you, therefore, seeking healing and wholeness, reconciliation and restoration to the fulness of life.

***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 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 139:1-6, 13-18, page 566

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

The Rain Will Seek the Rivers

Robert J. Powell

The rain will seek the rivers, and rivers run to the seas,
while human hearts will wander unfulfilled and restlessly.
The anxious heart must listen for the quiet voice
that whispers, answers, offers, calls forth the unforced choice.
To grasp the easy burden, God's grace our soul's delight.
Oh, run to claim the promise of everlasting life.

Second Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-10, page 244

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

Sermon

Whose Life Is It?

The Rev. Hilary Shuford

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*Affirmation of Faith

from The United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and
make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

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 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Michael Burkhardt

*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 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

Hymn 535

**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.**

*Postlude

We Christian Folk

Johann Sebastian Bach

The stanzas of Be Thou My Vision are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating from the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, the text and tune of Hymn 563 have gained national recognition and devotion among all who seek liberation from oppression.

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

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, Jimmy Bishop

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Chiara Bono, Logan Bono

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Emily Gaskill

11:00 a.m. Eliza Downs

USHERS

8:45 a.m. James Dove (head),

David Cole, Carroll Gaillard

11:00 a.m. Harry Shuford (head),

Ed Law, Joe Neighbors, Lois Neighbors,

Terry McRae, Steve Covington

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Becky Hartman, Mary Peace,

John Simpson

11:00 a.m. Bob Glasscock, Brenda Glasscock,

Dan Nadenicek, Rick Simpson

We welcome The Rev. Hilary Neufeld Shuford as our guest preacher today. Hilary grew up in Athens and first came to FPC at the age of eleven, where she met her future husband Harry in their sixth grade Sunday School class. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree of History and Philosophy from Duke University, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia School of Law and a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary. Hilary served presbyteries in Ohio, Michigan, and Texas before she and Harry returned to Athens in 2014 to serve the Northeast Georgia Presbytery as the Transitional General Presbyter. In 2017, Hilary was installed as the General Presbyter.

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Jack Edward Woosley by Caryl Woosley.

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) 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, 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

FPC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Begins January 15, 6:30 p.m.

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 Road.

PTP TRIP TO UGA VET HOSPITAL

January 23, 9:30 a.m.

The Prime Time Presbyterians will tour the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine's Teaching Hospital. All senior adults are invited. Due to limited parking, we will meet at the Kroger Shopping Center on College Station Road and carpool. After the tour we will enjoy lunch at Fatz Restaurant on Lexington Road. **Please RSVP by Thursday, January 18** to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888.

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

February 11, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Led by Dr. Lancaster, this informational class about Presbyterianism and discipleship at FPC will include a light supper and child care. On February 18 at 4:00 p.m. the session will receive those wishing to join. On February 25 new members will be introduced in worship. If you would like to attend, please contact Lucy in the church office by February 7.

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. Details and registration at our FPC website.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

The Voices of Truth

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. 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 at 10:00 a.m. 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

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, Busyness: Finding God in the Whirlwind by Juanita Ryan.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- January 14 - David Alper, Congregation Children of Israel (CCI), on the class's upcoming visit to the synagogue.
- January 19 - Worship at CCI, 6:30 p.m.
- January 21 - Will not meet

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!

THIS WEEKEND

Youth Ski Trip to Winterplace, WV 1/12-15

No youth group

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

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28, 12:15 p.m. (please note new time)

Everyone is invited! We will receive the Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, 2018 Budget, and four FPC members will be elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee. Lunch will be provided by the youth as a fundraiser to help defray expenses of the mission trip to Honduras in July.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 14

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Hilary Shuford preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Voices of Truth Concert, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, First Baptist Church

Monday, January 15 - Church office closed for MLK, Jr. Holiday

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Closed
- 9:30 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Work Day, Bell's Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave.
- 3:00 p.m. Youth return from Ski Trip
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs AFUMC, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, January 16

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, January 17 - Wed@First Begins

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 3:30 p.m. Knit for Kids & More, Bride's Room
- 4:15 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
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission/Finance Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. "How the Bible Came to Be," led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 18

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Brookside Senior Living, 199 West W. Gary Rd., Commerce

Sunday, January 21

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

Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service
Today, 5:00 p.m., First Baptist Church

The Rev. Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr. will be the preacher for this service, which is sponsored by the Athens Area Human Relations Council and the Interfaith Clergy of Greater Athens. Dr. Flippin has been the Senior Pastor of The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church in Atlanta since 1990 and is the founder and CEO of several ministries, as well as the author of five books.

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
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
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**