



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 21, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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

Adagio

Charles-Marie Widor

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.

In God alone we put our hope,

who gives all good things

seen and unseen.

We come to this place to celebrate the God of hope.

Come, let us worship together and praise

God's living presence in the world.

The text of Hymn 414, by a Presbyterian pastor in California, expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.

***Hymn 414** As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations, our sins. And you love us still. Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or possible. Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us from you. Break down the walls, push aside the pride, and help us to trust anew.

***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.

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.

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 Deuteronomy 26:1-11, page 180

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem King of Glory, King of Peace

Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. William H. Harris

The anthem is a poem by George Herbert, set to music by J. S. Bach in an arrangement by William H. Harris.

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.
Seven whole days not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Hymn 553 will be sung to the Welsh tune AR HYD Y NOS, the tune to which it is set in Glory to God, the new Presbyterian hymnal.

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

- *Hymn 553** For the Fruit of all Creation AR HYD Y NOS
- *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** If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
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

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Kate Ness

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Camille Attaway, Lucy Attaway

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. John Walden

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Harry Shuford (head),
Kitty Donnan, Bob Glasscock, Judy Howell,
Terry McRae, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

GREETERS

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

11:00 a.m. Martha Elmore, Melinda Miller,
Dan Nadenicek, Courtney Pittman

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wayne F. Middendorf given by the Middendorf family.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FPC MEN'S BASKETBALL

College football is over but basketball has begun. 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.

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. Details and registration at our FPC website.

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.

Wed@First

Wed@First 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, through 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?

New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about Presbyterianism and discipleship at FPC, we invite you to attend our New Member class.

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

Informational class led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Moses Waddel Room
Includes a light supper and child care (with reservation)

Sunday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea, home of Joe & Erika Hermanowicz, the Session will receive those wishing to join

Sunday, February 25, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

If you are interested in attending, please contact Lucy in the church office at lbell@firstpresathens.org or 706-543-4338 by February 7.

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 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!

TONIGHT

No youth group

Celebration Singers dinner out from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Honduras Mission Trip meeting from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

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 21

- 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
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers Party, Meet in Room 202
- 7:00 p.m. Honduras Mission Trip Planning Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, January 22

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission/Finance Meeting, Room 310
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 8:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Tuckston UMC, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, January 23

- 9:30 a.m. PTP Trip to UGA Veterinary Hospital, Kroger Parking Lot, College Station Rd.
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Craft Public House, 1040 Gaines School Rd.

Wednesday, January 24

- 8:30 a.m.. Weekday School Doughnuts with Dad, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, South Kitchen + Bar, 247 E Washington St.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 3:30 p.m. Knit for Kids & More, Bride's Room
- 4:15 p.m. Gentle or Balanced Yoga, Room 310
- 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. "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 25

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Doughnuts with Dad, Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Bentley Council on Aging, 135 Hoyt St.

Sunday, January 28

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

LOOKING AHEAD

January 28 - Congregational Meeting and Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

Athens Area Presbyterian Youth Skate Night, 6:00 p.m.

February 4 - Souper Bowl of Caring

February 4-11 - IHNA Host Week

February 9-10 - Session Retreat

February 11 - Children's Ministry Thank You Breakfast

February 11, 18 & 25 - New Member Class, Tea, Reception

February 18 - Red Cross Blood Drive

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.**