



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!

February 11, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sixth 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.

Meghan Bawcum is cellist for the 11:00 a.m. Prelude and 11:00 a.m. Anthem.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 kindness.

We know that God's love is lavished upon us forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of love.

*Those who are able may stand.

The opening line of Hymn 263 was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17, and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

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

After the Anthem 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.

The anthem, sung in a round by the St. Andrews Choir and Chancel Choir, sets the single word, "Alleluia," which means "praise Yahweh" or "praise God." Alleluia is the Latin form of the word. Hallelujah is the Hebrew. In some traditions, "Alleluia" is not said or sung during the season of Lent, so it is used more just before Lent begins, and is brought back with great joy on Easter Sunday.

***Hymn 263** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

How easily we leave your side, Lord God, for selfish desires that lead us far away. We find ourselves hungry and empty, weary of wandering, weak and worn out. Even when we stay with you, we find ourselves tempted to deny grace to those whom we despise. You are forgiving when we stray, affirming when we stay. Guide us to your welcoming arms; to the music and the dancing, for we are easily lost, and only you, our Father, can find us.

***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

11:00 a.m. Anthem Alleluia William Boyce

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 139:7-12, page 566

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

Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22, page 1107

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

Sermon

Why Not 'He Descended into Hell'?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 282**

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

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 539	Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise	ELLERS
* 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	Toccata	Eugène Gigout

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, Logan Bono

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Chiara Bono, Kate Ness

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Williams

11:00 a.m. Ann Harper Covington

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head), Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head), Rob Haire, Susan Haire, Fran Lane, David Mendenhall, Fred Wallace

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carroll Gaillard, Faye Marshall, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Marie Ledford, Tim Ledford, Melinda Miller

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Lawton Stephens

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the members of the congregation and guests of First Presbyterian Church, given by Joe and Erika Hermanowicz.

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

February 18, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Save a life by donating blood. Sign up today in the Atrium or reserve an appointment online at redcrossblood.org. You may also sign up by contacting the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall Breakout Area for this important event!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 14, 12:00, 5:00, 6:30 p.m.

Join us at at 12:00 or 6:30 p.m. for a traditional service including communion and imposition of ashes, which were prepared by the youth in January. Our children and families are invited to meet in the Narthex between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. to journey through hands-on Lenten stations in the Sanctuary as small groups. Please make reservations for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing will immediately follow the noon service.

PRACTICING SABBATH

February 18 - March 25, 9:50 a.m.

The Inquirers Sunday School class invites all adults to join them in the Moses Waddel Room for their Lenten series on the Sabbath. Following FPC Atlanta's curriculum, they will have videos on weeks 1 & 4 and discussion on the remaining weeks. Please RSVP to Carla Buss, cbuss@uga.edu, to help them plan.

IHNA TRAINING

If you are interested in volunteering with Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens and haven't attended training before, please attend. No registration is needed; please contact Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net if you have any questions.

Today, 2:00 p.m., St. Gregory the Great Episcopal, 3195 S Barnett Shoals Rd.

Sunday, February 25, 12:30 p.m., Ashford Memorial Methodist Church, Watkinsville

FPC MEN'S SOFTBALL

Begins March 8

Softball season will be starting soon and the FPC Men's Softball team needs you! Please contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com. Games will be Thursday nights at 6:30, 7:30, or 8:30 p.m. and are played at Bishop Park on Sunset Dr.

Wed@First

Wed@First features dinner, choirs, and classes for adults 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). On February 14, dinner will begin early at 5:30 p.m. and we will have an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. (see above).

Finding Sabbath at Montreat

February 21, 6:30 p.m.

Montreat Conference Center is a ministry of the PC(USA) located outside of Asheville, NC. For over 100 years, it has provided a sacred space to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest. Please join us as Montreat President Richard DuBose comes to FPC.

Lenten Service Project: Bucket Brigade

February 28, 6:30 p.m.

Please help assemble Welcome Home buckets for families transitioning from homelessness to a home. We will be collecting items until February 21 (list of items needed is online) or you may donate \$60 per whole bucket or \$30 per half bucket (make checks to FPC and note "bucket.") For more information, contact Christian Cordon, Waddel Fellow for Outreach, at christiancordonrome@gmail.com

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.

Today, 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

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.

- February 11 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine

- February 18 - Practicing Sabbath series begins

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 MORNING

Confirmation: Intro to Old Testament, Dr. Carol Strickland

Sunday School: preparing the ashes for Ash Wednesday

TONIGHT

Our middle school and high school youth groups are beginning a study of Holy Week, each week moving through the Seven Days of Glory. This week, "Monday: Robbers in the Narthex." We raised \$1,123.73 on Souper Bowl of Caring. Tonight, the youth will vote on where to donate this generous offering. Thank you!

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, February 11

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Ministry Thank You Breakfast, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. IHNA Training, St. Gregory the Great Episcopal, 3195 S Barnett Shoals Rd.
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Class, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, 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. 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, February 12

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Valentine's Chapel, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 8:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Dawgs, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, February 13

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Scholastic Book Fair, Through Friday, Weekday School Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Committee Meeting, Room 127
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, February 14

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Grandparents' Day, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part 1, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Children & Family Time, Meet in Narthex
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 15

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Grandparents' Day, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Bride's Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Athens Heritage Home, 960 Hawthorne Ave.

Sunday, February 18

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

LOOKING AHEAD

February 18 - Red Cross Blood Drive

February 18 & 25 - New Member Tea, Introduction

February 20 - Primetime Presbyterians Program with Ron Bogue

February 21 - "Finding Sabbath at Montreat," Richard Dubose

February 24 - Men's Fellowship, Tour of George Buggs' Car Collection

February 27 - First Friends, The Savannah Room

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

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
Bob Glasscock
Joe Hermanowicz
Richard Lane
Mary Peace
Lawton Stephens
Dan Trier

CLASS OF 2020

Jeff Bangle
Meghan Bawcum
Bob Burton
Julie Hayes
Sydney Jackson
Avery McLean
Jeanne Nadenicek
Carl Nichols
Tom Reigle
Judy Scanlon

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
Ms. Yuxin Ni, Church Music Intern

WADDEL FELLOWS

Mr. Wesley Bowden, Congregational Care
Ms. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Mr. Christian Cordon, Mission & Outreach
Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.