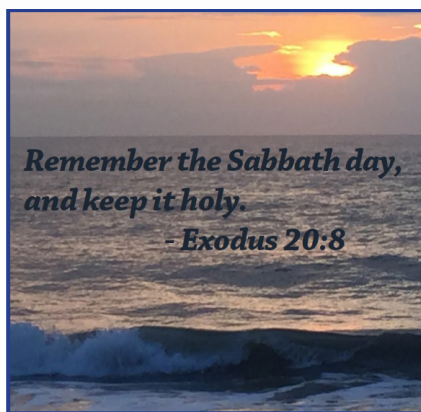


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Photograph by Bruce Lancaster

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 18, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Lent

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights
Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach

The prelude is based on Hymn 77.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

TALLIS' CANON

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

Call to Worship

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

May our lives reflect the kindness God has shown us.

Let us worship God together this Sabbath day!

*Those who are able may stand.

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” is one of the commandments. The nephew of William Wordsworth wrote Hymn 470 to remind us that we still should keep it as a day of rest, of glad worship, and joyful reminder of Christ’s resurrection.

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, sung by the Celebration Singers and Chancel Choir, is from Schubert’s Mass in G.

In Hymn 396, merely longing for a restored relationship with God is not enough; real repentance requires amendment of life (stanza 3). The similarity of stanzas 1 and 4 suggest both continuity and improvement. The tune was one of the new common tunes in the Scottish Psalter of 1635.

***Hymn 470**

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

During the season of Lent, light is shined upon our discipleship. Too often, Lord, the light reveals what we prefer to hide: our shabby behavior, our unkept promises, our thread-bare faith. We confess that anxiety and stress rule our days. We seldom stop to worship and give thanks. Forgive us and clothe us with your peace. Help us be your obedient disciples who trust you with our lives.

***Silent Prayer**

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Exodus 20:8-11, page 65

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Kyrie

Franz Schubert

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Second Lesson Deuteronomy 5:12-15, page 161

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

Sermon

Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Origins

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 396**

O for a Closer Walk with God

CAITHNESS

***Affirmation of Faith** Question & Answer #103, The Heidelberg Catechism
What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

**First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained,
and that, especially on the festive day of rest,
I diligently attend the assembly of God's people
to learn what God's Word teaches,
to participate in the sacraments,
to pray to God publicly,
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.**

**Second, that every day of my life
I rest from my evil ways,
let the Lord work in me through his Spirit,
and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.**

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 Improvisation on CAITHNESS John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory Wash Me Thoroughly David Halls
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

***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 81** Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST. FLAVIAN

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 1

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude Prelude and Fugue in G Minor
Johann Sebastian Bach

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563) was commissioned by Frederick III for the followers of John Calvin in his territory. The part which deals with the Ten Commandments comes in the section titled "Gratitude," signifying that our obedience to God's commands is an expression of our thanks for God's grace.

Like many of this author's hymns, the text of Hymn 81 was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

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. Keith Oelke

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenichek, Celeste Fischetti

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Joanne Fischetti, Lorenzo Fischetti

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Rob Haire, Susan Haire, Sandra Kays,
Stan Kays, Fred Wallace

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove, Carroll Gaillard,
Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Patti Reed,
Rick Simpson, John Walden

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Susan Ferguson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER:
Steve Whiten

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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.

Lenten Sermon Series

We are beginning our journey of Lent, and our theme is based on the fourth commandment: "Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy." (Exodus 19:8; Deuteronomy 5:12)

The first time the word qadosh/holy is used is when it is applied to time: "And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy." (Genesis 2:3) The Christian sabbath is for us both a special day of the week and a special quality of time accessible daily.

We will look at Sabbath in terms of "Keeping the Sabbath Wholly." Yes, the play on words is intentional, and we will use the sabbath verbs of Cease, Rest, Embrace, and Feast as our guide:

1st Sunday of Lent, Today, Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Origins

2nd Sunday of Lent, February 25, Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Cease

3rd Sunday of Lent, March 4, Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Rest

4th Sunday of Lent, March 11, Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Embrace

5th Sunday of Lent, March 18, Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Feast

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRACTICING SABBATH

Today - 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.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP, CAR TOUR

February 24, 10:00 a.m.

All men of the church (and kids!) are invited to join the Men's Fellowship as they tour George Buggs' antique car collection from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. next Saturday. Meet at the museum, 131 Newton Bridge Industrial Way.

WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS

25 Year Reunion, February 25, 2:00 p.m.

All past and present members are invited to a reception from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Athens Cotton Press, 149 Oneta St. Class members especially hope to reconnect with their founding mothers.

HONORING DAVE DONNAN

February 25, 5:15 p.m.

Kitty Donnan will host an open house to honor Dave's memory from 5:15 - 8:15 p.m. at her home, 1050 Simonton Way in Watkinsville. All are welcome.

VBS 2018, MAKER FUN FACTORY

Online Registration Begins March 5

Mark your calendars for our Vacation Bible School Week, Tuesday, May 29 - Friday, June 1. Please also check the Children's Ministry Update on the FPC website for a list of items we are collecting. Thank you!

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE

We raised \$1,123.73! The youth decided to divide this generous offering: we served lunch for Our Daily Bread last Monday, purchased items for Athens Little Free Pantry, and split the remainder between the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank and the Northeast Georgia Food Bank Food 2 Kids program. Thank you!

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Check your email throughout Lent for daily devotions written by FPC members and staff. A big thank you to all the writers! If you don't receive church emails and would like to, please visit firstpresathens.org and sign up at the link on the lower right side or contact the church office.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Today, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Save a life by donating blood. There are still some time slots available to donate blood today. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall Breakout Area for the schedule.

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).

Finding Sabbath at Montreat

February 21, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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., Fellowship Hall

After dinner, help assemble Welcome Home Buckets for families transitioning from homelessness to a home. This will be a meaningful activity, appropriate for all ages. 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.")

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 18 - Practicing Sabbath series begins
- February 25 - Practicing Sabbath series

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 Romans 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 the book 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

Service Project: Youth will load the church van and distribute supplies in the Little Free Pantries around Athens!

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, "Tuesday: By What Authority?"

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 18

- 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Home of Joe & Erika Hermanowicz, 5600 Old Lexington Rd.
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, February 19 - Church Office Closed for President's Day

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Closed for President's Day
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Athens First UMC, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, February 20

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Council Meeting, Room 308
- 10:00 a.m. Primetime Presbyterians Program with Ron Bogue, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Vault Work, Room 127
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, February 21

- 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, 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. 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. "Finding Sabbath at Montreat," Richard Dubose, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Saturday, February 24

- 9:30 a.m. 97th Stated Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, FPC, Milledgeville
- 10:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, Tour of George Buggs' Car Collection,
131 Newton Bridge Industrial Way

Sunday, February 25

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

LOOKING AHEAD

February 25 - New Member Introduction & Reception

IHNA Training, Ashford Memorial Methodist Church, Watkinsville

Women's Bible Class 25 Year Reunion, Athens Cotton Press, 149 Oneta St.

Open House honoring Dave Donnan, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Way, Watkinsville

February 27 - First Friends, The Savannah Room

IHNA La Table Annual Luncheon

February 28 - Bookless Book Group, The Savannah Room

Lenten Service Project: Bucket Brigade

March 4 - Stephen Ministers Commissioned

March 7 - Last Wed@First for Winter, BINGO Night

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. 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.**