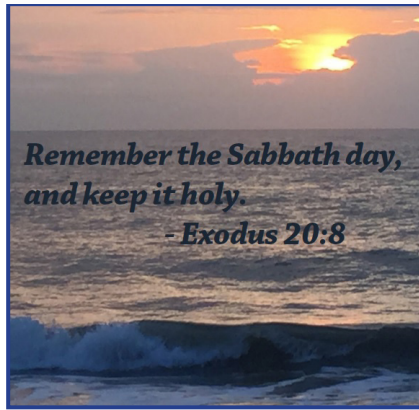


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



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 25, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second 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

Aria

Craig Phillips

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

A fruit of the Spirit is kindness.

**Christ calls us to come to worship, to rest from the things
that are troubling us.**

Let us enter into this service of worship with confidence and hope
that we will be filled from the tender heart of Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God!

*Those who are able may stand.

The 20th-century text of Morning Has Broken was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of “new” and “first,” each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

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 setting of a poem by Christina Rossetti, based on Matthew 6:26-28, set to music by American composer Roland E. Martin.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Most Holy God, we confess to you that we are rarely just in all our ways, and far from being kind in all our doings. What we want to be and what we actually are, are two different things. We need both your justice and your kindness to convict us of our sins, to forgive and cleanse us. Please grant to us, loving God, the grace of a new beginning.

***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.

Introduction of New Members

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Exodus 16:21-30, page 62
 This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem Consider Roland E. Martin
 Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief:
 we are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf.
 Consider the sparrows of the air of small account:
 our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards us too.
 Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil,
 yet are most fair: what profits all this care and all this coil?
 Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest weeks;
 God gives them food: much more our Father seeks to do us good.

Second Lesson Matthew 6:25-33, page 918
 This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Cease
 Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Declaration of Faith (PCUS)

**God created and rules in love.
God created all the worlds that are
and upholds and rules everything.
We affirm that the universe exists
by the power of God's Word and Spirit.
God has chosen to give it reality
out of the love we have come to know in Christ.
God still works
through the processes that shape and change the earth
and the living things upon it.
We acknowledge God's care and control
in the regularity of the universe
as well as in apparently random happenings.
There is no event from which God is absent
and his ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving.
That purpose embraces our choices
and will surely be accomplished.
The Creator works in all things
toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Improvisation on AUSTRIAN HYMN

John Coble

*Doxology

**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.**

Hymn 592

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

**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.**

Hymn 540, Stanza 1

Postlude

The Church from Cathedral Pieces

Robert J. Powell

**Following worship, all are invited to a reception
to welcome our new members.**

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as the 18th-century text of Hymn 281. It did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translations, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

Hymn 446 has references to Isaiah 33:20-21, Psalm 87:3, I Peter 2, Revelation 1, and Exodus 13:22. The author, famous for *Amazing Grace*, included this in his *Olney Hymns*, written to educate his congregation about the Bible. Like all good hymn writers, Newton knew that hymns are excellent tools for teaching Biblical truth and wisdom, and should be sung with an open and questioning mind.

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, Kate Ness

Acolytes:

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

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Jacki Macker, Carmen Meadows, Cash Morris,
Courtney Pittman, Fred Wallace

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Mary Dudley, Carroll Gaillard,
Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Martha Elmore, Carol McKay

RECEPTION HOST

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

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

During our Lenten journey 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 in the Bible 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:

2nd Sunday of Lent, Today, 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

Through 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. Please RSVP to Carla Buss, cbuss@uga.edu, to help them plan.

WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS

25 Year Reunion, Today, 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.

HONORING DAVE DONNAN

Today, 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.

STEPHEN MINISTER

COMMISSIONING, March 4

Eighteen FPC members have completed fifty hours of training and are ready to be commissioned as our first class of "Stephen Ministers" next Sunday at both worship services. Trained Stephen Ministers meet one-on-one with someone who is going through a rough time. If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone else (inside or outside the congregation), please speak to Dawn Frisch, Larry Gray, Bruce Lancaster, or Carol Strickland.

FOOD SUNDAY, March 4

Next Sunday we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting **dry pasta/spaghetti (any shape), salmon, and tuna.** Thank you for donating 314 items in February.

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.

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.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

We are expecting our directories mid-March! Thanks for your patience.

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).

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. You may donate \$60 per whole bucket or \$30 per half bucket (make checks to FPC and note "bucket.")

Last Wed@First for Winter: Bingo Night! March 7, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Hello, First Presbyterian family. Please come to our first youth bingo night on Wednesday, March 7. The youth are raising money for the Honduras mission trip. We are partnering with HOI to go into rural Honduras. We will be in a small village building latrines. To help us reach our goal we need your help. Support us by coming to the fellowship hall on March 7 for Wednesday night supper and to play bingo. We can't wait to see you there.

Knox Huff, 9th Grade

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 25 - Practicing Sabbath series
- March 4 - 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 Practicing Sabbath series.

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

Confirmation: Introduction to the New Testament, Dr. Bruce Lancaster teaching

Sunday School: stocking the Little Free Pantries

TONIGHT

Our MS and HS youth groups are beginning a study of Holy Week, each week moving us through the Seven Days of Glory. This week, "Thursday: A Day Called Holy."

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 25

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:40 a.m. New Member Reception, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. New Member Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 12:05 p.m. IHNA Training, Fellowship Ashford Memorial Methodist Church, Watkinsville
- 2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Class 25 Year Reunion, Athens Cotton Press, 149 Oneta St.
- 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
- 5:15 p.m. Open House for Dave Donnan, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Wy, Watkinsville
- 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 26

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 7:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. New Life, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, February 27

- 11:30 a.m. IHNA La Table Annual Luncheon, Athens Country Club, 2700 Jefferson Rd.
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, The Savannah Room, 1197 S Lumpkin St.

Wednesday, February 28

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Council Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 p.m. The Bookless Book Group, The Savannah Room, 1197 S Lumpkin 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
- 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. Lenten Service Project: Bucket Brigade, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 1

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Bride's Room
- 10:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Room 302
- 12:00 p.m. Stephen Leaders Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Magnolia Estates, 1641 Virgil Langford Rd., Watkinsville

Friday, March 2

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Closed for Teacher Training
- 6:45 p.m. Congregation Children of Israel, Dr. Carol Strickland guest preacher, 115 Dudley Dr.

Sunday, March 4 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

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.**