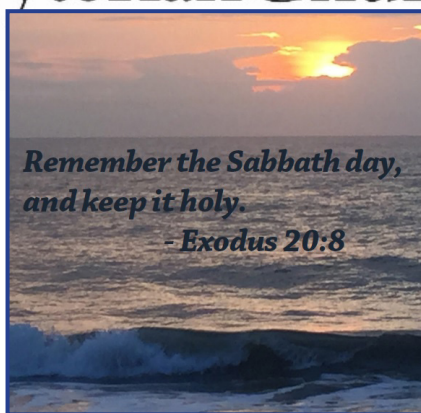


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



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!

March 4, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

What Wondrous Love Is This

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

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All heaven and earth proclaim the majesty of God's creative power!

Praise God for the amazing and awesome beauty.

Let us rejoice in God's complete and steadfast love for us.

*Hymn 101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, O God, that when Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, we would rather put our trust in our own works. When Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross, we cling to the comforts of our possessions. When Jesus calls us to follow him, we fear what changes that might bring to our lives. Redeem us, O God, from our sin that we would be transformed by your word.

*Those who are able may stand.

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

FPC 2nd Graders are our Communion Helpers. Bringing in the bread and cup today are Harper Havick and Charlie Phillips.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, a familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century, grew out of Isaac Watts' desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

***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.

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

***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 Deuteronomy 5:12-15, page 161

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

Second Lesson Romans 12:1-2, page 1035

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

Sermon Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Rest

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 374** Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

DICKINSON COLLEGE

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Of the Glorious Body Telling Charles Callahan

11:00 a.m. Offertory O God Unseen Mark Schweizer

O God, unseen yet ever near, thy presence may we feel;
 and thus inspired with holy fear, before thine altar kneel.
 Here may the faithful people know the blessings of thy love,
 the streams that through the desert flow, the manna from above.
 Thus may we all thy word obey, for we, O God, are thine;
 and go rejoicing on our way, renewed with strength divine.

***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**

Stephen Ministers:

- Susan Boatwright
- Bob Frisch
- Martha Harris
- Diane Hartzell
- Julie Knowlton
- Grace Lu
- Drew Marshall
- Jane McGown
- Karen Middendorf
- Lisa Oelke
- Jack Palmer
- Bert Prestegard
- Harry Shuford
- Rosemary Stancil
- Ella Stewart
- Susan Thackray
- Chuck Toney
- Laura Toney

Stephen Leaders:

- Dawn Frisch
- Larry Gray
- Carol Strickland

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."

A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

The musical setting of the communion liturgy was written by American composer Hal Hopson.

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward to receive the bread and dip it into the cup.

11:00 a.m. – Please partake as you are served.

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Following worship, all are invited to a reception in the Atrium to celebrate the commissioning of our Stephen Ministers.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| *Hymn 371 | Lift High the Cross | CRUCIFER |
| *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 | Lift High the Cross | David M. Cherwien |

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, Cash Havick

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop, Dominik Lee

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Leslye Queen

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins (head),
Mary Peace, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney (head),
Jason Doornbos, Terry McRae, Laura Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Dewitt
Pittman, Rick Simpson, Lawton Stephens

RECEPTION HOST

Congregational Care Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Steve Whiten

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Eve Marie Carson.

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

STEPHEN MINISTER

COMMISSIONING, Today

Today at both services we commission our first group of Stephen Ministers. They are trained to offer confidential, one-on-one, Christ-centered care and support to individuals who are going through difficult times. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact a Stephen Leader:

Dawn Frisch

dawnmfrisch@aol.com, 914-255-3447

Larry Gray

larryandsuegray@gmail.com ("Attention Larry")

706-202-1005

Carol Strickland

cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, 706-765-7671

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, 8:30 p.m.

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.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

March 30, 7:00 p.m.

We will host this year's Good Friday Presbyterian Community Service, which will be a Tenebrae Service led by area clergy and choirs. Meaning "darkness" or "shadows," the service of Tenebrae was first practiced in medieval times. It later became an important part of worship during Holy Week.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who gave blood at our drive on February 18! Thanks to our donors, who gave 28 units of blood, 84 lives can potentially be saved.

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:

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

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).

Last Wed@First for Winter: Bingo Night!

March 7, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Hello, First Presbyterian family. Please come to our first Bingo night on Wednesday, March 7. We are raising money for the Honduras mission trip. We are partnering with HOI to go into rural Honduras. 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; cards will be \$5 each. 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.

- March 4 - Practicing Sabbath series
- March 11 - 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: PC(USA) and The Book of Order, Rev.

Hilary Shuford teaching

TONIGHT

Our MS and HS youth groups are studying 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 |

* no youth group next week, March 11, due to Spring Break

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 4 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:40 a.m. Stephen Minister Reception, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Stephen Minister Reception, Atrium
- 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, March 5

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Circle 2, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 7:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Dawgs, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, March 6

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Carol Ashmore, 265 Waterford Way
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, March 7 - Last Wed@First for Winter

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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. Bingo Night, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 8

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Thrive at Athens Assisted Living, 2040 Resurgence Dr., Watkinsville
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball Tournament, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.
- 8:30 p.m. Men's Softball begins vs. Trinity Baptist, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Sunday, March 11

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

LOOKING AHEAD

March 14 - The Bookless Book Group

March 25 - Palm Sunday, Meet the donkey and join the Palm Procession, Upper Parking Lot

March 25 - April 1 - Prayer Stations, The PIT

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 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.**