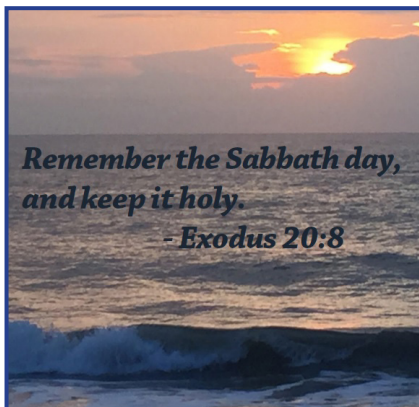


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



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 11, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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.**

Prelude

Aria

Flor Peeters

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

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 faithfulness.

**We are revived, restored, and renewed by God's strength
and encouragement.**

We gather to worship, glad to receive God's gifts for the journey together.

**We lift up our hearts, minds, and voices to praise God's
steadfast love.**

*Those who are able may stand.

Addressing the first two stanzas to the singers of Hymn 476 and the last three to God, this free paraphrase of Psalm 104 recasts the psalmist's imagery with baroque verve. Though it was first published in England, the tune has been more popular in North America than there.

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.

***Hymn 476** O Worship the King, All Glorious Above! LYONS

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

In Jesus, we see a life of sacrifice, humility, and love. We confess that we have chosen to live in the name of success, self-importance, and security. Meet us in our sinfulness, loving God, and lead us back to green pastures and still waters as you restore our soul.

***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 Isaiah 56:1-8, page 672

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin, and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart, before thee now and evermore. Amen.

Second Lesson Luke 13:10-17, page 952

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

Sermon Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Embrace

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy IN BABILONE

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

Offertory

O God Thou Faithful God Johannes Brahms

*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

The stanzas of Hymn 298, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

* Hymn 275	God of Our Life	SANDON
* 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	Toccata	David Hegarty

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. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Logan Bono

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Chiara Bono, Lizzie Simmons

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Kitty Donnan

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney (head),
Terry McRae, Robert Simmons,
Laura Toney

GREETERS

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

11:00 a.m. David Beck, Lillian Beck,
Marie Ledford, Tim Ledford

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Terry Nestor

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

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.

We welcome Dr. Martha Braswell as our guest organist and choir director today. Martha and her husband James have recently moved back to Athens from Pasadena, TX and joined our church. She is a retired organist, choral director, and professor of music.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Stephen Covington will host our next gathering at his home, 545 Milledge Circle, where we'll enjoy March Madness basketball, along with plenty of food and fellowship. RSVP to Dan Trier, dantrier@hotmail.com.

PALM SUNDAY

March 25

Everyone is invited to join the palm procession at 10:40 a.m. in the upper parking lot. The St. Andrew's and Cherub choirs will be singing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS

March 25 - April 1, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to spend time in The PIT exploring prayer stations based on the Holy Days leading up to Easter.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Dinner & Service, March 29, 5:30 p.m.

Dinner (donations accepted) in Fellowship Hall, with worship around the tables beginning at 6:30 p.m., including a short drama and the Lord's Supper. Please RSVP on the fellowship pad, at the church website, or to the church office by Monday, March 26 to help us plan. Nursery will be provided for infants and toddlers.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

March 30, 7:00 p.m.

We will host this year's Good Friday Presbyterian Community Service, 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.

EASTER EGG HUNT & PICNIC

March 31, 12:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket, picnic basket with lunch, and blanket for your family. Please RSVP to Natalie.

EASTER

April 1, Worship Services 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Brunch 9:30 a.m.

Please join us for the celebration of the risen Christ. Instead of Sunday School we will all gather as a church family for our annual Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

April 1

A gift to OGHS on Easter enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment to the poor and oppressed. Thank you for giving generously!

PTP Trip to Columbia Theological Seminary

March 23, 8:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will visit Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. Meet at the Kohl's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to take the church van. We will attend Chapel at 10:00 a.m., followed by an information session about CTS and a walking tour of the campus. We will have lunch at the Refectory on campus and return to Athens after lunch.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 19 to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888.

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, April 8, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Informational class led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Moses Waddel Room
Child care provided (with reservation)

Sunday, April 15, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea, the Session will receive those wishing to join

Sunday, April 22, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

Please contact Lucy in the church office at lbell@firstpresathens.org by April 4.

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, The Twelve Disciples by Douglas Connelly.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- March 11 - Practicing Sabbath series
- March 18 - 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

There is no confirmation class today but all youth are invited to The PIT for a time of fellowship during Sunday School.

TONIGHT No youth group tonight due to Spring Break

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

Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open, Maker Fun Factory!
Tuesday, May 29 - Friday, June 1

A link to details & online registration can be found on the home page at firstpresathens.org. We need your help! To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 11

- 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

Monday, March 12

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Spring Break begins
6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, March 13

- 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

Wednesday, March 14

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Pictures, Children's Ministry Suite
9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, White Tiger, 217 Hiawasse Ave.
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
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 15

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Pkwy.
6:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Home of Stephen Covington, 545 Milledge Cir.
7:30 p.m. Men's Softball begins vs. Beech Haven, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Sunday, March 18

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

March 25 - April 1 - Prayer Stations, The PIT

March 27 - First Friends

March 28 - The Bookless Book Group

March 29 - Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service

March 30 - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, March 26**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a pew pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications.

Each dedication will be listed in the April 1 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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.**