



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!

April 8, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Easter

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

Dialogue

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 119, Stanza 1

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

A fruit of the Spirit is gentleness.

Let all who seek God rejoice and be glad!

Happy are those who make the Lord their trust.

Let our worship be filled with praise for God's steadfast love.

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Lord, forgive us for every occasion on which we have substituted hatred for love. Forgive us for every sneer, every unkind word, every unjust judgment, ever self-righteous opinion. Forgive us for every person broken, crushed, bruised, refused dignity or robbed of respect by our inhumanity. Forgive us and re-create us in your image through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Hymn 482, a very strong 17th-century German hymn, employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

*Those who are able may stand.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

*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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

TALLIS' CANON

**Eternal light, shine in my heart;
eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support;
eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

First Lesson

Colossians 4:2-6, page 1076

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

With A Voice Of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, alleluia.

○ be joyful in God, all ye lands,

○ sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

Second Lesson

Deuteronomy 34:1-8, page 191

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

Sermon

Thoughts on the Back Nine of Life

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 1977

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.

The anthem was composed for the 1923 Annual Festival of the Rochester Diocesan Church Choirs Association. Martin Shaw was part of the generation that included Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams. His over 300 works include songs, hymns, carols, oratorios, and four operas. He was also uncle to actor Sebastian Shaw who played Darth Vader in the 1983 film Return of the Jedi.

The Affirmation of Faith is an excerpt from a contemporary statement of faith which the church adopted as "a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration."

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. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Ron Cox, Jimmy Bishop

Acolytes

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

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. A.J. Carr

11:00 a.m. Lucy Ferguson

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Bill Woolbright, Mary Ben Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Stephen Covington (head),
Robbie Bryan, Michael Earl, Joe Hermanowicz,
Mike Morris, John Turner

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Carroll Gaillard,
Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. David Beck, Lillian Beck,
Robyn McDonald, Ella Stewart

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Mary Attaway

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Steve Whiten

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. F.H. Mendenhall by the Mendenhall family .

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.

Pictorial Directories are Here!

If you had your picture taken for our new pictorial directory, please stop by the church office during the week to pick up your copy. We have also printed out copies for church members who were not able to have their pictures taken.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

John Coble & Geneva Stonecipher Concert Organists

April 29, 4:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LASAGNA FUNDRAISER

Pick-up Today

Twenty-seven FPC members are going to Honduras for a week of service and learning in June. If you ordered lasagna, please pick it up after the service in Fellowship Hall. There will be a few extra for sale, \$20.00 each. Thank you!

We are also selling stock. All money goes directly to fund our trip. For \$25, you will receive a certificate and regular emails and pictures before and during the trip. Please write a check to FPC for your share(s) and note "Honduras."

- Jordan Osborne, College Student

"ALL GOD'S CREATURES"

Animals & Art Activities

April 12, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Church families are invited to bring their children and friends to this Weekday School program in the courtyard. All will experience a variety of God's animals in a hands-on way. There will be fun art activities for children, too!

PW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

April 15, 12:15 p.m.

All FPC women are invited to a luncheon marking the founding of Presbyterian Women in 1922. Circle members will provide delicious salads and birthday cake. After lunch the Rev. Margaret Davis will present a program entitled "In Community with the Household of Faith" in the Moses Waddel Room. Please RSVP to the church office by April 10 to help us plan.

PTP PROGRAM WITH RON BOGUE

April 17, 10:00 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will have the second part of the history of our church in the Moses Waddel Room. We appreciate Ron's willingness to share his knowledge with us. After the presentation we will enjoy lunch at Trappeze Pub. Please RSVP by April 14 to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706-549-2888.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Head out to the ballpark with the Men's Fellowship for UGA vs. Tennessee. Kids invited. RSVP to Dan Trier, dantrier@hotmail.com.

TWILIGHT WATER STATIONS

April 28, 7:45 - 9:30 a.m.

FPC will again host a water station at the Twilight 5K race. Please contact Carol Strickland, cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, to help.

YOUTH SUNDAY

April 29, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Our youth are hard at work preparing for Youth Sunday. We look forward to supporting them as they lead us in worship with the theme of peace.

IHNA HOST WEEK

May 6-13

Please sign-up in the Atrium today for our next Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week. You may also check the online calendar or email Patty Whiten, pattywhiten@windstream.net, to volunteer.

FPC Women's Retreat

April 20 - 22, Sign-up Deadline Today!

Treat yourself (or a woman you love) to a soul-nourishing weekend away as we explore receiving the gift of order amid the chaos of our lives. We will be on beautiful Lake Greenwood in SC. Cost is \$165. Carpooling & scholarships available. Register by April 8. See the FPC website for details.

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

Informational Class led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Staff Conference Room

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

New Member Tea, home of Lawton & Mary Stephens, 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

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

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.

- April 8 - Rick Simpson presentation on his mission trip to Bangladesh

- April 15 - Mary Elizabeth McConnell on Care Teams, which support foster parents

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 book of Romans.

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: 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: No class

Sunday School: Help with lasagna sales, Fellowship Hall

TONIGHT

(Un)FROZEN CHOSEN CUP, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The 4th Annual FCC, a friendly competition between area Presbyterian youth groups, will be held at OPC this year and will be water themed. Come prepared to get wet. Bring a towel and a friend. Pizza dinner provided. Meet at Oconee Presbyterian Church, 2601 Hog Mountain Rd.

April Combined Youth Group Sunday Evening Schedule:

5:00-5:30	Celebration Singers choir rehearsal
5:30-6:00	Fellowship, The PIT
6:00-6:30	Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:30-7:30	Youth Sunday planning, The PIT

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 8

- 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
- 3:00 p.m. New Member Class, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel 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. (Un)Frozen Chosen Cup, Oconee Presbyterian Church, 2601 Hog Mountain Rd.

Monday, April 9

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Facilitators, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, April 10

- 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 Meeting, Moses Waddel Room, Room 308, 310

Wednesday, April 11

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe, 227 Prince Ave.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Athens Clarke County Courthouse
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 12

- 2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Quiet Oaks, 125 Quiet Oak Dr., Crawford
- 5:30 p.m. All God's Creatures, Courtyard
- 8:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. St. Joseph's, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Sunday, April 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Mr. Isaac Toney preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

April 15 - Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon
New Member Tea

April 17 - Primetime Presbyterians Program with Ron Bogue, Moses Waddel Room

April 20 - 22 - Women's Retreat

April 24 - First Friends, Bone Island Grill

April 25 - The Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grill

April 29 - Youth Sunday

April 29 - The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents John Coble & Geneva Stonecipher, Concert Organists

May 6 - Scottish Reformation Sunday

May 6 - 13 - IHNA Host Week

May 13 - Blessing of the 5th Graders
High School Graduate Recognition

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.**