



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 15, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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.

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 Adagio and Allegro from Concerto II G. F. Handel

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 your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Come, worship God, who encourages kindness and humility.

The Eastertide stanzas of Hymn 121 are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

***Hymn 121** That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



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

Acts 3:12-19, page 995

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

The Christ Who Died

Alfred V. Fedak

The anthem was composed in honor of Marge McConnell Russell and Sandra McConnell Patton in appreciation of their service as Directors of Music at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Georgia.

The Christ who died and rose again, triumphant from the grave, now pleads our cause at God's right hand, all-powerful to save. What now can separate us from the love of Christ our Lord? Can persecution, nakedness, or peril, or sword? The troubles that are ours to bear are trials we cannot flee, he who loved us from the first ensures our victory. Thus, nothing in the heights or depths, no power earth can afford will separate us from the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Yes, he who loved us from the first is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Lesson Luke 24:36b-48, page 967
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Still Wondering Mr. Isaac Toney

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 104 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! HYMN TO JOY

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Paul Manz

***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 122** Thine Is the Glory JUDAS MACCABEUS

***Benediction**

In commenting on the late 20th-century text of Hymn 104, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

The Refrain will be sung after all stanzas.

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium.

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*Congregational Response

AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

Postlude

Toccata on GAUDEAMUS PARITER

James Biery

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, Cate DeMaria

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Kate Ness, Sam Seward

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Keith Oelke

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Stephen Covington (head),
Robbie Bryan, Michael Earl,
Bo Thurston

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Terry Nestor, Keith Oelke,
Lisa Oelke, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. David Beck, Lillian Beck,
Melinda Miller, Courtney Pittman

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Shirley Chambliss

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Katherine Elise Plumbee and Brian Henry Baker, who were married in our sanctuary April 14, 2018.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Harvey Ruth Ryder on April 5, 2018. Harvey Ruth is the daughter of Glenn and Garland Collins Ryder and the granddaughter of Scott and Beth Collins.

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 Mr. Isaac Toney as our guest preacher today. Isaac is a Master of Divinity student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta and has been accepted as an Inquirer by the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. He graduated in May 2016 from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, where he studied history and religion with a focus in Christian ethics. Isaac grew up and was confirmed in our church and is the son of Chuck and Laura Toney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Today, 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 in the Fellowship Hall Break Out Area. After lunch, the Rev. Margaret Davis will present a program entitled "In Community with the Household of Faith" in the Moses Waddel Room. If you did not have a chance to RSVP, we still welcome you to join us.

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 Christian Cordon, christiancordonrome@gmail.com, 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.

SCOTTISH REFORMATION SUNDAY

May 6, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Our annual celebration of our Scottish heritage at both worship services, along with recognition of local and state dignitaries at 11:00 a.m.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

On May 13 we will recognize our high school graduates. If you have a senior you would like to be recognized, please contact Kim Ness, kness@firstpresathens.org.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

June 9-16

Holy Joe Coffee

Jittery Joe's house blend coffee is on sale in the Atrium, \$15 each. It will also be on sale in the church office during the week. All proceeds benefit the Honduras Mission Trip.

Lasagna Thank You

We sold 125 pans of lasagna, raising \$1,250! Thank you to everyone who enjoyed our delicious lasagna.

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**

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 15 - Mary Elizabeth McConnell on Care Teams, which support foster parents
- April 22 - UGA graduate student David Stanley on Clarke County Mentor Program

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, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday evenings, we come back together to explore our faith through activities focused on mission, discipleship, and lots of fun!

THIS MORNING

Confirmation: Our Beliefs: The Book of Confession, Dr. John Kipp teaching

Sunday School: Youth Sunday decorations

TONIGHT

Youth Sunday Preparation: the theme is, "Blessed be the Peacemakers."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Mr. Isaac Toney preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Honduras Mission Trip Meeting, The PIT
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Home of Lawton & Mary Stephens, 1040 Willow Ridge
- 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. Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, April 16

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, April 17

- 10:00 a.m. Primetime Presbyterians Program with Ron Bogue, part 2, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Vault Work, Room 127

Wednesday, April 18

- 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
- 4:15 p.m. Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 19

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Mulberry Grove Senior Living, 343 Price St., Statham
- 8:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Beech Haven, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, April 20 - Sunday, April 22

Women's Retreat, Fellowship Camp and Conference Center, Waterloo, SC

Sunday, April 22

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

LOOKING AHEAD

April 24 - First Friends, Bone Island Grillhouse

April 25 - The Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grille

April 29 - Youth Sunday

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 9 & 23 - Bookless Book Group

May 10 - Men's Fellowship Golf Outing

May 13 - Blessing of the 5th Graders

High School Graduate Recognition

May 20 - Pentecost - Wear Red!

Confirmation Sunday

Pentecost Offering

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.**