



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 22, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

Jesus offers rest to all who are weary, carrying heavy burdens.

Jesus offers love, forgiveness, and grace,

for our Savior will give us peace in our souls.

Come, let us worship our God.

Let us follow our Savior who leads us into life.

*Hymn 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Lord, we are often unaware of when you meet us in life.

When we struggle with suffering, we think you are absent.

We neglect your presence when we neglect the needs of our sick, our poor, our hungry, the least of these among us.

Forgive us when we forget you in the cares of our everyday lives. Walk with us and lead us again into the fullness of your compassion.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for Hymn 260, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

*Those who are able may stand.

***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.

11:00 a.m. Introduction of New Members

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

Psalms 57:1-11, page 513

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

arr. Jody W. Lindh

If thou but suffer God to guide thee, and hope in him through all thy ways, God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days; who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that naught can move. Only be still and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content to take whate'er thy Father's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent; no doubt our inmost wants are known to God who chose us for his own. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; in all thy labor faithful be, and trust his word, though undeserving, thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God never yet forsook in need the soul that trusts in him indeed.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 10:1-13, page 1046

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

Sermon

Did God Really Promise Never to Give You More Than You Can Bear?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 269

O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand

DUNDEE

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS 1977

**God sustains the goodness of creation.
God called all he had made good.
We declare that the universe of matter, energy, and life
is God’s good creation in all its parts.
The power of evil to hurt and destroy,
to cut off the possibilities of full human life,
calls into question the power and goodness of God.
Whether we understand evil personally or impersonally,
we cannot explain how it originated in a world made good.
But we can affirm that evil is God’s enemy as well as ours.
In Christ, God shared our agony over evil
and broke the back of its power
by bearing the worst it could do.
God works continually to overcome evil.
We declare God’s steadfast love and sovereign power.**

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.”

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.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update Stephen Covington

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
Helmut Walcha

***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**

A North American congregational minister wrote the text of Hymn 540 as a Christian expansion of the root sense of “good-bye”: God be [with] ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 540** God Be with You Till We Meet Again RANDOLPH

***Benediction**

***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.**

Following 8:45 a.m. worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium.

Postlude A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Helmut Walcha

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

Following 11:00 a.m. worship, all are invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall to welcome our new members.

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 and down the stairs to the Children's Ministry Suite.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller, Lorenzo Fischetti

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Celeste Fischetti, Joanne Fischetti

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Stephen Covington (head),
Ann Harper Covington, Celeste Covington,
Bo Thurston, Jeffrey Trapnell, Bo Thurston

GREETERS

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

11:00 a.m. Marie Ledford, Tim Ledford,
Dan Nadenicek, Harry Shuford

RECEPTION HOST

Terry Nestor

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of David H. Donnan's 94th birthday by Kitty Donnan.

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.

Pentecost

May 20, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Wear RED!

Confirmation Sunday

Pentecost Offering

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 STATION

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 & TRAINING

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. A training session will be held today at 12:30 p.m., Athens Church of Christ, 3720 Mars Hill Rd., Watkinsville.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GOLF OUTING

May 10, 4:00 p.m.

All FPC men are invited to join the Men's Fellowship for golf and dinner at Jennings Mill Country Club. For details and to RSVP, please contact Dan Trier, dantrier@hotmail.com.

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, by May 1.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

We would like to honor our college graduates in the June issue of our Columns newsletter. To recognize someone, please send their name, school, degree, future plans, and a picture to Nan Powell, nan@firstpresathens.org, by May 13.

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.

Prayer Cards

You are invited to write a note of encouragement or prayer for our 27 missionaries. Cards are available on the bulletin board in the reception area and will be distributed during the trip!

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

John Coble & Geneva Stonecipher

Concert Organists

April 29, 4:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary**

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner!

Maker Fun Factory, May 29 – June 1

We are looking forward to a wonderful week together! Please be sure to register online for Vacation Bible School at firstpresathens.org by **Friday, May 4.**

To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

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 22 - UGA graduate student David Stanley on Clarke County Mentor Program
- April 29 - Laurie Reitsema will speak about the slave graves at UGA

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 Membership: Group Faith Statement

Sunday School: Youth Sunday decorations

TONIGHT

Youth Sunday rehearsal. Meet in the Sanctuary.



Youth Sunday is Next Week!



THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 22

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Honduras Mission Trip Meeting, The PIT
- 12:05 p.m. New Member Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 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

Monday, April 23

- 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

Tuesday, April 24

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Meeting, Moses Waddel 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
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Bone Island Grillhouse, 2055 Oconee Connector

Wednesday, April 25

- 11:30 p.m. Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grille, 2310 W. Broad St.
- 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 26

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Highland Hills Village, 1660 Jennings Mill Rd., Watkinsville
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Living Hope, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, April 27

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship, UGA Baseball Game, Foley Field, 1 E. Rutherford St.

Saturday, April 28

- 7:45 a.m. Twilight Water Station, Corner of Satula and Boulevard

Sunday, April 29 - Youth Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Youth Sunday theme is, "Blessed be the Peacemakers."

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Mother's Day Offering

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.**