



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!

August 5, 2018
10:00 a.m.
Senior Adult Sunday

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 the service. 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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether Gerre Hancock

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission Senior Adult Ministries Harry Shuford

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends.

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! The banquet is prepared." Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Come young, come old.
Come tenderfoots, new on this journey.
Come sages, experienced travelers on the way.
Come one, come all!
Come to hear stories of the faithful.
Come to worship the Author of our lives.
Come to leave, knowing that we do not go alone.

It seems odd now to think of singing the text of Hymn 361 to ADESTE FIDELES (O Come, All Ye Faithful), but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

*Hymn 361 How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God, our Creator: we can be blind to beauty that surrounds us, deaf to the cries of our neighbors, and mute when we should speak.

God, our Redeemer: forgive us for our failure to sense your movement in our lives.

God, our Sustainer: by your grace, open our eyes to see you at work, our ears to hear your voice, and our lips to tell the story of your love.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***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.

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 454, Stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson

Joel 1:2-3, page 830

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

Second Lesson

Hebrews 11-12, selected verses, page 1098

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

Sharing Stories of Faith

John Simpson
Ray Schofield
Diane Adams

Despite the quaintness of some of the language in Hymn 364, it has an important message to communicate about the down-to-earth ordinariness of the holy people of God at all times and places. The tune name honors the island in Vermont's Lake Champlain where the composer lived.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 364**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

GRAND ISLE

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great 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...

The communion text of the offertory anthem calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The composer was a well-known American organist, performer, and educator, teaching at Julliard and Union Seminary.

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

"...and magnify your glorious name, joining our voices in the eternal hymn:"

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.

"...as we await the day of his coming, proclaiming the mystery of faith:"

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

“...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.”



Please partake as you are served.

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



Over the summer, the children will be learning about different parts of worship. The children are invited forward where they find the church mouse.

Following worship, all are invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall honoring our Senior Adults.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

. . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 145**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

Time for Children

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Postlude**

How Firm a Foundation

Wilbur Held

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 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists

Carol Strickland, John Kipp

Lay Reader

Tom Landrum

USHERS

Phyllis Crowell (head), Allen Crowell,
Kitty Donnan, Diane Hartzell, Mary Peace,
Rick Simpson

GREETERS

Jim Dove, Terry Nestor, Ella Stewart

RECEPTION HOST

Congregational Care Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 63rd wedding anniversary of Bertis E. Downs III (1931-1964) and Ann Bryan Downs in Watervliet, New York on August 4, 1955, by Bertis E. Downs IV.

The Narthex flowers are in honor of our Senior Adult Ministries and members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Today, 5:30 p.m.

The Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens invites the community to gather and offer blessings to the teachers, students, and staff of the Clarke County School District as the new year begins. The service will be held at Piedmont College, 595 Prince Avenue.

IHNA HOST WEEK, Begins today!

Please pray for our guests and volunteers this week as we share God's love through hospitality.

IHNA Training: If you would like to become a volunteer with Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, please attend a training session. No registration is needed; please contact Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net if you have any questions. The next IHNA training is: **Sunday, August 26, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.**, Ashford Methodist Church, 1 N. Main St., Watkinsville.

FELLOWSHIP@FIRST: FALL KICKOFF BRUNCH, August 12, 9:45 a.m.

Join us for brunch in Fellowship Hall as we resume two worship services (at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.) and look forward to the beginning of our fall activities. Sunday School information will be available.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

August 19, 9:45 a.m.

Please see the next page for more information.

NEW HOSPITAL VISITATION POLICY

Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center has informed us that they will no longer be able to provide our pastors and lay callers a list of FPC members who are in the hospital. They will need to say who they are there to visit.

If you are in the hospital, please call the church office so we can provide pastoral care.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

August 12, 11:00 a.m.

We invite all students to bring their backpacks next Sunday for a special blessing as we begin another school year. This year we are adding to this "backpack tradition" by not just bringing our backpacks to church, but by asking you to please fill them full of extra school supplies* that will be donated to students in Athens and surrounding counties who need additional school materials.

***Needed School Supplies:** bookbags, notebook paper, pencils, new or gently used uniforms, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pens, glue sticks, scissors, 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks (single or multi-subject), and folders with pockets and prongs

WELCOME WILL NORMAN, August 26

The Rev. Will Norman joined the Presbyterian Student Center at UGA as Campus Minister on August 1. He and his family will join us at both services on August 26, with a reception following the 11:00 a.m. service. We look forward to welcoming the Normans to Athens and FPC!

Senior Adult Sunday, Today Stories of the Faithful

The theme for today's worship service honoring our senior adult members is "Stories of the Faithful." We will hear stories from three of our faithful members, who have been asked to relate a "story of faith" illustrating where God has been active in their lives. Our speakers are:

John Simpson is the retired Director of the Athens YMCA (1972-2002) and Athens Y Camp (until the early 1990s). His career with the YMCA spanned 43 years in Athens and other communities. He grew up at First Presbyterian Church and has been a member here for all but ten years when he was away from Athens serving elsewhere. Married to Eva for 58 years, they have two children and three grandchildren.

Ray Schofield is a retired physician who was born in Chetek, Wisconsin. He joined First Presbyterian Church in 1984 with his wife Betty, to whom he has been married 62 years. They have three children, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Diane Adams, a realtor and a lifelong member, is a third generation First Presbyterian. She was married 51 years to the late Buck Adams. Diane was baptized and married at FPC. She has lived all of her life in Athens except for five years in Brazil when Buck was serving in the Peace Corps. She has three children and eleven grandchildren.

Following the service please join us for a reception in Fellowship Hall as we honor our senior adult members.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 19

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.

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.

The children will begin each Sunday morning all together in the Children's Ministry Suite with Holy Moly (short animated Bible Story videos). Immediately following Holy Moly, the children will head to their Godly Play Rooms.

Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten • Room 126 in Children's Ministry Suite

1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade • Children's Ministry Suite

4th Grade - 5th Grade • Godly Play Room #1,

Tinsley Stern Building (across from library)

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Natalie Bishop,

Jody Cory, Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson,

Madie Fischetti, Denise Horton, Matt Jones, Mary

Elizabeth McConnell, Carmen Meadows, Heather

Roberts, Dan Trier

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 308

Study of the book, Paul: His Life and Teaching by Jack Kuhatschek.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

- August 19 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine
- August 26 - UGA graduate student Jason Mizell will speak on Parkview/Bridging Communities

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Living on a Prayer • Room 303

Devotionals based on scripture, led by different class members. Sandwich project on first Sundays.

Led by: Karen Burg

New Voices • Room 310

Study of the book, The Flute Beneath the Gold by Charles Poole.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Study of Romans with other books of the New Testament to follow.

Led by: Richard Stone

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Study of the Joseph saga, Genesis 37-50.

Teacher: John Kipp

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of Hebrews.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAYS in The PIT

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

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 a time of fellowship and fun including donuts and devotion. Beginning in September, a different member of the congregation will lead a 3-4 week series on topics ranging from the Old Testament to Disney movies!

Confirmation Class, open to 9th graders, 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). Please contact Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org) to sign up.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

New Sunday Evening Schedule:

4:30-5:30 Middle School youth group

5:30-6:15 Celebration Singers choir rehearsal

6:30-8:00 High School youth group

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 5 - Senior Adult Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:05 a.m. Senior Adult Sunday Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 1:45 p.m. IHNA Host Week begins, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Interfaith Service for Clarke County Schools, Piedmont College, 595 Prince Ave.

Monday, August 6

- 5:00 p.m. Nominations & Elections Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, August 7

- 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, Children's Ministry Suite
- 4:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, August 8

- 11:30 p.m. Bookless Book Group, White Tiger, 217 Hiawasse Ave.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:15 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Saturday, August 11

- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play Guides' Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Work Day, Children's Ministry Suite

Sunday, August 12

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

LOOKING AHEAD

August 12 - Two Worship Services Resume
Fellowship@First: Fall Kickoff Brunch, Back-to-School Blessing

August 19 - Sunday School Begins
Honduras Shareholders' Dinner

August 17-19 & 25-26 - Books for Keeps Annual Book Sale

August 20 - Weekday School Begins

August 22 - Bookless Book Group

August 26 - Welcome Will Norman, new Campus Minister at UGA Presbyterian Student Center

September 16 & 17 - Soul Shop, Suicide Awareness Training

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, September 16, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, September 23, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea at the home of Linda & Bill Childers, the Session will receive those wishing to join

Sunday, September 30, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

Please contact Lucy Bell in the church office at lbell@firstpresathens.org by September 12.

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 Terrell Covington
DeeAnn Cox
Mary Havick
Bob Glasscock
Joe Hermanowicz
Richard Lane
Mary Peace
Lawton Stephens
Dan Trier

CLASS OF 2020

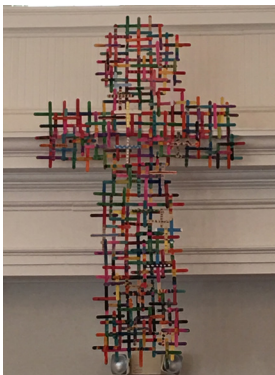
Jeff Bangle
Meghan Bawcum
Bob Burton
Julie Hayes
Sydney Jackson
Avery McLean
Jeanne Nadenicek
Carl Nichols
Tom Reigle
Judy Scanlon

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

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.



Children's Ministry Cross

During Vacation Bible School 2018, each child painted a popsicle stick cross. These special crosses were then placed together to construct the new Children's Ministry cross which is displayed in the Sanctuary today. It will hang permanently in the Children's Ministry Suite.