



# 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!

August 19, 2018  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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

Berceuse

Louis Vierne

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Moment for Mission

Soul Shop

Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

### Song of Gathering

Hymn 489, Stanza 1

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there.**

**Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;**

**O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

### Call to Worship

In a world filled with fear,

**we will listen to Jesus' words, "Don't be afraid!"**

In a world filled with hate,

**we will live Jesus' call to love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself.**

We come to this place ready to be who we are called to be.

**Let us gather together and worship God.**

### \*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

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

The opening line of Hymn 263 was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, we are so willing to descend into the worst areas life offers us but are reluctant to come into your presence. We are able to stand on sin's shaky ground but find it impossible to dance in your joy. We are so quick to trumpet our hollow achievements but do not seem to be able to hear your whispers of hope. Forgive us, God of grace, and fill us with your mercy. May we set our trust in Jesus Christ who claims us as friends to live in your love forever.**

**\*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.

**11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism**

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Harvey Ruth Ryder, daughter of Glenn and Garland Collins Ryder.

**\*Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Harvey by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

**\*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.**

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

At the 8:45 a.m. service, worship continues at the top of page 3.

After the Baptism 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.

## 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.**

Originally conceived to be sung before a sermon, Hymn 454 (the first stanza of which is our Prayer for Illumination) assumes a congregation that assembles regularly. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

### First Lesson Colossians 1:15-20, page 1074

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

### 11:00 a.m. Anthem

I Will Arise

arr. Alice Parker  
and Robert Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms,  
in the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.  
Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,  
streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

### Second Lesson John 15:12-17, page 986

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

### Sermon

A Friend of Jesus

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

\*Hymn 366 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me ST. CATHERINE

\*8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

### 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.**

John Wesley learned the original German text of Hymn 366 from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas. The tune, named for a 4th-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19th century.

### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory

I Will Arise

Robert J. Powell

#### \*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.**

Hymn 440 (next page) expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of the text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

* <b>Hymn 440</b>	In Christ There Is No East or West	MCKEE
* <b>Benediction</b>		
* <b>Congregational Response</b>		AR HYD Y NOS
	<b>Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.</b>	
* <b>Postlude</b>	Carillon	Louis Vierne

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 to the Children's Ministry Suite located down the stairs in the Atrium, through the glass door to the right.

---

---

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgist

Carol Strickland

#### Lay Readers

**8:45 a.m.** Lisa Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

#### Baptism Elder

Scott Collins, grandfather of Harvey Ruth Ryder

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** Randy Dudley (head),

Mary Peace, James Seagraves

**11:00 a.m.** Phyllis Crowell (head),

Allen Crowell, Jerris Hayes, Richard Lane,  
Ed Law, Ella Stewart

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Jim Dove, Carroll Gaillard,

Diane Hartzell, John Simpson

**11:00 a.m.** Marie Ledford, Tim Ledford,

Carol McKay, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

### FELLOWSHIP HOST

Judy and Mark Harrison

### FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of John and Elinor Terrell, by their 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the fellowship pads.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

**Today, 9:45 a.m.**

If you aren't currently attending Sunday School, fall is the perfect time to try out a new class. Information about classes for all ages is on the reverse side of this page.

### HONDURAS SHAREHOLDERS' DINNER, Today, 6:00 p.m.

A reminder, for all those who made a reservation, to come enjoy a Honduran meal in Fellowship Hall and hear about this summer's experience from our 25 missionaries.

### BOOKS FOR KEEPS ANNUAL BOOK SALE, Today & August 25-26

Thank you for donating two carloads of books to our spring book drive! Now it's time for the BFK sale, held this year in the space between Aldi and Mannaweenta on the corner of Gaines School Rd. and Cedar Shoals Rd. For details please visit [booksforkeeps.org/bfk-book-sale](http://booksforkeeps.org/bfk-book-sale).

### 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!

### IHNA TRAINING

**August 26, 12:30 p.m.**

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](mailto: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.

### YOUTH KICKOFF POTLUCK

**August 26, 6:30 p.m.**

Middle and High School youth and parents: join us for a Potluck Party in Fellowship Hall. Learn about the year, reconnect with friends, and fill out forms! Fun for all. Email Kim Ness with any questions at [kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org).

### THANK YOU, RICK!

Rick Simpson, member and volunteer church photographer, is moving to Portland, Oregon. Today is his last Sunday with us. Please join us in thanking him and wishing him well.

### 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.**

---

## Ways to Serve Forms New Year, New Form

God calls each of us to participate in the great drama of salvation history. Where are you in God's story? Where will you use the gifts, talents, and interests God has given you this year? The "Ways to Serve" form is an invaluable tool for our church and is revised annually to reflect current ministries. 2018-19 forms and return baskets are in the Narthex, Atrium and Church Office. Forms are also on our website home page.

If you haven't already, **please fill yours out today!** Every member is important.

---

## Download the Church Life App Today

Have you ever needed the phone number or address of a fellow church member and not had your directory handy? Would you like ready access to the church calendar? This information and more is available on your smartphone via the free Church Life App.

Just search "ACS Church Life App" from your app store. You will need to know your iTunes or Google Play password that you use when downloading any app. Contact Jennifer Sunderlin in the church office at 706-543-4338 if you have any questions.

We hope you will take advantage of this valuable church resource.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY

**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 all together each Sunday morning 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 Corry, 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.

Coordinator: 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. Based on the, "Big God Big Questions" curriculum, 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!

**Youth Kickoff Potluck, Sunday, August 26, 6:30 p.m.**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner and kickoff meeting. All MS and HS youth **and** their parents are encouraged to attend!

### 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 19

- 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. Weekday School Parents Only Meeting, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Honduras Shareholders' Dinner, Fellowship Hall

### Monday, August 20

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Begins, Weekday School
- 5:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### Tuesday, August 21

- 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

### Wednesday, August 22

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Bone Island Grillhouse, 2055 Oconee Connector
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### Sunday, August 26

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**August 26** - Welcome Will Norman, new Campus Minister at UGA Presbyterian Student Center  
Youth Kickoff Potluck

**August 28** - First Friends

**September 6** - Josephine Paine Bible Study Begins

**September 16 & 17** - Soul Shop, Suicide Awareness Training

**September 16, 23, 30** - New Member Class

**September 18** - Project Safe Work Day

### 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](mailto: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

### **STUDENT INTERN**

Ms. Yamini Pulusu, Website Technician

### **WADDEL FELLOWS**

Ms. Kathryn Kent, Youth Ministry  
Ms. Annabel McSpadden, Congregational Care

**PLEASE SEE [FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**