



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!

September 2, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Second 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

Prelude on SLANE

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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!**

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

Call to Worship

from Psalm 106

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Happy are those who observe justice and seek to do righteousness.

Blessed be the Lord, from everlasting to everlasting!

*Hymn 461

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You have never stopped loving us, O God, or giving us all we need. But we worry about tomorrow, about what we have and what we want. We worry about being liked by other people or what they might do to us. Worry makes us angry, greedy, and selfish. Forgive us for not trusting you and not loving one another. Keep convincing us of your generous love so that we may live by your Spirit and have peace.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, Hymn 461 is one of the few hymns to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Those who are able may stand.

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 1, are invited to Children's Church with Mrs. Charlotte for Sunday morning music time held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

Franz Liszt used the melody of Hymn 306 for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but the hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the original German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

*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.

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 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, page 1040

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

Second Lesson Mark 8:27-38, page 921

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

Sermon When You Get to the Top, What Does God See?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Fairest Lord Jesus

Charles Ore

11:00 a.m. Offertory Be Thou My Vision

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*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.

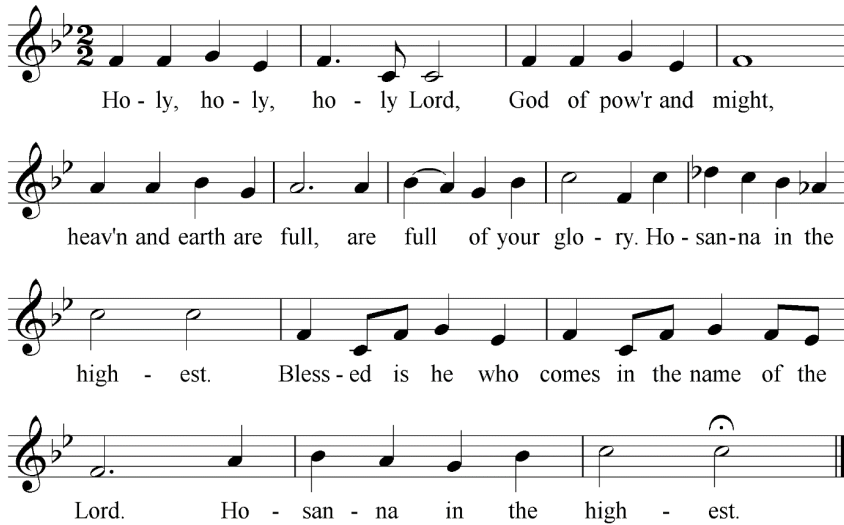
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...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."



A - men, A - men, A - men.

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 371**

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

***Benediction**

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

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward to receive the bread and dip it into the cup.

11:00 a.m. – Please partake as you are served.

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

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

***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**

Lift High the Cross

Charles Ore

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

John Kipp

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams

11:00 a.m. Christine Register

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Bobby Heath (head),

Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield (head),

Betsy Canfield, David Cole, Allen Crowell,

David Mendenhall, Chuck Toney

GREETERS

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

Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Svea Bogue,

Rosemary Stancil, Ella Stewart

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Carol McKay and Ian Hardin

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The Sancturay flowers are given to the glory of God.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Thaddeus Landan Respress on August 17, 2018. Thad is the son of Brandon and Trina Respress.

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.

Called Congregational Meeting

September 9, 11:55 a.m.

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 9 at 11:55 a.m. to elect ten Ruling Elders for the class of 2021. The slate of nominees is:

Jennifer Walden Abbott, Sandy Boyles, Michelle Clendenen-Shaw, Elizabeth Earl, Ed Ferguson, Rob Haire, Grace Lu, Chris Pope, Mixon Robinson, and Rosemary Stancil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAYS TO SERVE FORMS

New Year, New Forms

September 9 Deadline

Where are you in God's story? The "Ways to Serve" form is an invaluable tool and is revised annually to reflect current ministries. 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.

SOUL SHOP

September 16 & 17

FPC and Milledge Avenue Baptist Church are co-sponsoring Soul Shop, a nationally recognized suicide awareness training movement. This is for the entire community and will address how we think and talk about suicide. There will be two workshops:

Soul Shop for the Public

Sunday, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Soul Shop for Lay & Professional Faith Leaders

Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Details and registration are at firstpresathens.org. For questions please contact Madeline Van Dyck, madelinevandyck@gmail.com.

PROJECT SAFE WORK DAY

September 18

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

FELLOWSHIP@FIRST: PICNIC WITH UGA BAND, September 28, 5:30 p.m.

Pack your picnic basket, blanket, frisbee, and chairs and join friends of all ages at the intramural practice fields to enjoy hearing and watching the UGA Redcoat Marching Band practice. Come early for parking, if desired. Directions on the church website.

THINK STEPHEN MINISTRY!

Throughout the week, if you see people who are struggling through difficult times, tell them about this special ministry where they can receive the extra love and care they need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. They can contact Dawn Frisch (914-255-3447), Larry Gray (706-202-1005), or Carol Strickland (706-543-4338).

New Hospital Visitation Policy

Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center has informed us that they will no longer provide our pastors and lay callers a list of FPC members who are in the hospital. Therefore, **if you are in the hospital, please call the church office so we can provide pastoral care.**

PTP Program with Ron Bogue, Part 3

Tuesday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.

The Prime Time Presbyterians will start this new season by gathering in the Moses Waddel Room to hear Dr. Ron Bogue present Part 3 in his series exploring the history of First Presbyterian Church. Parts 1 and 2 were extremely enlightening.

After the presentation we will walk or drive to South Kitchen + Bar, 247 East Washington St., for lunch. Please email Phyllis Crowell, crowellpm@aol.com, by Tuesday, September 4, to make a lunch reservation. Everyone is welcome. Let's kick-off this PTP season by reaffirming our friendships and continuing support for church activities.

Brown Bag Bible Study, "Bad Boys and Bad Girls of the Bible"

Wednesdays, September 19 - November 14

Brown Bag Supper: 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited! Bring your supper to the Moses Waddel Room; families are welcome to bring children.

Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

We will have a Bible Study taught by Dr. Bruce Lancaster beginning at 6:30 p.m. and go for about an hour. Childcare will be provided.

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.

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, Julie Hayes, Denise Horton, Sydney Jackson, Matt Jones, Mary Elizabeth McConnell, Carmen Meadows, Heather Roberts, Dan Trier, Gail Wilfong

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.

- September 2 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine
- September 9 - Brad Turner from Campus Kitchen will speak

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 - 10:40 a.m.

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and devotion in The PIT. Each month, a different member of the congregation will lead a 3-week series on topics ranging from the Old Testament to Disney movies! **SEPTEMBER:** Building our Community, Robbie Bryan

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!

No youth group tonight due to Labor Day weekend.

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 & dinner

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 2 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

Monday, September 3 - Church Office & Weekday School Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 4

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
2:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Vault Work, Children's Ministry Suite
2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Nonie Hale, 115 Woodhaven Terr.
4:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, September 5

12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 6

10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
2:00 p.m. The Mellows Rehearsal, Room 202
5:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room

Sunday, September 9

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

LOOKING AHEAD

September 9 - Called Congregational Meeting

Ways to Serve Forms Deadline

September 16 & 17 - Soul Shop, Suicide Awareness Training

September 16, 23, 30 - New Member Class, Tea, and Introduction

September 18 - Project Safe Work Day

September 22 - Confirmation Opening Saturday Retreat

September 23 - Choir Dedication Sunday

September 28 - Fellowship@First: Picnic with UGA Redcoat Band

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

STUDENT INTERN

Ms. Yamini Pulusu, Website Technician

WADDEL FELLOWS

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

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.