



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 23, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Choir Dedication 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 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.

The prelude is performed by the Handbell Choir.

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

The 11:00 a.m. Song of Gathering is sung by the Cherub Choir.

Written to supply the tune of Hymn 264 with words suitable for occasions celebrating music, the text explores how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how sung faith has kept the church authentic, and how sound can be praise.

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prelude

Antiphonal Praise

Michael Bedford

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

8:45 a.m. Song of Gathering

Hymn 481, Stanza 1

Praise the Lord, God's glories show, Alleluia!

Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!

Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!

All that see and share God's love. Alleluia!

11:00 a.m. Song of Gathering

Siyahamba

South African

Call to Worship

Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

God's ways are just and merciful.

Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

*Hymn 264

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord of our lives, you call us to a journey of discipleship that is a journey into servanthood and vulnerability. Forgive us for being tempted to pursue power and to favor competition over compassion. Though Jesus Christ showed us exactly what it means to be the servant of all, we too often see others as rivals in the race for success, influence, and popularity. Put your living Spirit within us, we pray, so that we serve others and you with wisdom, mercy, justice, and compassion.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

GLORIA



Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***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. Dedication of Choirs

11:00 a.m. Anthem I Will Sing with the Spirit John Rutter

I will sing with the spirit: alleluia.

And I will sing with the understanding also: alleluia.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson Romans 5:7-13, page 1029

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

Second Lesson Psalm 98, page 540

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

Sermon Joy in the World Dr. Bruce Lancaster

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

Today we honor the ministry of our six choirs: Cherub Choir (age 4-grade1), St. Andrews Choir (grades 2-5), Celebration Singers (grades 6-12), Chancel Choir, The Mellows, and the Handbell Choir. The anthem is sung by the St. Andrews Choir, Celebration Singers, and Chancel Choir.

After the 11:00 a.m. Anthem, 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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 218

New Songs of Celebration Render RENDEZ À DIEU

*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

8:45 a.m. Offertory Improvisation on RENDEZ À DIEU

John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory The Chorister's Prayer K. Lee Scott

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple;
grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*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

The Genevan tune of Hymn 218 (created for Psalm 118 but also used for Psalm 98 in the 1562 edition of the Genevan Psalter) has worked successfully with several English texts. Here it sets a 20th-century paraphrase of Psalm 98 that owes much of its effectiveness to the author's skill with multisyllabic words.

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.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

* Hymn 253	I'll Praise My Maker	OLD 113TH
* Benediction		
* Congregational Response		Hymn 540, Stanza 1
	God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.	
* Postlude	When in Our Music God Is Glorified	David Cherwein

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

Liturgists

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Chiara Bono

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop, Sammy Pope

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Lisa Oelke

11:00 a.m. Margaret Johansen

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Betsy Canfield (head),
Ed Law, Joe Neighbors, Lois Neighbors,
Christine Register, Mickey Register

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Larry Jones, Lisa Oelke, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Bob Bostrom,
Nancy Bostrom, Melinda Miller

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Mary and Lawton Stephens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The Sancturay flowers are given to the glory of God.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Please join us in prayer for our neighbors suffering from the effects of Hurricane Florence. Visit pda.pcusa.org to learn more and give online or you may donate by calling 800-872-3283. Gifts can be designated DR000194-Florence.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 13, 10:00 a.m.

Join us for the Blessing of the Animals, held this year on the grounds of the Athens Community Council on Aging. It is located at 135 Hoyt St., just a few blocks from the church. Dr. Carol Strickland will offer a blessing for our furry and feathered friends. All pets are welcome. Invite your animal-loving neighbors and friends!

THE ARK

is launching a drive benefiting foster families who will have a new family member arrive in the near future! There will be a donation box in the Atrium until December 5 with a list of items needed on the box.

HELPING BEYOND FOSTERING

You can help a foster family by providing one meal a month, babysitting once a month, or calling a foster parent once a week. This support is manageable and extremely impactful. A local foster family is in need of our help right now. Please contact Mary Elizabeth McConnell (marye.mem314@gmail.com or 662-299-1391) if you can help them in one of these small ways.

STEPHEN MINISTERS SHARE LOVE

Stephen Ministry is one way our congregation carries out its mission of "sharing the love of Christ." Stephen Ministers are available to meet weekly and confidentially one-on-one for as long as needed with persons who are going through difficult times such as grief, extended illness, divorce, job-related stress, caring for disabled family members, etc. Contact a Stephen Leader to find out more: Dawn Frisch (914-255-3447), Larry Gray (706-202-1005), or Carol Strickland (706-543-4338)

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

Wednesdays through 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 going for about an hour. Childcare will be provided. This week's "bad girl" is Eve. You may prepare by reading Genesis 3:1-6.

"Bad Boys and Bad Girls of the Bible"

September 19 – Adam	October 17 – Jephthah
September 26 – Eve	October 24 – Jezebel
October 3 – Lot	November 7 – Samson
October 10 – Potiphar's Wife	November 14 – Delilah
(No class October 31)	

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. Look for our tent. Come early for parking, if desired.

Directions: From College Station Road, turn onto Lake Herrick Drive (between East Campus and Loop 10). Go .5 miles and turn left past the tennis courts. Look for the FPC tent in the field. Park here or at the Intramural Parking Deck you passed at .2 miles.

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 23 - Jim Scanlon will share about his experiences on the Honduras mission trip
- September 30 - Hilary Shuford, General Presbyter of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, will share her experiences from General Assembly this summer

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 Sunday School in the Staff Conference Room. This year, we will be using the new Presbyterian curriculum called, "Big God Big Questions."

TODAY: No confirmation class today due to Opening Retreat on Saturday. Join us for youth Sunday School in the PIT.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

Our stories are messy. God is faithful.

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 23 - Choir Dedication 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
- 2:30 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, home of Linda & Bill Childers, 153 West Lake Ct.
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 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
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group & Dinner, The PIT

Monday, September 24

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, September 25

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Group Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Pub on Main, 22. N. Main St., Watkinsville

Wednesday, September 26

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grill, 2310 W. Broad St.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part 2, Room 308
- 6:00 p.m. Brown Bag Supper, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, "Bad Boys and Bad Girls of the Bible," Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 27

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Rd.
- 6:00 p.m. Weekday School Pizza Night, Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 28

- 5:30 p.m. Fellowship@First: Picnic with UGA Redcoat Band, UGA Intramural Fields

Sunday, September 30

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 7 - World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering

October 13 - Blessing of the Animals

October 21 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service

Fellowship@First: All Church Picnic

October 28 - All Saints' Sunday

November 4 - Commitment Sunday

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Fauré Requiem
& Fellowship@First: Reception

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

COLLEGE INTERNS

Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry
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.