



# 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 30, 2018  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Twenty-Sixth 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

Trumpet Tune in D

David N. Johnson

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### 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!**

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

### Call to Worship

from Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, how exalted is your name in all the world!  
**When I consider your heavens, the work of your hands,**  
**the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**  
who are we human beings that you should be mindful of us?  
**O Lord, our Lord, how exalted is your name in all the world!**

Hymn 477 resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation 7:9-11. This 18th-century tune has had many names; the one used here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714-1901.

\***Hymn 477**    Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim    HANOVER

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your presence. We ignore the needs of the poor and turn away from those not to our liking. We allow the gospel to go stale and hide the light you have given. Forgive us; give us grace. By the renewing gifts of your Spirit inspire and empower us again to show the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**\*Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response**

GLORIA



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

After the Introduction of New Members 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.

**\*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** 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** Colossians 3:1-4, page 1075

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** The Christ Who Died Alfred V. Fedak

The Christ who died and rose again triumphant from the grave,  
now pleads our cause at God's right hand, all-powerful to save.

What now can separate us from the love of Christ our Lord?

Can persecution, nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

The troubles that are ours to bear are trials we cannot flee,

yet he who loved us from the first ensures our victory.

Thus, nothing in the heights or depths, no power earth can afford

will separate us from the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Yes, he who loved us from the first is Jesus Christ Our Lord.

**Second Lesson** Luke 19:1-10, page 958

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

**Sermon** Curious George Meets Curious Zacchaeus

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The text of the anthem is based on Scottish paraphrases (1781) of Romans 8:43-39. The contemporary American composer Alfred Fedak wrote the anthem in honor of Marge McConnell Russell and Sandra McConnell Patton for their service as Directors of Music at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Georgia.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn 422**      God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending  
BEACH SPRING

**\*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**

**Offertory**      BEACH SPRING      Wilbur Held

**\*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**

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 272**      God of the Sparrow      ROEDER

**\*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**      Praeludium in G      Dietrich Buxtehude

Hymn 422, a text on stewardship, was one of about 450 submissions in search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. The tune is an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

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.

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

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

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.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Liturgists

**8:45 a.m.** Carol Strickland

**11:00 a.m.** Carol Strickland, Jimmy Bishop

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Chiara Bono, Logan Bono

#### Lay Readers

**8:45 a.m.** Sandy Boyles

**11:00 a.m.** Leslye Queen

### USHERS

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

**11:00 a.m.** Betsy Canfield (head),  
Stephen Covington, Diane Hudgens,  
Ed Law, Terry McRae, Leslye Queen

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Jim Dove, Carroll Gaillard,  
Larry Jones, Barbara Laughlin

**11:00 a.m.** David Beck, Lillian Beck,  
Carol McKay, Dan Nadenicek

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

### RECEPTION HOSTS

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission, plus  
Andrew Griffeth, Kitty Lay, Sally Vandiver,  
and Gail Wilfong

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary 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](http://firstpresathens.org))  
or on the prayer cards in the fellowship pads.

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## 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.**

Dr. Bruce Lancaster is teaching a Bible Study beginning at 6:30 p.m. and going for about an hour. Childcare is provided. This week's "bad boy" is Lot. You may prepare by reading Genesis 19.

#### **"Bad Boys and Bad Girls of the Bible"**

October 3 – Lot

October 10 – Potiphar's Wife

October 17 – Jephthah

October 24 – Jezebel

November 7 – Samson

November 14 – Delilah

(No class October 31)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FOOD SUNDAY

#### October 7

Next Sunday, October 7, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting: **canned meat (chicken, beef stew, etc.), canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti, etc.), canned tomatoes (diced, whole, or stewed)**. Thank you for donating 553 items in September!!!

### PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

#### OFFERING, October 7

We are called to share God's peace across our city and globe. The PC(USA) "Peace and Global Witness Offering," taken on World Communion Sunday next week, is a chance to do just that. Our Mission & Outreach Commission has chosen the Homeless Day Service Center on North Avenue as this year's recipient of the 25% of the offering that stays local. Another 25% of the offering will support peacemaking in our region through mid-councils (i.e. presbytery and synod) with 50% going for work being done by Presbyterians across the globe. Please give generously.

### 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!

### FAMILY PLACEMENT PACKS

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.

### HURRICANE FLORENCE

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

### TELL YOUR STORY

You can enhance the 2020 Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of our church by writing your story. It will be a living history for today and will be archived for future members. Your story includes when you joined the church, the changes you have seen, what responsibilities you have accepted, and your community involvement, especially organizations that serve the needy. Please take some time to email your story to Judy Scanlon ([judy.s.scanlon@gmail.com](mailto:judy.s.scanlon@gmail.com)). Thank you!

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## Fellowship@First: Church Picnic

### It's a Pumpkin Picnic Party!

**October 21, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., Sandy Creek Park**

Sign-up begins in the Atrium today! Bring a side dish or dessert to share; fried chicken and drinks will be provided. There is no cost but reservations are requested. Sign up in the Atrium on Sundays, online, or by contacting the church office.

Young and old are invited to join us for a festive afternoon of pumpkin carving and pumpkin-themed games. FPC will have a truckload full of pumpkins from the patch at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church for individuals or families to purchase then carve together. Bring your creative ideas and carving equipment. Awards will be given for Funniest, Most Biblical, Spookiest, and All-Around Winner!

The Opening Ceremonies of the Pumpkin Olympics will begin at 4:00 p.m. where teams of children/youth/adults will compete in five events to see who brings home the Gold! Come prepared to have fun, get messy, and celebrate the beginning of Fall with your FPC church family.

# 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 30 - Hilary Shuford, General Presbyter of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, will share her experiences from General Assembly this summer
- October 7 - Will Norman, from the Presbyterian Student Center, 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

College Interns: Nettie Jester & Kathryn Kent

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 – 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 Intertwined." Serving Sunday.

No youth group next week (10/7) due to Monday holiday.

### 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 30

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:40 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting, Parlor
- 12:05 p.m. New Member Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 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, October 1

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### Tuesday, October 2

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 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 Linda Childers, 153 West Lake Ct.
- 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, October 3

- 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, October 4

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Bride's Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Bountiful Hills, 200 Bolton Dr., Commerce
- 5:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### Sunday, October 7 - Food Sunday, World Communion Sunday

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**October 7** - Peace & Global Witness Offering

**October 10 & 24** - Bookless Book Group

**October 13** - Blessing of the Animals

**October 21** - AthHalf Pre-Race Service, 6:30 a.m., no 8:45 a.m. service  
Fellowship@First: All Church Picnic

**October 28** - All Saints' Sunday

**November 4** - Commitment Sunday  
Fauré Requiem with Reception

**November 11** - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

## **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

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## **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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)**

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