



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!

November 4, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Commitment 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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Aria

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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

Let us gather together with glad and generous hearts,

For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**Let us give whatever we can to all who have needs,
no matter who they are.**

May the church generate goodwill by all, as we fulfill Christ's call to love.

**Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel,
trusting that in this way, God will add to the numbers of our
holy fellowship.**

*Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

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

FPC 2nd Graders are our Communion Helpers. Bringing in the bread and cup at the 11:00 a.m. service are Pat and Petch Bryan.

The text of Hymn 466 comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, each day we awaken to your abundant gift of love. We confess that we live as if we don't trust your promise of generous love and sustenance for our daily needs. We devote ourselves to many worldly things. Help us devote ourselves to you and to the church, as we work to transform the world for Christ's sake. Help us accept your gifts for our lives, and share them with the same generous spirit with which you give them. Strengthen us to reorder each day, that we may best praise you, support all in need, and reflect Christ's love into the world.

***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

***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."

After passing the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 1, 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.**

First Lesson

Luke 5:17-26, page 939

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

Second Lesson Acts 2:43-47; 9:36-43, page 995

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

Sermon

A "Churched" Life The Rev. Margaret Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Dedication of Stewardship Commitments for 2019

Hymn 414 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN

Hymn 428 We Give Thee but Thine Own SCHUMANN

Prayer of Dedication of the Commitments for 2019

Members and friends are asked to bring their commitment cards forward and place them in the brass containers as the hymns are sung.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether James Biery

11:00 a.m. 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.

We do not come to this table proudly....

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 447** Lead On, O King Eternal LANCASHIRE

*Benediction

***Congregational Response** Hymn 555, Stanza 3

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.**

**The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

***Postlude** We All Believe in One God J. S. Bach

The text of the anthem, written by Percy Dearmer, calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The composer, Harold Friedell (1905-1958), was an American organist and educator, teaching at Julliard and Union Seminary.

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

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, Celeste Fischetti

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Carroll Gaillard, John Simpson

11:00 a.m. Tom Wilfong (head),
Svea Bogue, Carol Dolson, Tom Landrum,
Terry McRae, Chuck Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Diane Hartzell, Larry Jones

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek, Jo Carol Nessel-
Sale, Melinda Miller, Ella Stewart

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Nancy and Bob Bostrom

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Robert Russell Gunn II, Margaret Gunn Dure, and Mary Gannon Gunn by Page Gunn Pate.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Hollis Brooke Venables on October 17, 2018. Hollis is the daughter of Tristan and Jessica Padgett Venables and the granddaughter of Lee and Becky Padgett.

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.

We welcome The Rev. Margaret Davis as our guest preacher today. Margaret and her husband Ben moved to Athens in 2014 from Huntsville, Alabama, where Margaret was the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. She completed degrees at Duke University and Columbia Theological Seminary. She has also served at Oconee Presbyterian Church in Watkinsville and is currently Ministry Associate at the Presbyterian Student Center at UGA. Margret and Ben have one son, Robby.

Commitment Sunday

During morning worship today we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2019. Additional commitment cards are available in the Fellowship Pad and the Narthex. You may also submit your pledge to the church office or online at firstpresathens.org. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge as we share our stories of generosity with Athens and the world!

With Our Apologies

We regret that in last Sunday's All Saints' bulletin, we omitted from the Prayers for Remembrance the name of Jesse Carl "J. C." Mullis, who died October 7, 2018.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIVE

WEBINAR, November 8, 2:00 p.m.

We will show The Presbyterian Outlook's "Equipping Faith Leaders in Suicide Prevention," webinar in the Moses Waddel Room. It will cover theological and biblical perspectives on suicide, addressing common misconceptions that are often painful to those already suffering. Also included is a mental health perspective: considering suicide warning signs and tools for help. Open to anyone interested. Please RSVP to the church office by November 6.

FLOWER COMMITTEE MEET & GREET, November 8, 4:30 p.m.

This will be a time to see longtime friends and greet new ones interested in being part of the Flower Committee. Please join us in the Atrium for this time to socialize and organize.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY, November 11

This year we will continue our annual tradition of filling grocery bags with Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Bags will be available today and November 4. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before November 11.

VETERANS DAY BELL RINGING

November 11, 11:00 a.m.

We will join with other churches for the Nationwide Bell-Tolling to honor the men and women who died in WWI. A group of FPC veterans will ring the bell twenty-one times as we begin worship.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, November 18, 4:30 p.m.

All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors in the Meetinghouse at Piedmont College, 595 Prince Ave., for this worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et al.). In this divisive time, we can proclaim the voice of love, positivity, and unity.

IHNA TRAINING

If you would like to become a volunteer with IHNA, there will be another opportunity to attend a training session before FPC's upcoming host week. No registration is needed; please contact Patty Whiten with any questions.

IHNA Training will be Friday, November 9, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the IHNA Day Center, 393 W. Hancock Ave.

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 Samson. You may prepare by reading Judges 13-16.



The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series
presents
The First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
performing
Requiem
by Gabriel Fauré
with soloists Rachel Eve Holmes, soprano
John Tsao, baritone
and orchestra
Sunday, November 4, 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Athens, 185 E. Hancock Ave.

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.

- November 4 - Drs. Bill & Marihope Flatt, 100 Years of College of Family & Consumer Sciences @ UGA
- November 11 - Mark Famer, from the Citizen's Climate League, will speak on climate change

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! NOVEMBER: Reading between the line: Inductive Bible Study led by Paula Frances Price

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."

Confirmands will meet their mentors over breakfast in the Breakout Room of Fellowship Hall!

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

***Note change of time** - Middle School and High School will meet together from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to watch and discuss the movie Won't You Be My Neighbor. Dinner will be provided.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 4 - Commitment Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Margaret Davis preaching
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Reveal Breakfast, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Fauré Requiem with Fellowship@First Reception
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School and High School Youth Group & Dinner, The PIT

Monday, November 5

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:00 p.m. New Ruling Elder Training, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, November 6

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Carol Ashmore, 265 Waterford Way
- 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, November 7

- 11:00 a.m. Weekday School Munch & Manna, Bride's Room
- 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, November 8

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Highland Hills, 1660 Jennings Mill Rd., Bogart
- 2:00 p.m. "Equipping Faith Leaders in Suicide Prevention," Webinar, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. Flower Committee Meet & Greet, Atrium

Friday, November 9 - Church Office Closed for Professional Development

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Administrative Personnel Assn Seminar, Gainesville

Sunday, November 11

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

LOOKING AHEAD

November 11 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

- Veterans Day Bell Ringing
- 30 Hour Famine
- IHNA Host Week Begins

November 14 - Last Wed@First for Fall

November 18 - Thornwell Offering

- Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

November 20 - Project Safe Work Day

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
Mrs. Nan Thomas, 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.