



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 11, 2018

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Thirty-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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Prelude on THAXTED

Eric Thiman

8:45 a.m. Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

8:45 a.m. 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.**

8:45 a.m. Call to Worship

Great and Glorious God, we worship you.

We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty.

Generous and Merciful God, we worship you.

We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion.

Welcoming and Empowering God, we worship you.

We lift our eyes to you, celebrating your faithfulness.

11:00 a.m. Veterans Day Bell Ringing

*Hymn 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWMRHONDDA

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, and check in online.

We are joining in the Nationwide Bell-Tolling to honor those who died in WWI. A group of FPC veterans will ring the bell twenty-one times:

William Barry, Retired Colonel, Air Force

Woody Barton, Retired Lt. Colonel, Army

Terry Caven, Retired Lt. Commander, Navy

Randy Dudley, Retired Colonel, Air Force

Rob Haire, Retired Major General, Air Force

Andrew Neighbors, Retired Captain, Army

Joe Neighbors, Retired Colonel, Army

Beverly Phares, Sergeant, Marine Corps

Ned Phares,

Sergeant, Marine Corps

Fred Tunmer, Retired

Lt. Colonel, Army

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God, your giving knows no ending. We confess we keep a tight hold on the treasures you have entrusted to us. We limit using the skills you have graciously given to us. We focus on what we can save for ourselves rather than offering ourselves in service and praise. Redeem our lives as we seek to serve Christ’s work of love in 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.

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Jubilate Deo

Carol McClure

Sing a song of praise, Jubilate Deo!

Sing a song of praise to the Lord our God;

Jubilate Deo!

11:00 a.m. Confirmand & Mentor Blessing

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 Peter 2:9-10; Galatians 5:13-15, page 1106, 1064

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

Second Lesson

Psalm 33, page 496

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

Sermon

But Can God Trust in Us?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

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

The anthem sung by the St. Andrews Choir, Jubilate Deo (meaning “praise God”), is a paraphrase of Psalm 100:1-2 set to music by American composer Carol McClure.

After the Anthem 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.

Confirmation Class 2019 with mentors:

- Julian Attaway
- Randy Dudley
- Reid Bangle
- Jimbo LaBoon
- Annie Blanks
- Greta Covington
- Cullen Bruner
- Todd Miller
- Ellen Corry
- Melinda DeMaria
- Pratt Ferguson
- Bo Thurston
- Henry Marett
- Ben Davis
- Addie Middleton
- Jody Pope
- Henry Smith
- Mickey Register
- Wallace Trapnell
- Dick Ferguson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 430

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! DARWALL'S 148TH

*Affirmation of Faith

from The Theological Declaration of Barmen

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation. As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.

The Theological Declaration of Barmen was written by a group of church leaders in Germany to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and the so-called "German Christians" who saw no conflict between Christianity and the ideals of Hitler's National Socialism. The declaration, adopted in 1934, proclaims the church's freedom in Jesus Christ, who is Lord of every area of life and obeys him as God's one and only Word.

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 THAXTED John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory O God, Beyond All Praising Gustav Holst

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile blooms surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown –
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The text of O God, Beyond All Praising was written by Michael Perry. The anthem's setting by Richard Proulx is based on the hymn tune THAXTED by Gustav Holst. The tune began as the part of the Jupiter movement in Holst's The Planets.

*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 262** God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand
NATIONAL HYMN

***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** God of Grace Paul Manz

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. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Ron Cox, Sam Seward

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop, Logan Bono

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Cheryl Gazlay

11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Tom Wilfong (head),
Kitty Donnan, Tom Lane, Ed Law,
Jacki Macker, Bruce Miller

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carroll Gaillard, Terry Nestor,
Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Bob Glasscock,
Brenda Glasscock

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Sandy and Jim Boyles

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Veterans Day by Randy Dudley.

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.

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

Thank you for your generous support of this church tradition providing Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Your generosity provides a story of thanksgiving!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

30 HOUR FAMINE

This weekend our youth have been participating in the 30 Hour Famine. Today they will worship at 11:00 a.m., help with the Thanksgiving food bags, then have a full day of activities focused on the causes and impacts of hunger on the individual and the larger world. Youth will also participate in a food-based service project...all while experiencing hunger for themselves. They will break the fast this evening at 6:00 p.m. with a family-style meal in Fellowship Hall.

ANGEL TREE

Today - December 12

There is a special Salvation Army Angel Tree in Fellowship Hall. Please consider purchasing Christmas gifts for one or more of the 150 Salvation Army "angels" (infant -12 year old child) selected by our church. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel."

BAD BOYS & BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE, Last Wednesday, November 14

Bring your brown bag supper to the Moses Waddel Room at 6:00 p.m. Bible Study starts at 6:30 p.m., going for about an hour. This week's "bad girl" is Delilah. You may prepare by reading Judges 16:4-22. Childcare is provided.

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING

November 18

You can help give children a home with love and encouragement by participating in the special offering taken for the Thornwell Home for Children. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

"ONCE UPON A STORY"

Christmas Tea, December 5, 2:00 p.m.

All are welcome to the annual Christmas Tea hosted by Senior Adult Ministries. This year's event will feature The Mellows, a reading of the Christmas Story, and special music. Please RSVP to the church office by November 28.

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS @ FPC

Please visit our website, firstpresathens.org, for a list of Advent and Christmas services and activities as we prepare for the coming of our Savior.

Fellowship@First: Advent Workshop

December 2, 12:00 p.m.

All are invited! Come to Fellowship Hall where we will enjoy brunch, Advent wreath-making, and work on a special outreach project with COOKIES! Children ages 3-years-old – 5th grade who would like to participate in the upcoming Christmas Pageant will choose their costumes.

We will provide the basics to make an Advent wreath; bring extra greenery from your yard or Christmas tree trimmings that could be used and shared. Please also bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies. We will be making Christmas cookie plates to be delivered to our homebound members.

Please RSVP by November 25 in the Atrium, online, or with the church office so we will know how many biscuits to bake and how many candles to purchase. We look forward to this new Advent tradition!

Casa de Amistad Baskets

Please help provide low income Hispanic families with food for a special Christmas meal.

You may write a check to First Presbyterian Church for \$40.00 marked, "Casa Baskets" **by December 2** and the shopping will be done for you!

Or fill a laundry basket, large bucket, or other reusable container with the items below:

- 5 lb Bag of Rice
- 2 lb Bag of Dried Pinto Beans
- Bag of onions
- Chili Peppers (dried red New Mexico pods)
- Cooking Oil
- Mole (brown sauce for meat)
- Masa (flour for making tortillas)
- Can of Jalapeños
- Can of Tomatoes
- Adobe powder (in spice area) or fresh garlic
- Bag of cookies or a cake
- Gift certificate from Los Compadres or Walmart for \$10

Baskets are due to the church **by December 9**. Gracias!

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 11 - Mark Famer, from the Citizen's Climate League, will speak on climate change
- November 18 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine

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."

We will meet in Staff Conference room to talk about "How do we know and trust God?" Confirmands and their mentors will also be introduced and receive a blessing during 11:00 a.m. worship.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

Youth are participating in a 30 Hour Famine today. They will be serving around the city as they learn about global hunger and poverty. We will break the fast tonight at 6:00 p.m. with family over a potluck meal in Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 11 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Veterans Day Bell Ringing
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 1:45 p.m. IHNA Host Week begins, The PIT
- 3:00 p.m. New Ruling Elder Training, Staff Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 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. 30 Hour Famine Breaking the Fast Meal, Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 12

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, November 13

- 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 Training & Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310

Wednesday, November 14 - Last Wed@First for Fall

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. Weekday School Thanksgiving Program, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Mama's Boy, 8851 Macon Highway
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 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 15

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Talmadge Terrace, 801 Riverhill Dr.

Sunday, November 18 - Thornwell Special Offering

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

LOOKING AHEAD

November 18 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

November 20 - Project Safe Work Day

November 22 - Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels Delivery

November 27 - First Friends

November 28 - Bookless Book Group

November 29 - Live Nativity

December 2 - First Sunday of Advent, "The Story in Song" Sermon Series begins
Advent Workshop

December 5 - "Once Upon a Story" Christmas Tea

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.