



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 18, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Thirty-Third 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

Allegro from Sonata I Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Christmas Tea 8:45 a.m. Arlene Shirley
11:00 a.m. Greta Covington

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

inspired by Psalm 132:7-9

Let us gather together in the presence of our God.

Let us bring our prayers of thanksgiving.

Let us bow down in worship before the Lord our maker.

Let us sing new songs of joy and praise.

*Hymn 551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

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.

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of Hymn 551 is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer, George Job Elvey, was organist for forty-seven years.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

We surround ourselves with false comforts and satiate ourselves with the status quo. May we cease to seek privilege and instead long for the dignity of all. Help us, Lord, to desire justice, righteousness, goodness, mercy, and integrity more than we hunger for food or thirst for water, so that everyone may find the truest fulfillment and satisfaction in the love of Jesus Christ.

***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.

Moment for Mission

Thornwell Offering

Leslie Trier

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Allie Katherine Meijerink, daughter of Robert "Dutch" and Ashley Mendenhall Meijerink, into the church family.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Allie Kate by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

***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.

Baptism Hymn 304 Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

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

After the baptism 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.

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 Psalm 112, page 551
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

Ralph Vaughan Williams

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell, come ye before him and rejoice.
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.
For why? the Lord our God is good: his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Second Lesson Matthew 5:6, page 882
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 554** Let All Things Now Living ASH GROVE

***8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

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 Now Thank We All Our God
Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

***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 anthem was composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey in 1953. It is a setting of Psalm 100, paraphrased by a Scot and set to this tune by a French composer. The text and tune have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

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.

Although Now Thank We All Our God is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 555** Now Thank We All Our God
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***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** Improvisation on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT John Coble

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, Charlie Phillips

Acolytes

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

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller

Baptism Minister

The Rev. Frank Colladay

Baptism Liturgists

David Mendenhall, Ruling Elder

Jimmy Bishop

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Tom Wilfong (head),
Ed Law, Terry McRae, Bruce Miller,
Ella Stewart, Chuck Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Faye Marshall, Terry Nestor,
Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Carol McKay

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Susan and Wes Clarke

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the baptism of Allie Katherine Meijerink by the Mendenhall family.

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

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, Today, 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.

LIVE NATIVITY

November 29, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us and help us spread the word about this exciting community event! The 2018 Live Nativity will include the holy family, live music, refreshments, fun Christmas art activities, and 20 live animals, including a camel. Children will be able to pet many of the animals. To help, please contact Elaine Johnson, elaine@firstpresathens.org

“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.

PTP CHRISTMAS ART TOUR

December 6, 9:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will tour Happy Valley Pottery where we will watch demonstrations of glass-blowing, pottery making, and raku, and shop in the gift gallery. Afterwards we will enjoy lunch at Girasoles in Watkinsville. Please RSVP to Phyllis Crowell, 706-543-9561 or crowellpm@aol.com by December 4.

ANGEL TREE

Through 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.”

HOLIDAY MEALS ON WHEELS

Each year, FPC members deliver holiday meals to relieve regular Meals on Wheels drivers. FPC also pays for these meals at a cost of about \$1,100. To help deliver, please contact Sally Vandiver, sally.vandiver@gmail.com. Donations can be made by writing a check to FPC with “Meals on Wheels” noted on the bottom.

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, Cover to Cover: Getting the Bible's Big Picture by Gerry Mathisen.

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 18 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine

- November 25 - 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! TODAY: We will finish watching and discussing the movie, "Won't You Be My Neighbor."

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: There is no confirmation class. You are encouraged to join us for Youth Sunday School.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

Join us for Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, followed by an ice cream social and debrief with area youth groups at Baskin Robbins. To ride the church van, meet in the upper church parking lot at 4:00 p.m. Worship is at 4:30 p.m. at the Piedmont College Meetinghouse.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 18 - Thornwell Special Offering

- 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
- 12:05 p.m. Called Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth meet to attend Interfaith Worship, Upper Parking Lot
- 4:30 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, Piedmont College Meetinghouse, 595 Prince Ave.

Monday, November 19

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Thanksgiving Break begins
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:30 p.m. New Ruling Elder Makeup Training, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, November 20

- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Work Day, Bell Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Thursday, November 22 - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

- 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels Delivery, Council on Aging, 135 Hoyt St.

Friday, November 23 - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 25

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

December 6 - PTP Christmas Art Tour
Downtown Parade of Lights Hospitality

December 9 - Christmas Pageant & Dinner

December 16 - A Festival of Lessons & Carols
Holiday Benevolence Market

Poinsettia Dedications

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, December 10**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a Fellowship Pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the December 16 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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.