



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 25, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Christ the King 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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Alec Wyton

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.**

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

Call to Worship

Psalms 18:1-2

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

The Lord is my God, my rock in whom I take refuge.

**The Lord is my shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold.**

*Hymn 151

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

The text of Hymn 151 is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving and Merciful God, in Jesus Christ we see holiness in action. We confess that we are so consumed by our own agendas that love for you and for our neighbors is diminished to the point of faithless inertia. Restore us, we pray, to the fullness of life as a disciple of Jesus Christ that reveals the power and grace of his eternal love.

***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."

At 8:45 a.m., worship continues with Hearing the Word of God on page 3.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Sebastian Wayne Frias, son of Katherine Middendorf and Fernando Frias, into the church family.

***Question to the Congregation**

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

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.

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.

***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 492 Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

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 16:5-11, page 485
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter
For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

The text of the anthem is that of a familiar hymn set to music by English composer John Rutter. The original text was intended to show Holy Communion as a joyful, holy feast. The refrain was "Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise." Changing "sacrifice" to "hymn" made it a thanksgiving for creation, our physical senses, human love, and everything good which God gives us.

Second Lesson Romans 12:9-21, page 1036
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Shopping for God's Christmas Gift Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 386** O for a World AZMON

***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 Improvisation on DUKE STREET John Coble

***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**

Everything longed for in Hymn 386 is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical shalom.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 423** Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun DUKE STREET

***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** Rondeau Henry Purcell

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. Richard Lane, Teninait Ness

Acolytes

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

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

Baptism Liturgists

Harry Shuford, Ruling Elder

Kate Ness

USHERS

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

Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Tom Wilfong (head),

Svea Bogue, Kitty Donnan, Jane Mann,

Tanna Nicholson, Patti Reed

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carroll Gaillard, Faye Marshall,

Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,

Melinda Miller

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Madie Fischetti

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

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) or on the prayer cards in the fellowship pads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

FOOD SUNDAY

December 2

Next Sunday we will collect items for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting **toiletries, cleaning products, and paper products (tissue, paper towels, etc.)**. Thank you for donating 268 items on November 4 and 3,251 items in Thanksgiving Food Bags!

“ONCE UPON A STORY”

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

All are welcome to the annual Christmas Tea hosted by the Senior Adult Ministry. This year's event will feature a reading of the Christmas Story, The Mellows, and other 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.

PARADE OF LIGHTS HOSPITALITY

December 6, 5:00 p.m.

We will provide hospitality at the front of the church for the Downtown Athens Parade of Lights. We will offer refreshments to participants and attendees and our restrooms will be open to the public.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & DINNER SUNDAY, December 9, 5:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to embrace the true meaning of Christmas as told by our children. The pageant will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will be followed by dinner in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for dinner but reservations are requested in the Atrium, online, or with the church office by December 3.

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 a Mama's Boy-style biscuit buffet with Chef Gabe, 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 today in the Atrium. We look forward to this new Advent tradition!

Commitment Sunday Update: Stories of Generosity

The early responses to Commitment Sunday were very good. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged.

There are still a number of members from whom we hope to hear. It will help our church leaders plan the 2019 budget if we can receive commitment cards prior to year-end. You may turn in your pledge in the offering plate on Sunday, in the church office, or online. Additional commitment cards are available in the Narthex or in the church office. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge as we share our stories with Athens and the world!

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 25 - DVD, The Old Testament, by Amy-Jill Levine
- December 2 - Mac Smith will speak on Presbyterian College

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: There is no Sunday School or Confirmation Class this morning. Happy Thanksgiving!

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."

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

Classic Christmas Movie(s) Night! Wear your pjs and join us for a relaxing evening of holiday movies, crafts, and Elf-inspired dinner. This will be a combined Middle School and High School youth group night. We will meet from 6:15-8:30 p.m.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 25

- 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
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
6:15 p.m. Combined Youth Group, Classic Christmas Movie Night (dinner included), The PIT

Monday, November 26

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

Tuesday, November 27

- 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
6:00 p.m. First Friends Group, Craft Public House, 1040 Gaines School Rd.

Wednesday, November 28

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe & Fresh Market, 815 N. Chase St.
12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 29

- 11:30 a.m. Mardi Gras Mission Gala Meeting, Staff Conference Room
2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Quiet Oaks, 125 Quiet Oak Dr., Crawford
6:00 p.m. Live Nativity, Weekday School

Sunday, December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

December 2 - "The Story in Song" Sermon Series begins

Advent Workshop

December 5 - "Once Upon a Story" Christmas Tea

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.