



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!

January 13, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord

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

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, Stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

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

Call to Worship

Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth,

we gather together in your name.

We come as living sacrifices,

to offer you our worship and thanksgiving,

our praise and our prayers.

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

The very strong 17th-century German hymn Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalm 150 and 103. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

*Those who are able may stand.

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 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess how easy it is for us to adopt the attitudes and actions of the world around us. We become more concerned with our own status and well-being than with the well-being of others. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, transform us. Change us from the inside out, so that our words and our lives will bring honor and glory to your kingdom.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - lia, al - le - lu - ia.

*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.

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 1 Corinthians 11:27-34, page 1048

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem O for a Closer Walk C. V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy Dove, return! Sweet messenger of rest;
I have the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Second Lesson Romans 12:1-8, page 1035

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

Sermon Taking a Personal Spiritual Checkup Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The text of the anthem was written in 1769 by William Cowper (1731-1800). The tune was one of the new common tunes in the Scottish Psalter of 1635. This anthem arrangement is by Irish composer Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 435

We All Are One in Mission
ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
Johann Gottfried Walther

*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

A Lutheran pastor wrote the text of Hymn 435 in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

In 1983, the PC(USA) was formed by the re-union of what were the Northern and Southern streams of the Presbyterian denominations in the USA. The Brief Statement of Faith was written to articulate the common identity Presbyterians share. This creed is arranged in a trinitarian framework that is meant to be used in worship. This excerpt is from the section on the Holy Spirit.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

* Hymn 421	The Church of Christ in Every Age	WAREHAM
* Benediction		
* Congregational Response		Hymn 535
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.		
* Postlude	We Christian Folk	Johann Sebastian Bach

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, Sam Seward

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Andrew Miller, Lizzie Simmons

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins (head),
David Cole, Donald Hill

11:00 a.m. Tommy Jackson (head),
Michael Earl, Sydney Jackson,
Terry McRae, Leslye Queen

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Larry Jones, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Melinda Miller, Courtney Pittman,
Dewitt Pittman, Christine Register

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Mary and Lawton Stephens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Jack Edward Woosley by Caryl Woosley.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and on Facebook.

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

2019-20 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Registration Begins January 15

Please call our director, Elaine Johnson, at 706-206-8180 to schedule a tour. Our Weekday School is celebrating 52 years of serving Athens children, infants through five-year-olds.

AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Forms due January 24

Can you donate an item, service, or experience for the silent auction at our Mardi Gras Mission Gala on March 3? Perhaps a treasure in your attic, an hour of professional services, cooking for a dinner party, or a weekend at your vacation home? Donation forms are online, in the Narthex, and church office. Deadline is January 24.

PROJECT SAFE WORK DAY

January 21, MLK Day of Service

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

IHNA HOST WEEK, February 10-17

Please sign-up in the Atrium today for our next Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week. You may also check the online calendar and email Susan Boatwright and Frank Sherrill at ihnafirstpresathens@gmail.com to volunteer.

Rev. Dr. Ryan Baer Called as New Senior Pastor

January 6 the congregation voted unanimously to endorse the Pastor Nominating Committee's recommendation that terms of call be extended to Rev. Dr. Ryan Baer to be the next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church of Athens. The church thanks the PNC for its outstanding job, and we are eager to welcome the Baer family to FPC!

Rev. Dr. Ryan Baer's first day in the office will be February 11. His first day leading worship will be February 17, with a reception to follow the 11:00 a.m. service. Ryan, his wife, Amy, and their sons Nathan, Daniel, and Joshua, are excited about coming to Athens and we know you will want to be in church Sunday, February 17, to welcome the Baers into our church family.

More information about Rev. Dr. Ryan Baer and his family is available in brochures in the Narthex, Atrium, and church office and on the church website.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch, January 27, 12:00 p.m. and Dr. Bruce Lancaster's Last Sunday

We are so grateful to Dr. Bruce Lancaster and his wife, Cathi, for all they have meant to FPC during this interim time. Please thank them at our Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch, which falls on their last Sunday with us. We will receive the Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, 2019 Budget, and four FPC members will be elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee. There is no charge for lunch, but reservations are requested online or in the church office by January 22.

Annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Observance Sunday, January 20, 5:00 p.m.

All are invited to this service at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 1931 Old West Broad St. Guest speakers will be the Rev. Stacy Pardue, First Christian Church, Athens and the Rev. Ronnie Gantt, Maple Springs Baptist Church, Dewey Rose, Georgia.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Monday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

As a celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and commitment to service, Athens is committed to making MLK Day, "A Day On, Not A Day Off." The Kick-Off will be at 8:30 a.m. at Cedar Shoals High School gymnasium, and volunteers will work from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at more than 20 sites. More details and registration information are on our church website. For many years, FPC members have helped at the Project Safe Thrift Store, so please join fellow members there if you would like. However you sign up, please list your FPC affiliation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES TODAY

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, Mark: Follow Me by James Hoover.

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.

- January 13 - LaTrena Stokes, Scholarship Program Manager at the Jeannette Rankin Foundation
- January 20 - Mark Farmer, speaking on "The Population Boom and the Future of Humanity"

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, Radical Forgiveness: God's Call to Unconditional Love by Brian Zahnd.

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, & Jordan Osborne

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! JANUARY: Hearing God's call in "Moana," led by Meghan Bawcum.

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

Middle School and High School will meet together from 6:15-8:00 p.m. to plan for Youth Sunday.

Dinner will be provided.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 13

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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 & Dinner, The PIT

Monday, January 14

- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, January 15

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Registration Begins
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, January 16 - Wed@First Classes Resume

- 11:55 a.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
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 17

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Magnolia Estates, 1641 Virgil Langford Rd., Watkinville

Sunday, January 20

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

LOOKING AHEAD

January 20 - Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 5:00 p.m.

January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Project Safe Volunteer Work Day

January 22 - First Friends

January 23 - Bookless Book Group

January 27 - Dr. Bruce Lancaster's Last Sunday

Ruling Elder Ordination & Installation

Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch

February 3 - Youth Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 6 - Fellowship@First: Pizza Night

February 10 - Red Cross Blood Drive

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. Pavani Gadde, Website Technician
Ms. Jordan Osborne, Youth Ministry

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Kathryn Kent, Youth Ministry
Ms. Annabel McSpadden, Congregational Care
Ms. Leighton Parker, Mission & Outreach

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.