



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 20, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Pastorale, Third Movement 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

God meets us here in our worship together.

Let our minds be filled with God's wisdom
and our hearts with God's peace,
that our lives may be open to God's love.

*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

The opening line of Hymn 263 was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17, and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Righteous and Holy God, we say we want wisdom, but we foolishly squander the knowledge we have of your ways. We claim to follow Jesus Christ, but we take the wayward roads of the world, not caring where they lead us. We declare the Spirit of truth and peace, but so easily resign ourselves to a world filled with lies and hate. Redeem us to live by your promises, O God, and give glory to your kingdom.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier



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.

***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 Thessalonians 1:1-10, page 1077

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

A Winter Carol

Fred Gramann

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
and all the earth lies dead and drear.
And yet God's love is not withdrawn; his life within the keen air breathes;
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,
and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.
And though aboard the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now, and warmer glows her light within.
O God! who gives the winter's cold, as well as summer's joyous rays,
us warmly in thy love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days.

Second Lesson Isaiah 40:6-11, page 654

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

Sermon

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The anthem is a poem by Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892) set to the hymn tune DANBY by Fred Gramann, Music Director for The American Church in Paris.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 172** My Shepherd Will Supply My Need RESIGNATION

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

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 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Wilbur Held

***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 260** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN' FESTE BURG

***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** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Helmut Walcha

No psalm has inspired more hymn settings than the 23rd. In Hymn 172, Isaac Watts' development of the theme of the house of heaven with an inspired conclusion is not found in the psalm itself: "No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home." The tune is from the 1835 Southern Harmony, a collection of folk hymns from the southern Appalachian mountains.

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 first person of the Trinity.

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, Teninait Ness

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop, Claire Bruner

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Paul Lee

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Tommy Jackson (head),
Betsy Canfield, Rod Canfield,
Sydney Jackson

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. David Beck, Lillian Beck,
Chuck Toney, Laura Toney

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Carol McKay and Ian Hardin

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wayne Middendorf by the Middendorf family.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is 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.

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 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!

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. We know you will want to be in church Sunday, February 17, to welcome the Baers into our church family.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FPC MEN'S BASKETBALL

If you're interested in joining the FPC Men's Basketball team, please contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com. Games are Mondays at 6:30, 7:15, or 8:15 p.m. at Tuckston United Methodist Church on Lexington Rd.

PTP TOUR OF RUSSIAN ART AT GMOA, January 23, 2:00 p.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will go to the Georgia Museum of Art to tour the new Russian exhibit. We will meet in the FPC parking lot at 1:15 p.m. Please contact Judy Burch (bgrammyb5@aol.com or 912-602-0766) by January 21 if you would like to ride the van. If you would like to meet us at the museum, you may park in their garage. There is a charge for parking.

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 contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

February 10, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sign up in the Atrium, reserve an appointment at redcrossblood.org, or contact the church office. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall Break Out Area and help save a life!

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.

CORE GODLY PLAY TRAINING

February 28 – March 2

FPC will be hosting our second Godly Play Storyteller training. Please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org to learn more.

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 Dr. 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.

Dr. 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

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 20 - Mark Farmer, speaking on "The Population Boom and the Future of Humanity"
- January 27 - 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, 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." There is no Confirmation Class today.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

There is no youth group tonight. Instead, youth are invited to attend the Ecumenical MLK Day Worship Service. We will meet in the church upper parking lot at 4:30 p.m. to drive to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, followed by dinner and discussion at Steak & Shake. You must RSVP to reserve your spot in the van.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 20

- 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. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. Youth meet in upper parking lot to attend Ecumenical Martin Luther King Service
- 5:00 p.m. Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 1931 Old West Broad St.

Monday, January 21 - Church office & Weekday School closed for MLK, Jr. Holiday

- 8:30 a.m. MLK Day of Service Kick-Off Celebration, Cedar Shoals High School Gymnasium
- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Work Day, Bell's Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave.
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Athens First UMC, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, January 22

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training & Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Savannah Room, 1197 S. Lumpkin St.

Wednesday, January 23

- 8:30 a.m.. Weekday School Doughnuts with Dad, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Bone Island Grillhouse, 2055 Oconee Connector
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. PTP Tour of Russian Art at GMOA, Meet at Church Upper Parking Lot, 1:15 p.m.
- 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 24

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Doughnuts with Dad, Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Pkwy.

Friday, January 25

- 8:30 a.m. Dr. Bruce Lancaster's last day in the office

Sunday, January 27 - Annual Congregational Mtg & Lunch and Bruce's Last Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

January 27 - Ruling Elder Ordination & Installation

February 3 - Youth Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 6 - Fellowship@First: Pizza Night

February 8-10 - Youth Ski Trip

February 10 - Red Cross Blood Drive

February 10-17 - IHNA Host Week

February 11 - Dr. Ryan Baer's first day in the office

February 17 - Dr. Ryan Baer's first Sunday leading worship

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
Bob Glasscock
Mary Havick
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.