



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 27, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Ruling Elder Ordination and Installation 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

Prelude on SLANE

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission Red Cross Blood Drive

Joe Neighbors

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

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.**

Call to Worship

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the earth.

Then God said, "Let there be light."

Let us give praise to the God who makes all things new!

*Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O God, you are always doing a new thing. We confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. Forgive the security systems on our hearts that lock us away from the world you would have us serve. Open up our lives and let your Spirit blow through.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

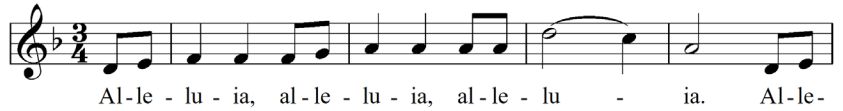
The text of *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn Charles Wesley wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. The tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier



***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."

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.

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

Genesis 12:1-3, page 9

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

John Ferguson

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

Second Lesson

Matthew 28:16-20, page 911

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

Sermon

Enjoy the Journey

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 434**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

***8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** *from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS 1977*

God created and rules in love. God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything. We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God’s Word and Spirit. God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ. God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth and the living things upon it. We acknowledge God’s care and control in the regularity of the universe as well as in apparently random happenings. There is no event from which God is absent and his ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving. That purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished. The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

The Affirmation of Faith is an excerpt from a contemporary statement of faith which the church adopted as “a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration.”

8:45 a.m. Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer *Hymnal, p. 16*
... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Improvisation on SLANE* 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**

11:00 a.m. Service of Ordination and Installation

There are different gifts,
but it is the same spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through different people in different ways,
but it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.
Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,
to use it for the common good.
Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of Christ.

At the 8:45 a.m. service, worship continues on page 4 with Hymn 540.

Presentation of Ruling Elders-Elect to be Ordained* and Installed

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| *Jennifer Walden Abbott | *Rob Haire |
| Sandy Boyles | *Grace Lu |
| *Michelle Clendenen-Shaw | Chris Pope |
| *Elizabeth Earl | Mixon Robinson |
| *Ed Ferguson | Rosemary Stancil |

Questions for Ruling Elders-Elect

Questions for Congregation

Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, accept these individuals as Ruling Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

All previously ordained ruling and teaching elders in any Presbyterian Church (USA) are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands.

Ordination Prayer

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

A Congregational pastor from Washington, D.C. originally wrote Hymn 540 in 1880 to remind worshipers that the word “goodbye” means “God be with ye/you.”

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| *Hymn 540 | <i>God Be with You Till We Meet Again</i> | RANDOLPH |
| *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 | <i>Allegro</i> | William Boyce |

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, Kate Ness

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Chiara Bono, Sammy Pope

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Joe Neighbors

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins (head), Randy Dudley, Don Hill

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

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Larry Jones, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Jim McDonald, Robyn McDonald, Carol McKay

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of CPL Evan Andrew Marshall, a member of FPC, who was killed in action in Mosul, Iraq on January 28, 2008 while serving our country.

The brass urns are given in honor of Gwen and John “Buck” Griffin by their family for their many decades of service to FPC.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH SUNDAY

February 3, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Our youth have been hard at work preparing for Youth Sunday. We look forward to supporting them next Sunday as they lead us in worship with the theme, "Welcome to the Table."

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

February 3

The youth will be standing outside the Sanctuary after services next Sunday with empty pots, asking you to help us fill them! 100% of your donation will go towards hunger relief in Athens. Last year we raised \$1,124.

FOOD SUNDAY

February 3

On Sunday, February 3 we will collect items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they request **saltine crackers & canned sweet peas**. Thank you for donating 300 items in January!

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.

FELLOWSHIP@FIRST: PIZZA NIGHT

February 6, 5:45 p.m.

We had a great time at our first Pizza Night in January! Join us as we gather again in February for pizza in Fellowship Hall! Chip in and enjoy the fellowship with your church family. Please make reservations online or with the church office by February 3. The cost is \$5 per person.

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, Today, 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, 2019 Budget, and four FPC members will be elected to the Nominations and Elections Committee.

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.

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 27 - DVD, *The Old Testament*, by Amy-Jill Levine

- February 3 - Amanda & Victor Thompson, UGA faculty, will speak on *Archeology*

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

**Note change of time* - Youth Sunday Rehearsal from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Meet in Fellowship Hall. Dinner provided.

THIS WEEK

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
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Ruling Elder Ordination & Installation
- 12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Mandatory Ski Trip Meeting & Fitting, The PIT
- 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. Youth Sunday Combined Rehearsal & Dinner, Meet in Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 28

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Room 301
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. New Life, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, January 29

- 10:00 a.m. Mardi Gras Mission Gala Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, January 30

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

Thursday, January 31

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Arbor Terrace, 170 Marilyn Farmer Way

Sunday, February 3 - Youth Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services

LOOKING AHEAD

February 3 - 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

February 23 - Confirmation Closing Retreat

February 26 - First Friends, George's Low Country Table

February 28-March 2 - Core Godly Play Training

March 3 - Mardi Gras Mission Gala

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.