



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!

February 17, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sixth 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

The God of Abraham Praise

Richard Proulx

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Welcome to the Baers

Lewis Hudgins

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

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, Stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

from Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord
and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
singing joyful songs of praise.

*Hymn 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, the selection of English stanzas in Hymn 488 convey the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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 Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

***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

PROSPECT

E - ter - nal light, shine in my heart; e - ter - nal hope, lift up my eyes; e - ter - nal power, be my support; e - ter - nal wisdom, make me wise.

The composer of the anthem was born Arthur Schlossberg into a Jewish family in Germany. While working as the assistant conductor at an opera house in Mannheim, he was forcibly removed from a rehearsal by Brown Shirts. After the Nazi party seized power in Germany in 1933, he moved to Paris, where he took the name Jean Berger. In 1941, he moved to the U.S. and served in the U.S. Army. Among other duties, he worked on USO shows and was an arranger for CBS and NBC.

Scripture Lesson Genesis 12:1-4, page 9

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *This Is the Covenant* Jean Berger

This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel, after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother saying, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, they all shall know me, says the Lord; for I will remember their sin no more.

Sermon

Beginning at the Beginning

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 281 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWMRHONDDA

*Affirmation of Faith *from The United Church of Canada*

We are not alone.

We live in God's world; we believe in God,

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new.

We trust God, who calls us to be the Church;

to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified, dead and risen;

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us;

we are not alone, thanks be to God. Amen.

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 *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* J.S. Bach

*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 210 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

*Benediction

*Congregational Response AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story;

here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, a peace and pure.

*Postlude *"The people respond – Amen!"* Dan Locklair

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as Hymn 281. It did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

"A New Creed" was adopted in 1968 by the United Church of Canada, a mainline Reformed denomination and the largest Protestant church in Canada.

Many people sing Hymn 210 unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because the text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

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

*Following 11:00 a.m. worship, all are invited to a reception
in Fellowship Hall to welcome the Baers.*

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 Church Library across from the Children's Chapel on the second floor of the Tinsley Stern building.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Jimmy Bishop

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Celeste Fischetti, Joanne Fischetti

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Keith Oelke

11:00 a.m. Margaret Johansen

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head),
Carroll Gaillard, Bill Woolbright,
Mary Ben Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Sandra Kays, Stan Kays, Fran Lane
David Mendenhall, Marcia Talmadge

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Faye Marshall, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Kathy Bangle,
Ella Stewart

RECEPTION HOST

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ryan, Amy, Nathan, Daniel, and Joshua Baer by the staff of 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.

Welcome Dr. Ryan Baer as New Senior Pastor

This morning is Dr. Ryan Baer's first day leading us in worship. Ryan, his wife, Amy, and their sons Nathan, Daniel, and Joshua, are settling into Athens. A reception will follow the 11:00 a.m. service so you may greet the Baers and welcome them into our church family.

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

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

Martha Thomas, “Music Old and New” Concert Pianist

Saturday, February 23, 3:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PTP PROGRAM WITH RON BOGUE

February 26, 10:00 a.m.

Ron Bogue will present Part 4 in his series on the history of FPC in the Moses Waddel Room. Afterwards, we will walk or drive to Taqueria Tsunami, 320 E. Clayton St. (next to Mellow Mushroom) for lunch. Please email Phyllis Crowell, crowellpm@aol.com, by February 22, to make a lunch reservation. Everyone is welcome!

VBS 2019: ROAR!

Online Registration Opens March 4

Mark your calendars with our Vacation Bible School Week, Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31. At ROAR, children will explore God's goodness and learn how a ferocious faith will help power them through this wild life.

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 6

Worship, 12:00 & 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a traditional service including communion and imposition of ashes. The ashes will be prepared by the youth.

Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

\$8/adult, \$5/child (12 and under), \$20 max per family. Please make reservations for dinner on the Fellowship Pad, online, or by contacting the church office **by Monday, March 4 at 12:00 p.m.**

FPC MEN'S SOFTBALL

Begins March 7

Softball season will be starting soon! Please contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com to join the team. Games will be Thursday nights at 6:30, 7:30, or 8:30 p.m. at Bishop Park.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SUPPERS & STUDY, Beginning March 13

Supper: 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

\$8/adult, \$5/child (12 and under), \$20 max per family. Please make reservations for dinner on the Fellowship Pad, online, or by contacting the church office **by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.**

Study led by Dr. Ryan Baer: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FPC WOMEN'S RETREATS

Details and registration on the church website.

One-Day Retreat in Athens, April 13

At Brita and Bill Barry's beautiful garden. Led by the Rev. Amy Baer. Cost is \$25.

Weekend at Montreat, August 9-11

Keynote speaker Valerie Kaur with special guest artist Amy Grant. Conference registration is on Montreat website. Lodging for two nights is \$60 and registration is on church website.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE

We raised \$1,305 on Youth Sunday. The youth voted to split this offering between the Northeast Georgia Food Bank, Casa de Amistad, and the Sparrow's Nest. Thank you!

Mardi Gras Mission Gala

Sunday, March 3, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Festive Cajun Lunch Prepared by Our Youth

Silent Auction & Treasure Island 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Live Auction 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Advance Tickets: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child (12 & under)

\$10 Childcare Special in Children's Ministry Suite (infants -3rd grade) includes lunch

Adult Tickets at the Door: \$15

Note: Cash & checks preferred; surcharge applied to credit/debit cards

Have Fun While Supporting Our Next Honduras Mission Trip!

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 • Children's Ministry Suite

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Natalie Bishop, Jody Corry, Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson, Madie Fischetti, Julie Hayes, Denise Horton, Sydney Jackson, Matt Jones, Carmen Meadows, Heather Roberts, Dan Trier, Gail Wilfong

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.

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.

- February 17 - Mixon Robinson & Chris Seponski will speak on the importance of strength training as we age
- February 24 - 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! TODAY: *Asking the Hard Questions* with Chuck Toney.

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: Confirmation Class will not meet today.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TODAY

No youth group tonight due to Monday school holiday.

THIS WEEK

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

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Reception for the Baers, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 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

Monday, February 18 - Church Office and Weekday School Closed for Presidents' Day

- 6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. AFUMC, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, February 19

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, February 20

- 11:55 a.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's *Henry V*, Room 308
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Parent Conferences, Children's Ministry Suite Sunday School Rooms
- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Avery Place, 124 Avery St., Winterville

Saturday, February 23

- 8:00 a.m. Confirmation Closing Retreat
- 9:30 a.m. Stated Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, Dr. Ryan Baer will be received
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Augusta
- 3:00 p.m. Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Martha Thomas & Reception

Sunday, February 24

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

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

IHNA *LaTable* Luncheon

February 27 - Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grille

February 28-March 2 - Core Godly Play Training

March 3 - Mardi Gras Mission Gala

Youth Frozen Chosen Cup

March 4 - Vacation Bible School Registration Opens

March 6 - Ash Wednesday Dinner & Services

March 7 - Men's Softball begins

March 13 - Lenten Suppers & Study begin

April 13 - FPC Women's One-Day Retreat

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2021
Robbie Bryan	Jeff Bangle	Jennifer Walden Abbott
Greta Terrell Covington	Meghan Bawcum	Sandy Boyles
DeeAnn Cox	Bob Burton	Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Bob Glasscock	Julie Hayes	Elizabeth Earl
Mary Havick	Sydney Jackson	Ed Ferguson
Joe Hermanowicz	Avery McLean	Rob Haire
Richard Lane	Jeanne Nadenicek	Grace Lu
Mary Peace	Carl Nichols	Chris Pope
Lawton Stephens	Tom Reigle	Mixon Robinson
Dan Trier	Judy Scanlon	Rosemary Stancil

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *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.