



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!

March 10, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Lenten Suppers & Study* Arlene Shirley

Song of Gathering

TALLIS' CANON

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

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

Call to Worship

In the season of Lent, we lay down our heavy burdens,
for the weight of the world is not ours to carry, and the life of the church is not ours to save.

Repent and believe,

for the calling of Christ leads us to follow, and the grace offers us transformation.

Let us worship God.

**Those who are able may stand.*

The text of Hymn 77, given sharper focus by being reduced from nine stanzas to five, reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter. It pairs well with a 17th-century German chorale setting for Psalm 130.

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 with Charlotte Chromiak held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

The anthem is a setting of Psalm 51 by American church musician and composer Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982). Mueller served as organist/choir director at the Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, NJ and First Presbyterian Church, Red Bank, NJ. He also taught at Central Montclair State College and Union Theological Seminary. This anthem is perhaps his most well-known, selling over two million copies.

***Hymn 77**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of grace and mercy, you create a new order for our lives: service before success, faith before knowledge, partnership over independence, the cross over the crown. Forgive us when we fall into the patterns of this world, rejecting our call through our action or inaction. Forgive us, God, and move us to see the world in the light of your great love. Forgive us, God, and grant us peace.

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 9:3-9, page 1002

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Create in me a clean heart, O God Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Second Lesson

Exodus 3:1-7, page 49

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Turning Aside to See

Dr. Ryan Baer

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, Lachlan Morris

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Ella Stewart

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Terry Caven, Joe Neighbors

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
David Beck, Lillian Beck, Ed Law,
Arlene Shirley, Pat Tritt

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,
Larry Jones, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Judy Burch, Carol McKay,
Christine Register

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Rosemary & Frank Stancil

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bertha Brandenburg and Norman Handley by Dot Handley.

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.

Receptions with Ryan

Dear friends in Christ,

Amy, the boys, and I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful welcome you have already provided for our family! I've very much enjoyed the brief opportunities I've had to visit with so many of you on Sunday mornings, and I'm eager to get to know you better in a more relaxed adult setting. To that end, some wonderful FPC families have offered their homes for what I'm calling "Receptions with Ryan." I hope you'll sign up for one of these 90-minute opportunities for fellowship and conversation as I continue to learn your stories.

Peace be with you,
Ryan

Sign up today online or in the Atrium! Link at firstpresathens.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IHNA HOST WEEK

April 14-21, Sign up today!

Thank you to all who volunteered to make our February host week a success. Our next host week will be April 14 - 21. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the calendar in the Atrium or contact Susan Boatwright and Frank Sherrill for more information at ihnafirstpresathens@gmail.com.

VBS 2019: ROAR! Register Now!

Register online for Vacation Bible School, Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31. At ROAR, we will explore God's goodness and learn how a ferocious faith will help power children through this wild life. Please contact Natalie to volunteer, for one day or the entire week, at natalie@firstpresathens.org. We need you!

FPC WOMEN'S RETREATS

Details and registration for both retreats are 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. Her topic will be, "Discovering Our Testimony." We will talk about how to connect our individual stories to the gospel story. Cost is \$25. Scholarships for child care are available

Weekend at Montreat, August 9-11

Keynote speaker will be Valarie Kaur with special guest artist Amy Grant. Register for the Women's Connection Conference on the Montreat website. FPC has reserved use of the Georgia Lodge at Montreat. Two nights at the Georgia Lodge cost \$60. Space is limited.

Wednesday Lenten Suppers & Study Beginning March 13, Fellowship Hall

Supper: 5:45 p.m.

\$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: 6:30-7:30 p.m., "What's the Deal with Presbyterians?" led by Dr. Ryan Baer

March 13 - *How did we get here?*

We'll look at Christianity from the perspective of a big "family tree," and see how we're connected to other Christian traditions through our roots in Jesus.

March 20 - *Do Presbyterians really believe in predestination?*

What do we mean when we talk about "election"?

March 27 - *Presbyterians: doing church decently and in order for 500 years.*

What do we mean when we talk about "covenant"?

April 3 - *Why isn't the Presbyterian pastor's picture on a freeway billboard?*

What do we mean when we talk about "stewardship"?

April 10 - *Do Presbyterians really believe in "total depravity"?*

What do we mean when we talk about "justice"?

New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about Presbyterianism and discipleship at FPC, we invite you to attend our New Member class.

Sunday, March 24, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Informational class led by Dr. Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room
Child care is available (with reservation)

Sunday, March 31, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea at the home of Erika & Joe Hermanowicz,
the Session will receive those wishing to join

Sunday, April 7, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

New members will be introduced to the congregation in worship

Please contact Lucy Bell Johnson in the church office, lbell@firstpresathens.org, by March 20.

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 Coordinator: Rita Raines

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.

- March 10 - Ron Bogue will continue his talk on the history of FPC
- March 17 - Dr. Will Power, retired UGA professor, will speak on *The Trinity*

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss, Larry Jones

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 1 Corinthians 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

We begin a 6 week Lenten series led by the Youth Team on Adam Hamilton's book/DVD study, *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. Chapter 1 - Baptism & Temptation.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

No youth group tonight due to Spring Break.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 10

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

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, March 11 - Church Office Closed for Construction

9:00 a.m. Weekday School Spring Break begins

Tuesday, March 12

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

6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training & Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310

Wednesday, March 13

9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room

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

5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

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

6:30 p.m. Lenten Study led by Dr. Ryan Baer, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

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

Sunday, March 17

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

LOOKING AHEAD

March 22-23 - Session Retreat

March 24 - Confirmation Sunday & Reception

March 24, 31 & April 7 - New Member Class

April 7 - Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon

Installation Service for Dr. Ryan Baer

April 13 - FPC Women's One-Day Retreat

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 14-21 - IHNA Host Week

April 18 - Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service

April 19 - Community Good Friday Service, Covenant Presbyterian Church

April 20 - Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic

April 21 - Easter Services & Brunch

April 28 - Piedmont College Singers Concert

Buc Collins

We give thanks for the faithful ministry of Buc Collins, whose five years of service as Sexton came to a close this week. If you'd like to send Buc an expression of gratitude, his mailing address is :

457 Browns Chapel Rd.
Lexington, GA 30648

Please join the Session and Staff as we lift Buc in prayer and bless him on his way.

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*
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. Rita Raines, *Nursery 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.**