



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 24, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Paul Manz

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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

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.**

Call to Worship

from Psalm 63

O God, we seek you, and our souls thirst for you.
Our flesh faints for the Lord, as in a dry and weary land.
O God, your steadfast love is better than life itself!
**Let us bless the Lord as long as we live.
We will lift up our hands and call on God's name.**

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

Hymn 482 employs many phrases from psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103. The author, Joachim Neander, used to take long walks in a valley that was later named for him. It was in the Neanderthal valley that the skeleton of the "Neanderthal man" was discovered in 1856.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, we try to draw boundaries around your forgiveness, for we cannot imagine the endlessness of your grace. We try to make a rule book of your holy stories, for we cannot grasp the depth of your living word. We try to make a worldly hero of our holy savior, for we cannot understand the majesty of your gift. Forgive us, Holy One, and gather us more closely into the realm of your transforming love. Amen.

***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.

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

***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.

After passing the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Micah 6:6-8, page 850

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Where True Charity and Love Dwell*

Kaye Saunders

Where true charity and love dwell, God is also there.
Since the love of Christ has joined us, has joined us in one body,
let us all be glad and rejoice now and always.
And as we love and serve our Lord, the living God,
so let us with sincerity love each other.

Second Lesson Luke 10:25-37, page 948

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

Sermon

Neighbors

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 408**

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

GERMANY

Because dense populations always result in concentrated hardships, the vivid yet timeless evocation of urban needs stated in Hymn 408 connects to our own day as well as to Jesus' lament over Jerusalem in Matthew 23 and Luke 13. The tune was first used with this text and is now customary.

11:00 a.m. Confirmation

Presentation of Confirmands and Profession of Their Faith

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer and Welcome

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

Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

***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 421**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

***Benediction**

***8:45 a.m. Congregational Response**

Danish



11:00 a.m. Choral Response *Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

***Postlude**

Fugue in D minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Apostles' Creed will be affirmed at both services.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2019

Mentor Family

JULIAN ATTAWAY
Randy Dudley
Joe & Mary Attaway

REID BANGLE
Jimbo LaBoon
Jeff & Kathy Bangle

ANNIE BLANKS
Greta Covington
Eric Blanks and
Ed & Mary Catherine Smith

CULLEN BRUNER
Todd Miller
Chris & Lia Bruner

ELLEN CORRY
Melinda DeMaria
Mac & Jody Corry

PRATT FERGUSON
Bo Thurston
Ed & Shannon Ferguson

HENRY MARETT
Ben Davis
Braden Marett &
Rob Marett

ADDIE MIDDLETON
Jody Pope
Allan & Renee Middleton

HENRY SMITH
Mickey Register
Riley & Claire Smith

WALLACE TRAPNELL
Dick Ferguson
Jeffrey & Jennifer Trapnell

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 in honor of our confirmands.

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, Kate Ness

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Logan Bono, Lachlan Morris

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Katie Sue Martin-Williams

11:00 a.m. Don DeMaria

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. John A. Simpson (head),
Cate DeMaria, Don DeMaria,
Maggie DeMaria, Melinda DeMaria, Pat Tritt

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,
Barbara Laughlin, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum

RECEPTION HOSTS

Parents of 2020 Confirmation Class

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mariam Wendler and Andrew S.C. McKay by Carol McKay.

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,

Our Receptions with Ryan are off to a great start! These 90-minute gatherings in homes are a wonderful way for me to get to know you in a more relaxed setting. If you haven't signed up yet, there are still a few slots available this month and next, and a new date has been added on May 7. You can learn more and register through the church web site or call the church office.

Peace be with you,
Ryan

New date added; sign up today online! Link at firstpresathens.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

April 7, 12:30 p.m., Moses Waddel Room

All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's founding birthday party. We will share a salad luncheon and Bible study. Bobbi Epting, retired Presbyterian minister, will present, "God with Us as the Holy Spirit." Please RSVP to the church office by April 2.

ONE-DAY WOMEN'S RETREAT

April 13

At Brita and Bill Barry's beautiful garden, led by the Rev. Amy Baer. Her topic will be, "Discovering Our Testimony." Cost is \$25. Deadline for registration is March 31.

IHNA HOST WEEK

April 14-21, Sign up today!

Our next host week is coming soon! Please sign up on the calendar in the Atrium or contact Susan Boatwright and Frank Sherrill for more information at ihnafirstpresathens@gmail.com.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18, 5:45 p.m.

We will have dinner then stay in Fellowship Hall for worship, including a short drama and the Lord's Supper. There is no charge for dinner but reservations are requested by **Monday, April 15 at 12:00 p.m.**

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 19, 7:00 p.m.

This year's Good Friday Presbyterian community service will be hosted by Covenant Presbyterian, 1065 Gaines School Rd. It will be a Tenebrae Service, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," and will feature prayer, Scripture, and song.

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, natalie@firstpresathens.org. We need you!

Installation Service

The Northeast Georgia Presbytery invites you to the Installation Service of Dr. Ryan J. Baer on Sunday, April 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow.

Wednesday Lenten Suppers & Study Through April 10, 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 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.

Today, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Informational class led by Dr. Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room

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

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 24 - Mary Miller, from the Peabody Collection, will speak about the Peabody Awards
- March 31 - Briana Bivens will speak about White Privilege

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 series on topics ranging from the Old Testament to Disney movies!

TODAY

We continue our 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 3.

***Confirmation Sunday!**

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

Game Night!

Middle School will meet from 4:30-5:30.

High School will meet from 6:15-8:00.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 24 - Confirmation Sunday

- 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 Confirmands, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. New Member Class, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:15 p.m. High School Youth Group & Dinner, The PIT

Monday, March 25

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 26

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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, Siri Thai Cuisine, 1040 Gaines School Rd.

Wednesday, March 27

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Ted's Most Best, 254 W. Washington St.
- 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 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, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 28

- 2:30 p.m. The Mellows, Bountiful Hills, 200 Bolton Dr., Commerce

Sunday, March 31

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

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, April 15**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a Fellowship Pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 21 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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*
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.**