



# 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 31, 2019  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Fourth 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

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Michael Praetorius

### 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

Come as you are, broken and burdened,  
**and find healing in God's goodness.**  
Come as you are, gifted and beloved,  
**and find purpose in God's calling.**  
Come as you are, weary and wary,  
**and find comfort in God's embrace.**  
Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
**and worship God with gladness.**

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he wrote *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical psalms as well as changed psalms and new hymns.

### \*Hymn 260

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

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Forgive us when we ignore your presence: when we place our trust in things that fade away. By your grace, move us to be more faithful disciples. By your forgiveness, empower us to share forgiveness with others. 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.

**\*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.

*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 Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.*

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson** 1 Samuel 17:41-45, page 259

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** *Jesu, the very thought of thee* Glenn L. Rudolph

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast;  
 but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.  
 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find,  
 a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of us all.  
 Jesu, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;  
 Jesu, be thou our glory now, and through eternity. Amen.

**Second Lesson** Ephesians 6:10-18, page 1069

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

**Sermon** *Stand* Dr. Ryan Baer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 307** *Fight the Good Fight* DUKE STREET

The opening phrase of Hymn 307 (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle," "grapple," or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*Philippians 2:5-11*

**Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**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** *Beautiful Savior* Charles Ore

**\*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 447** *Lead On, O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE

**\*Benediction**

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



**\*11:00 a.m. Choral Response** *Sevenfold Amen* John Stainer

**\*Postlude** *Fantasia in G* Johann Sebastian Bach

Scholars debate whether this powerfully poetic text is an early Christian hymn which Paul is quoting or his own composition. It is one of the best-known and most influential passages in the Pauline corpus.

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. Hymn 447, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza, but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on “deeds of love and mercy” and courage for life’s journey.

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

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## 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.** Andrew Miller, Lizzie Simmons

#### *Lay Readers*

**8:45 a.m.** Jim Dove

**11:00 a.m.** Bertis Downs

### USHERS

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

**11:00 a.m.** Bruce Miller (head),  
Bertis Downs, Ed Law, Cynthia McCullers,  
Carmen Meadows, Chris Pope, Tom Wilfong

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Carroll Gaillard, Faye Marshall,  
Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** Bob Bostrom, Nancy Bostrom,  
Dan Nadenicek, Courtney Pittman

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Presbyterian Women, Circle 6

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Roger Burbage

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jim McGown by Jane McGown.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

### *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.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FOOD SUNDAY

**April 7**

On Sunday, April 7 we will collect items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they request **pork & beans, rice, and dry spaghetti**. Thank you for donating 457 items in March!!!

### 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. The Rev. 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 today!**

### PALM SUNDAY

**April 14**

Everyone is invited to join the palm procession at 10:40 a.m. in the upper parking lot. The St. Andrew's and Cherub choirs will be singing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

### 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](mailto:ihnafirstpresathens@gmail.com).

### PRAYER STATIONS

**April 15 - 20, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to spend time during Holy Week in the Tinsley Stern Building exploring prayer stations based on our five senses.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Dinner & Service, 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.** A Nursery will be provided for infants and toddlers.

### 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.

### EASTER EGG HUNT & PICNIC

**April 20, 11:00 a.m.**

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane. Please bring your Easter basket, picnic basket with lunch, and blanket for your family. RSVP online or to the church office.

### EASTER

**April 21, Worship Services 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.  
Brunch 9:30 a.m.**

Please join us for the celebration of the risen Christ. Instead of Sunday School we will all gather as a church family for our annual Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall.

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### 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 with 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**

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

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

*The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series*

presents

***Piedmont College Singers***

Dr. C. Wallace Hinson, Conductor

**Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m.**

# 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 31 - Briana Bivens will speak about *White Privilege*
- April 7 - our own class member, Margaret Orr, will share her expertise in climate change

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 4.

### SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

### TONIGHT

Combined Middle School and High School youth group will meet from 6:00-8:00 for dinner and a movie in The PIT.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, March 31

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. Godly Play Team Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, home of Erika & Joe Hermanowicz, 5600 Old Lexington Rd.
- 4:15 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:15 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Combined Middle School & High School Youth Group & Dinner, The PIT

### Monday, April 1

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

### Tuesday, April 2

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

### Wednesday, April 3

- 11:55 a.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.
- 12:05 p.m. Weekday School "Make It-Take It" for Parents, Children's Ministry Suite
- 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, April 4

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. IHNA Training, IHNA Day Center, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Thrive Senior Living, 2040 Resurgence Dr., Watkinsville
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### Sunday, April 7 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 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](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 21 worship service bulletin.

**In Memory of**

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**In Honor of**

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**Given by**

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## 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

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## 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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**