



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!

June 2, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

I'll Praise My Maker

Robert J. Powell

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Stephen Ministry

Drew Marshall

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

Song of Gathering

Hymn 483, Stanza 1

**Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!**

Call to Worship

from Psalm 47

The Spirit and the Church say, "Come."

The people of the Word say, "Come."

Let everyone who is thirsty come.

Receive the gift of the water of life.

*Hymn 253

I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113TH

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Hymn 253, a paraphrase of Psalm 146, was a favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, South Carolina) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set here is the one Watts had in mind for it.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

** Those who are able may stand.*

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

Children's Church will not meet over the summer. Children are invited to remain in worship.

The anthem is a poem by George Herbert, set to music by English composer Alexander Brent Smith (1889-1950). He was assistant organist at Worcester Cathedral and Director of Music at Lancing College.

Hymn 510, a 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem, is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*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.

Commissioning of Heifer Mission Trip Participants

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 321, Stanza 1

**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 25:1-10, page 639

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

Anthem

The Call

Alexander Brent Smith

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a Way as gives us breath;

such a Truth as ends all strife;

such a Life as killeth death!

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a Light as shows a feast,

such a Feast as mends in length,

such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a Joy as none can move;

such a Love as none can part;

such a Heart as Joys in Love!

Second Lesson Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, page 1135

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

Sermon

Use Your Imagination

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 510

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

QUEBEC

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

The Call

Michael Burkhardt

*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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

“...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

“...Great is the mystery of faith:”



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,



Christ will come a - gain.

“...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever.”



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

All the bread is gluten-free.

The musical responses in the communion liturgy are set to an early American hymn tune, LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer and church musician Richard Proulx (1937-2010).

Please partake as you are served.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

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

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* David Cherwien

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 9:00 to 11:15 a.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Liturgist

The Rev. Bobbie Epting

Lay Reader

Kitty Donnan

USHERS

John Simpson (head),
Randy Dudley, Diane Hartzell, Joe Neighbors,
Terry Nestor, Keith Oelke

GREETERS

Kathy Bangle, Svea Bogue, Jane Kimbrell

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Paul, Kathy, and Ivan Allaire

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Robert Thomas Cobb, by Leita Cobb.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

(706) 543-4338

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/Admin. Assistant*
Mrs. Laura McHugh, *Accountant*
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, *Weekday School Admin. Assistant*
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant*
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 2 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. History of the Church by Ron Bogue, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, June 3

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, June 4

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, June 5

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Wonderful Wednesday
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310

Sunday, June 9 - Pentecost

- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

June 9 - Pentecost - Wear Red!

- Pentecost Offering
- Books for Keeps Book Drive dropoff deadline
- Stephen Ministry Meeting

June 9-15 - Youth Mission Trip to Heifer Ranch

June 9, 16, 23 - History of the Church by Ron Bogue

June 10-13 - Weekday School Camp

June 12 & 16 - Bookless Book Group

June 23-29 - Montreat Worship & Music Conference

July 8-11 - Weekday School Camp

July 10 & 24 - Bookless Book Group

Summer Schedule

Sunday School and Children's Church will not meet over the summer. Children are invited to remain in worship. Watch for the church mouse in your bulletin starting June 9 with "A Time for Children."



Summer Office Hours

The church office will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons through July 26. Our office hours are: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday. If you need assistance on Friday afternoons, please refer to the Church Life App to contact Dr. Baer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH WITH RON BOGUE, Starts today! Sundays, June 2, 9, 16, 23

Everyone is invited to the Moses Waddell Room after worship at 11:30 a.m. Sundays through June 23 for Ron Bogue's popular series on the history of FPC.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

We would like to honor our college graduates in the June/July issue of our *Columns* newsletter. To recognize someone, please send their name, school, degree, future plans, and a picture to Nan Thomas, nan@firstpresathens.org, by June 3.

PENTECOST OFFERING, June 9

Your gift helps the church develop and support its youth and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. Sixty percent goes to support our denomination's Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, national youth ministries, and child advocacy. Forty percent stays locally to provide scholarships for the Barrow Elementary After-School program.

VBS 2019

We had a wonderful time last week at Roar! Thank you to all of our fabulous volunteers who helped remind 105 children from our church and surrounding community that God is good all the time and their ferocious faith can power them through this wild life! Click the VBS button on the church website for a link to lots of great pictures from our week.

HEIFER MISSION TRIP, June 9-15

This morning we are commissioning ten youth and two adults who depart next Sunday for Arkansas for a week of learning about global poverty at Heifer International's working ranch.

SUMMER CHOIR

All interested singers are invited to join us in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service. Our Chancel Choir will be the foundation of this group. Singers may join us for any single Sunday or for as many as they wish, even for the whole summer. Adults, youth, and children are all welcome.

Stephen Ministry Applications

Persons interested in becoming Stephen Ministers, trained to offer one-to-one compassionate care to others experiencing grief, divorce, or other life crisis, apply today! Applications are in the Atrium, church office, and on our website. We need both men and women. Stop by the Atrium table or learn more at a brief meeting in the Bride's Room in the Tinsley-Stern Building June 9 at 9:15 a.m. if you are interested in receiving training to become a Stephen Minister. The next class will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning August 20.

Books for Keeps Book Drive Through June 9

This year marks 10 years that BFK has been giving away books to Athens-area students. Eight thousand students at 18 elementary schools in Georgia will receive 95,000 books this year, surpassing half-a-million books given away!

FPC has become a large supporter of Books for Keeps with our annual book drive. You can help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office. Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children's books. Learn more at booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!

Weekend Retreat at Montreat Women's Connection Conference "The Greatest of These Is Love" Friday, August 9 - Sunday, August 11

Keynote speaker will be civil rights activist, faith leader, and founder of the Revolutionary Love Project, Valarie Kaur with special guest artist Amy Grant. Register for the Women's Connection Conference on the Montreat website. Conference cost is \$236 until June 28.

FPC has reserved use of the Georgia Lodge at beautiful Montreat. Cost for two nights at the Georgia Lodge is \$60. Meals are extra. Please register on the FPC website by June 28 to stay with FPC friends at the Georgia Lodge or stop by the Atrium table today.