



# 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!*

August 11, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

## 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 the service. 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

*O God Our Faithful God*

Johannes Brahms

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

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

#### Song of Gathering

AZMON

**This is the day the Lord hath made; the hours are all God's own.**

**Let heaven rejoice; let earth be glad, and praise surround the throne.**

#### Call to Worship

Come, O people! Listen for the voice of God.

**We have heard God's voice in mighty thunder, in joyful laughter, in faithful questions.**

Come, O people! Watch for the presence of God.

**We have seen God's presence in rolling hillsides, in busy streets, in one another.**

Come, O people! Taste the goodness of God.

**We have tasted God's love in broken bread, in shared wine, in living water.**

Rejoice, O people! God is here.

**Let us rejoice and worship God together!**

#### \*Hymn 276

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, the text of Hymn 276 is one of the few among the writer's 1200 poems that has gained much currency. The tune was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

#### \*Call to Confession

#### \*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you tell us that where our treasures are, our hearts are sure to be. Forgive us when we treasure the shallow things of this world more than we cherish the depth of your grace. Forgive us when we choose comfort over faithfulness, power over love, wealth over discipleship, selfishness over service. Forgive us, Holy God, and move us to faithful and joyful obedience through Christ our Lord.**

#### \*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 resume next Sunday, August 18. Children are invited to remain in worship today.

The stanzas of hymn 223 are selected from sixteen that originally made up this paraphrase of Psalm 103, the second of two versions in the volume where they were first published. The tune was probably created as a German psalm tune but later came to be used with hymn texts.

A catechism is a set of questions and answers regarding essential matters of Christian life and faith. The origin of the word "catechism" is from the Greek for "oral teaching." Although not formally included in *The Book of Confessions*, *The Study Catechism of the Presbyterian Church (USA)* was approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998).

## \*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.

## Back-to-School Blessing

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 339, Stanza 1

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

#### First Lesson

John 8:2-11, page 977

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

#### Anthem

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.  
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.  
For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;  
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

#### Second Lesson

Exodus 20:14, page 65

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

#### Sermon

*Words to Live By: The Ten Commandments*

*Seventh Word: Fidelity*

Dr. Ryan Baer

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### \*Hymn 223

*O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

STUTTGART

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

Excerpts from *The Study Catechism of the PC(USA)*

What are the Ten Commandments?

**The Ten Commandments give a summary of God's law for our lives. They teach us how to live rightly with God and one another.**

Why should you obey this law?

**Not to win God's love, for God already loves me. Not to earn my salvation, for Christ has earned it for me. Not to avoid being punished, for then I would obey out of fear. With gladness in my heart I should obey God's law out of gratitude, for God has blessed me by it and given it for my well-being.**

What is the seventh commandment?

**“You shall not commit adultery.”**

What do you learn from this commandment?

**God requires fidelity and purity in sexual relations. Since love is God’s great gift, God expects me not to corrupt it, or confuse it with momentary desire or the selfish fulfillment of my own pleasures. God forbids all sexual immorality, whether in married or in single life.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer** Hymnal, p. 16  
... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

### **Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** *Improvisation on ST. HELENA* John Coble

**\*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 251** *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure* WINCHESTER NEW

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response** Hymn 538, Stanza 1

**Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

**Postlude** *Prelude and Fugue in B-flat* attr. J. S. Bach

Hymn 251, a paraphrase of verses from the latter part of Psalm 145, celebrates God’s providential care for all creation, especially for those in any need or trouble. The anonymous German tune was apparently introduced to English hymnody by John Wesley in 1742.

*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*

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**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.

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**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.

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## **NOTES ON THE SERVICE**

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Tom Landrum, *Liturgist and Lay Reader*

### **USHERS**

Chuck Roberts (head), Michael Earl, Chris Pope,  
Heather Roberts, Laney Roberts, Nixon Roberts

### **RECEPTION HOSTS**

Chris & Jody Pope

### **GREETERS**

Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,  
Barb Laughlin, John Walden

### **SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER**

Roger Burbage

### **FLOWERS**

The Sanctuary flowers are given in memory of Esther Culverwell by Jeanie and Roger Burbage.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 25

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**

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.

**Pre-Kindergarten - 1st Grade** • Godly Play Room 127

**2nd - 3rd Grade** • Godly Play Room 126

**4th - 5th Grade** • Godly Play Room 124

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Carol Ashmore, Natalie Bishop, Charlotte Chromiak, Jody Corry, Greta Covington, Jill Crim, Margaret Davis, Susan Ferguson, Madie Fischetti, Julie Hayes, Denise Horton, Sydney Jackson, Matt Jones, Paul Lee, Carmen Meadows, Lisa Oelke, Heather Roberts, Carol Strickland, Dan Trier, Gail Wilfong

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

**Christian Issues** • Room 308

Study of *The Story* - one continuing story of God and His people (NIV version). The Bible in chronological order, related as a story.

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.

- DVD, *The Holy Land Revealed*, by Professor Jody Magness

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

**Living on a Prayer** • Room 303

Devotionals based on scripture, led by different class members. Monthly community engagement project.

Coordinator: Karen Burg

**New Voices** • Room 310

Study of the book, *Holy Envy - Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins

**W. D. Hooper** • Room 309

Study of the New Testament book of Revelation.

Led by: Jerris Hayes

**Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class**

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

**Women's Bible Class** • Room 301

Begging Exodus in our verse-by-verse approach.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

## SUNDAYS for YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

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.

This year our youth will be following along with the Narrative Lectionary during Sunday School. After a time of fellowship and donuts, youth in grades 6-12 will come together for an introduction to the day's scripture and discussion about how it applies to life today. Sunday mornings will be led by a team of awesome committed adults including: Kathy Bangle, Meghan Bawcum, Susan Boatright, Robbie Bryan and Jean Martin-Williams.

**Confirmation** will be open to current 8th and 9th graders this year. This class gives students an opportunity to deepen and confirm their faith in Jesus Christ, learn the basic theology of the Christian faith, and what it means to identify with the PC(USA). We will meet for eight sessions on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in addition to days of service and opening and closing retreats. Confirmation begins with an informational meeting and dinner on Sunday, September 8. Please contact Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org) to sign up.

**SUNDAY EVENINGS**

On Sunday evenings, youth will meet together for dinner and fellowship before breaking into middle school and high school small groups.

**Youth Kickoff Potluck, Sunday, August 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner and kickoff meeting. All MS and HS youth and their parents are encouraged to attend!

### New Sunday Evening Schedule:

5:30-6:00 Celebration Singers choir rehearsal  
6:00-6:30 Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:30-7:30 Youth Group

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, August 11 - Back-to-School Blessing**

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 11:05 a.m. Children's Ministry Open House, Children's Ministry Suite

### **Monday, August 12 - Thursday, August 15 - Weekday School Teacher Pre-Planning**

#### **Monday, August 12**

- 5:15 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

#### **Tuesday, August 13**

- 1:15 p.m. Staff Calendar Review Meeting, Front Reception Area
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training & Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310

#### **Wednesday, August 14**

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Em's Kitchen, 975 Hawthorne Avenue
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

#### **Saturday, August 17**

- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play Guides' Workday, Children's Ministry Suite

### **Sunday, August 18 - Sunday, August 25 - Family Promise (Formerly IHNA) Host Week**

#### **Sunday, August 18**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:30 p.m. Fall Kickoff Brunch, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church Resumes, Children's Chapel
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Kickoff Potluck, Fellowship Hall

## LOOKING AHEAD

**August 19** - Weekday School Begins

**August 25**- Sunday School Resumes, Stephen Leader Retirement/Commissioning, Celebration Singers Choir Resumes

**August 27** - First Friends, Akademia Brewing Company, 150 Crane Dr.

**September 4** - Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.

**September 5** - Family Promise (Formerly IHNA) Volunteer Training, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.

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### Church Office Hours

Church office hours return to 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you need assistance after hours, please call the church office to reach the pastor on call.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LOVE NOTES AND MEAL TRAIN FOR THE KIPPS

Blank cards are in your bulletin for those wishing to write encouraging notes to John and Sara Kipp, which will be delivered to them. Baskets to collect the cards are in the Narthex and in the Atrium. If you would like to mail a card, please send it to: 1110 Jeremy Dr., Watkinsville, GA 30677. Please keep the Kipps in your prayers.

The Congregational Care Commission has set up a Meal Train for the Kipps. We have dates available through mid-September. If you would like to volunteer, please access this link:

[www.mealtrain.com/trains/rk2zyl](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/rk2zyl)

### TUESDAY SUPPERS AT THE PSC

Sunday Suppers at the Presbyterian Student Center are now Tuesday Suppers at the PSC. If you like to see hungry, appreciative young adults eat a delicious meal prepared by you (or you and some friends), please go to [www.PSCuga.org/worship](http://www.PSCuga.org/worship) and click on the Sign Up Genius link to see the fall schedule.

### BOOKLESS BOOK GROUP

**August 14 & 28, 11:30 a.m**

A group of women meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month to enjoy lunch and conversation. We meet at a variety of restaurants and invite anyone interested to join us. Our next meetings will be:

**August 14** - Em's Kitchen, 975 Hawthorne Ave.

**August 28** - Taziki's, 227 Prince Ave.

### BOOKS FOR KEEPS ANNUAL BOOK SALE, August 15-18 & 24-25

Thank you for donating three carloads of books to our spring book drive! Now it's time for the BFK sale, held this year at 1860 South Barnett Shoals Road (the old Vision Video space next to Publix on the East Side). For details please visit [booksforkeeps.org/bfk-book-sale](http://booksforkeeps.org/bfk-book-sale).

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

On August 25 in worship we will recognize retiring Stephen Leader Larry Gray and commission two new Stephen Leaders, Bob Frisch and Lisa Oelke. Please offer your thanks to them at the reception following.

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### Fall Kickoff Brunch

**August 18, 9:30 a.m.**

Join us for brunch in Fellowship Hall as we begin two worship services and look forward to the beginning of our fall activities. Sunday School information will be available.

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### Choir Rehearsals Resume:

HANDBELL CHOIR	Monday, August 12	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Youth & Adults
CHANCEL CHOIR	Wednesday, August 14	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Adults
CHERUB CHOIR	Sunday, August 18	4:30 - 5:15 p.m.	Age 4 - Grade 1
ST. ANDREWS CHOIR	Sunday, August 18	4:30 - 5:15 p.m.	Grade 2 - Grade 5
CELEBRATION SINGERS	Sunday, August 25	5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Grade 6 - Grade 12

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### Next Family Promise (Formerly IHNA) Host Week

**August 18-25, Sign-up today!**

Please sign-up in the Atrium today for our next host week. You may also check the online calendar or email Susan Boatwright at [boatwright.susan@gmail.com](mailto:boatwright.susan@gmail.com) or Frank Sherrill at [franksherrill@gmail.com](mailto:franksherrill@gmail.com) to volunteer.

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### Grand Connections

When family may live far away or even be deceased, church family is especially important. Session's Congregational Care Commission would like to help facilitate cross-generational relationships within our congregation. We're calling it "Grand Connections." If you would like to be paired with a person(s) of another generation for the purpose of occasionally sharing a meal, praying for one another, attending worship together, etc., please fill this out, tear it off, and place in the offering plate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_