



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 25, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Eleventh 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 both services. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin, or large-print hymnal.*

Greeting Psalm 118:24
This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude *Prelude on OLD HUNDREDTH* Healy Willan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Debt Elimination* Kathy Bangle

Song of Gathering DUKE STREET
**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship
Let us worship the One who nourishes us,
who satisfies us in parched places and makes our bones strong.
Let us worship the One who calls us,
Let us worship the One who nourishes us,
who leads us into compassion and draws us nearer to justice.
Let us worship the One who creates us,
who forms and reforms us in the image of our maker.

***Hymn 220** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*
OLD HUNDREDTH

*The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.*

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

The Song of Gathering is part of a paraphrase of Psalm 100 by Michael Morgan, set to the familiar tune DUKE STREET.

Hymn 220 is a pairing that began in 1561, a paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot, set to a tune written by a French composer for Psalm 134 in the Genevan Psalter of 1551. This text and tune have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since.

** Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

You are faithful, O God of mercy, from everlasting to everlasting. Forgive us when our faith withers, our passion grows weary, and our focus wanes. You are loving, O God of mercy, from everlasting to everlasting. Forgive us when our love is too shallow, our compassion too slow, our status too important. You are the creator, O God of mercy, from everlasting to everlasting. Forgive us when we fear that you have stopped creating, stopped calling, stopped reforming. Convict us, enliven us, and lead us to know the depth of your steadfast love.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***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.

Stephen Leader Recognition and Commissioning

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

8:45 a.m. Congregational Prayer for Illumination

TALLIS' CANON

**Eternal light, shine in my heart;
eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support;
eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

11:00 a.m. Choral Prayer for Illumination

Mark Schweizer

First Lesson

Mark 14:53-65, page 929

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Second Lesson

Exodus 20:16, 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

Ninth Word: Truth

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 327**

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

At "The Peace," worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

After the Passing of 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.

The Prayer for Illumination is sung by the congregation at 8:45, and by the Chancel Choir at 11:00 with different music and a slightly different text. The words were written by Alcuin of York (England) in the 8th century.

The anthem was composed by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876), grandson of Charles Wesley. Samuel's middle name came from his father's love of the music of Bach.

***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 ninth commandment?

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

What do you learn from this commandment?

God forbids me to damage the honor or reputation of my neighbor. I should not say false things against anyone for the sake of money, favor or friendship, for the sake of revenge, or for any other reason. God requires me to speak the truth, to speak well of my neighbor when I can, and to view the faults of my neighbor with tolerance when I cannot.

Does this commandment forbid racism and other forms of negative stereotyping?

Yes. In forbidding false witness against my neighbor, God forbids me to be prejudiced against people who belong to any vulnerable, different or disfavored social group. Jews, women, homosexuals, racial and ethnic minorities, and national enemies are among those who have suffered terribly from being subjected to the slurs of social prejudice. Negative stereotyping is a form of falsehood that invites actions of humiliation, abuse, and violence as forbidden by the commandment against murder.

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

O Word of God Incarnate

Alec Wyton

*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 260

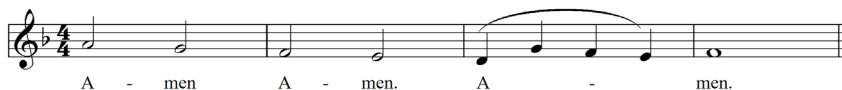
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN’ FESTE BURG

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

Danish



Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Johann Pachelbel

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).

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he wrote the text and tune of Hymn 260, his most famous hymn.

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 Children's Ministry Suite located down the stairs in the Atrium, through the glass door to the right.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Terry Caven, Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Chuck Roberts (head),
Michael Earl, Heather Roberts,
Laney Roberts, Nixon Roberts

RECEPTION HOSTS

Stephen Ministers

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Terry Nestor, Keith Oelke,
Lisa Oelke

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Kent Burel,
Carol Dolson, Steve West

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Roger Burbage

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Elinor Terrell by her children.

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.

Words to Live By: The Ten Commandments

Our summer sermon series, "Words to Live By: The Ten Commandments," continues through September 1. If you've missed a sermon in the series, manuscripts and audio recordings are available on our website.

Choir Rehearsals

HANDBELL CHOIR
CHANCEL CHOIR
CHERUB CHOIR
ST. ANDREWS CHOIR
CELEBRATION SINGERS

Mondays at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Sundays at 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.
Sundays at 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.
Sundays at 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Youth & Adults
Adults
Age 4 - Grade 1
Grade 2 - Grade 5
Grade 6 - Grade 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVE NOTES 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: 180 Kesse Ln, Fair Play, SC 29643. Please keep the Kipps in your prayers.

WAYS TO SERVE FORMS

NEW YEAR, NEW FORM

God calls each of us to participate in the great drama of salvation history. Where are you in God's story? Where will you use the gifts, talents, and interests God has given you this year? The "Ways to Serve" form is an invaluable tool for our church and is revised annually to reflect current ministries. The 2019-20 forms are inserted in the bulletins and return baskets are in the Narthex, Atrium and church office. Forms are also available on the website.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Today we will recognize during worship 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 in Fellowship Hall.

PROJECT SAFE WORK DAY, August 27

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

FOOD SUNDAY, September 1

On Sunday, September 1, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting *canned pasta* and *boxes of instant oatmeal packets*. Thank you for the 415 items donated in August!

First Things

Sunday, September 8, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

First Things in Moses Waddel Room (3rd floor)

Child care is available upon request

First Things is an opportunity to learn about First Presbyterian Church, to meet the staff and other newcomers, and for us to have some conversations about what it means to live out our discipleship as members of Christ's church.

Sunday, September 15, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

After attending First Things, if you're feeling called to become a member of FPC, you're invited to the New Member Tea to meet the Session and be received into membership. The New Member Tea is informal and will be hosted by Ed and Shannon Ferguson, 1790 Lakewood Manor Drive, Athens, 30606. Children are welcome!

Sunday, September 22, 8:45 or 11:00 a.m.

New members will be introduced to the congregation during the morning worship services, and receptions will be held after both services to welcome the newest members of FPC.

Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday, **September 4** by emailing Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org or calling the church office.

Grand Connections

When family members live far away or may 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 _____

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY, 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.

- August 25 - DVD, *The Old Testament*, by Amy-Jill Levine

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

Beginning 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. The leadership team will be: Kathy Bangle, Meghan Bawcum, Susan Boatright, Robbie Bryan, Don DeMaria 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.

TONIGHT: Youth Pool Party 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us at the Attaways for a pool party and BBQ! 145 Tallasse Farms Drive.

New Sunday Evening Schedule:

5:30-6:00 Celebration Singers rehearsal

6:00-6:30 Dinner, Fellowship Hall

6:30-7:30 Youth Group

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 25

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School Begins
- 12:00 p.m. Reception Stephen Leader Retirement/Commissioning, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Pool Party, Home of John and Mary Attaway

Monday, August 26

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Early Birds and Lunch Bunch Begin, Weekday School
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Bicentennial Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, August 27

- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Work Day, Project Safe Thrift Store, 955 Hawthorne Ave.
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Training and Supervision, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Akademia Brewing Company, 150 Crane Dr.

Wednesday, August 28

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Taziki's, 227 Prince Ave
- 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

Sunday, September 1 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

September 3 - Circle 3/4, Home of Leita Cobb, 216 Indigo Lane

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.

September 7-8 - Youth Fall Retreat

September 8 - First Things, Moses Waddel Room
Youth Confirmation Dinner and Blessing, Fellowship Hall

September 9 - Circle 2, Staff Conference Room

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation Beginning September 18, Fellowship Hall

Dinner: 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.**

Conversation: 6:30-7:30 p.m led by Dr. Ryan Baer - "Making Sense of Scripture"

Year after year, more Bibles are sold than any other book; yet the Bible is challenging reading, with strange names and customs on almost every page. Join Dr. Baer on Wednesday nights this fall for a conversation entitled, "Making Sense of Scripture." We'll address questions like, *What is the Bible?*, *Is the Bible True?*, *Where Did the Bible Come From?*, *How is the Bible the Word of God?*, and more.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2019

Robbie Bryan
Greta Terrell Covington
DeeAnn Cox
Bob Glasscock
Mary Havick
Joe Hermanowicz
Richard Lane
Mary Peace
Lawton Stephens
Dan Trier

CLASS OF 2020

Jeff Bangle
Meghan Bawcum
Bob Burton
Julie Hayes
Sydney Jackson
Avery McLean
Jeanne Nadenicek
Carl Nichols
Tom Reigle
Judy Scanlon

CLASS OF 2021

Jennifer Walden Abbott
Sandy Boyles
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Elizabeth Earl
Ed Ferguson
Rob Haire
Grace Lu
Chris Pope
Mixon Robinson
Rosemary Stancil

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *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*
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist*
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant*
Mrs. Laura McHugh, *Accountant*
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant*
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant*
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.