



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!

September 8, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Thirteenth 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

Festal Flourish

Gordon Jacob

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Debt Elimination

Sydney Jackson

Song of Gathering

UNSER HERRSCHER

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

Call to Worship

We gather as the family of God,
bound together in the body of Christ.
We gather as the children of God,
called together in the presence of the Spirit.
We gather this day to worship God
and join our lives in the life of the church.

*Hymn 464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*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 well-known melody of Hymn 464 was created to provide a choral setting for Schiller's poem "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. The author of the text, a prominent Presbyterian pastor, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

** Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, you are the potter, shaping the world and molding our spirits. Your creation is an act of grace and your every word is a fountain of life. Mold and shape us once again, O God. Drip the water of your Spirit onto our dry and cracking edges, and push us with your gentle fingers to reflect your handiwork. Create love where there is hatred, deep faith where there is shallow religion, generosity where there is selfish greed, and wholeness where there are shattered pieces. For we know that your work is not complete in us, and that our lives are made complete in you.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

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."

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - lia, al - le - lu - ia.

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 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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 454, Stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson

Mark 1:16-20, page 912

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Now is the Cool of the Day

Jean Ritchie

The anthem is a setting of a song by American folk singer and Appalachian dulcimer player Jean Ritchie. It was arranged by her sons, Peter and Jon Pickow, and adapted by James Erb, an American musicologist, composer, and arranger.

My Lord, he said unto me: do you like my garden so fair?
You may live in this garden if you keep the grasses green,
and I'll return in the cool of the day.

Refrain: Now is the cool of the day, now is the cool of the day;

*O this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord;
and he walks in his garden in the cool of the day.*

Then my Lord, he said unto me: do you like my garden so pure?

You may live in this garden if you keep the waters clean,
and I'll return in the cool of the day. *Refrain*

Then My Lord, he said unto me: do you like my pastures so green?

You may live in this garden if you will feed my lambs;
and I'll return in the cool of the day. *Refrain*

Second Lesson Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25, page 2

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

Sermon

Made for Each Other

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 434** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* KINGSFOLD

***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.**

Hymn 434, placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples."

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

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 285** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* AUSTRIAN HYMN

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium.

***Postlude**

Toccata in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

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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.

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*

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop and Declan Wilder

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Logan Bono

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Matt Bishop (head), Jim Bangle,
Kathy Bangle, Robbie Bryan, Sarah Bryan,
Chuck Toney, Laura Toney

GREETERS

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

11:00 a.m. Judy Burch, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale,
Dewitt Pittman

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Chuck Toney, Laura Toney

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Roger Burbage

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

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.

Called Congregational Meeting September 15, 12:15 p.m.

The Session calls the congregation to meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 15, at 12:15 p.m., for the purposes of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee, electing officers to their respective terms, and hearing a report regarding efforts to eliminate the congregation's remaining indebtedness. Light refreshments will be provided, and nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers.

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 Keese Ln, Fair Play, SC 29643. Please keep the Kipps in your prayers.

The Congregational Care Commission has extended the Meal Train for the Kipps. We have dates available through October 5. If you would like to volunteer, please access this link:

www.mealtrain.com/trains/rk2zyl

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Josephine Paine Bible Study will begin September 12 and meet 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the Staff Conference Room. The scripture passage for each class will be the same text addressed by the upcoming Sunday's sermon. These passages are all from the OT and follow the "Narrative Lectionary." Carol Strickland will lead the study which is open to all.

WAYS TO SERVE FORMS

September 15 Deadline

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 are also available on the website. Return baskets are in the Narthex, Atrium and church office.

FELLOWSHIP@FIRST: PICNIC WITH UGA BAND, September 20, 5:30 p.m.

Pack your picnic basket, blanket, frisbee, and chairs and join friends of all ages at the Intramural Practice Fields to enjoy hearing and watching the UGA Redcoat Marching Band practice. FPC's own Brett Bawcum is Associate Director of the band. Come early for parking, if desired.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

September 28, 10:00 a.m.

Join us for the Blessing of the Animals, held this year in the Courtyard. Dr. Carol Strickland will offer a blessing for our furry and feathered companions. All pets are welcome. Invite your animal-loving neighbors and friends!

First Things

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

First Things in Moses Waddel Room (3rd floor)

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.

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.

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

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.

- September 8 - *Gerrymandering: How Does It Affect You?* led by Kitty Donnan & Joan Curtis
- *Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss, Larry Jones*

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 - There is no youth group tonight.

Confirmation Dinner and Blessing in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

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, September 8

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School
- 3:00 p.m. First Things, Moses Waddel Room
- 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 Confirmation Dinner and Blessing, Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 9

- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:15 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, September 10

- 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 and Supervision, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, September 11

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Hilltop Grill
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 12

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study Class, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows - Home of John and Sara Kipp

Friday, September 13

- 11:00 a.m. Endowment Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, September 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Called Congregational Meeting, Fellowship Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

September 17 - Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

September 18 - Wednesday@First Begins

September 20 - Fellowship@First: Picnic with UGA Redcoat Band

September 22 - New Member Reception

September 25 - Bookless Book Group, White Tiger

September 28 - Blessing of the Animals, Courtyard

September 29 - Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting

October 3 - Family Promise of Athens (Formerly IHNA) Volunteer Training

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*

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Pavani Gadde, *Website Technician*
Ms. Kathryn Kent, *Youth Ministry*
Ms. Jordan Osborne, *Youth Ministry*

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Emmaline Michael, *Mission & Outreach*
Ms. Leighton Parker, *Youth Ministry*

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.