



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 22, 2019

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Fifteenth 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.*

*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

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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.**

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

Call to Worship

from Psalm 113

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.
From sunrise to sunset, may the name of the Lord be praised.
God raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes, with the princes of God's people.
Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants!
Praise the name of the Lord.

*Hymn 457 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O Christ, your love is without limit; you gave your very life for us. Forgive us, Lord, when we your people are hesitant to share even the smallest of our gifts. O Christ, you model a life of service, always attentive to the ones in need. Forgive us, Lord, when we refuse to hear the cries of our neighbors. O Christ, you call us into community, joining the church in one faith, one baptism. Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to live up to your calling. Forgive us, renew us, and remake us into your faithful people.

The original French text of Hymn 457, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for Calvin. Yet the text and tune clearly date from the early years of the Reformation tradition.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

** Those who are able may stand.*

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

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

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."

***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.

After the Introduction of New Members 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.

Introduction of New Members

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 14:32-36, page 929

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

Thomas Gibbs

The text of the anthem was written by Charles Wesley. Isaac Watts said that this hymn text (originally with fourteen stanzas), was worth more than all the hymns Watts himself had written. The tune is a Scottish melody, arranged here by American composer Thomas Gibbs.

Come, O thou traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see;
my company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee:
with thee all night I mean to stay and wrestle till the break of day.
My strength is gone, my nature dies, I sink beneath thy weighty hand,
faint to revive, and fall to rise, I fall, and yet by faith I stand.
I stand and will not let thee go till I thy name, thy nature know.
I know thee, Savior, who thou art, Jesus, the feeble sinner's friend,
nor wilt thou with the night depart, but stay and love me to the end.
Thy mercies never shall remove, thy nature and thy name is Love!
'Tis Love, 'tis Love; thou diedst for me! I hear thy whisper in my heart;
the morning breaks, the shadows flee; pure universal love thou art.
To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love.

Second Lesson

Genesis 32:9-13, 22-30, page 29

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

Sermon

The Wrestlers

Dr. Ryan Baer

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 Chapel, which is across from the Church Library on the 2nd floor of the Tinsley-Stern Building.

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 Logan Bono

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Harper Havick

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Leslye Queen

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield (head),
Julie Jagmin, Lance Jagmin,
Jacki Macker, Chris Pope

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Faye Marshall, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Brenda Glasscock,
Melinda Miller, Dan Nadenicek

NEW MEMBER RECEPTIONS HOST

Fellowship and Evangelism Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Tyler Gillespie

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.

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation

Wednesday, September 25

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."

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

BOOKLESS BOOK GROUP

The Bookless Book Group is open to all women and will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25 at White Tiger, 217 Hiawassee Avenue for food and fellowship.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Prayers for Healing will be Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by the Wed@First dinner.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Josephine Paine Bible Study meets at 10:00 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. Carol Strickland leads the study, which is open to all.

UKULELE CLASS

Charlotte Chromiak leads a ukulele class for all ages on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 5:40 p.m. in the Children's Ministry Suite. Parents must stay with their children for this class. Adults and children with ukuleles should bring them. Those interested in purchasing instruments will get further information from Mrs. Chromiak.

FAMILY PROMISE OF ATHENS (FORMERLY IHNA)

The next Family Promise of Athens host week is October 27–November 3. The sign-up poster is available in the Atrium. Please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com or Frank Sherrill at frankwsherrill@gmail.com with questions.

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!

Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting, September 29, 12:15 p.m.

Next summer our church will send a group of high school students and adults to serve in the mountainous area of Puerto Rico called Utuado (5/31–6/6) with Taino Volunteers. Work will include hurricane clean up, house repairs and cultural learning experiences. If you are interested in joining the mission team, please email Kim Ness at kness@firstpresathens.org and plan to attend this important meeting in Fellowship Hall after 11:00 a.m. worship.

Heifer Mission Trip Presentation, October 2, 6:30 p.m.

Youth will report on their mission trip to Heifer Ranch, Arkansas at next week's Wed@First. Following dinner on October 2, plan to stay to hear stories about the Global Village, sustainable farming, and how we can make a difference here in Athens. *Making Sense of Scripture* will resume on October 9.

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 - The Bible as 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 22 - led by guest Dr. Ryan Baer
- 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

Study of *The Wired Word*. A lively discussion of current events through the lens of faith.

Led by: Jim Scanlon

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of Exodus in our verse-by-verse approach.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

College Interns: Kathryn Kent, Jordan Osborne, Leighton Parker

Youth in grades 6-12 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 Youth Sunday School will follow the Narrative Lectionary. After a time of fellowship and donuts, we will read the day's scripture and talk about how it applies to our lives today. Rotating leadership by: Kathy Bangle, Meghan Bawcum, Susan Boatright, Robbie Bryan, Jean Martin-Williams, and Erik Ness. TODAY: Jacob wrestles.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 9:00-11:00 a.m.

There are thirteen 8th and 9th graders in this year's confirmation class. Through lessons and service opportunities, youth are given 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). Led by Ryan Baer, Kim Ness and Leighton Parker. TODAY: Understanding the Bible.

SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Youth Group is held 2-3/month (visit www.fpcathenspit.com for full calendar). We first gather for dinner in Fellowship Hall provided by volunteers before moving to the PIT for middle school and high school small groups. TONIGHT: 1st Youth Group back in the PIT!!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 22

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, The PIT
- 9:35 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. New Member Receptions
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School
- 1:00 p.m. New Elder Training, Staff Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Heifer Mission Trip Meeting, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, September 23

- 4:00 p.m. Fellowship and Evangelism Commission Meeting, Associate Pastor's Office
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, September 24 - Church Office Closed

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Planning Meeting, Home of Ryan Baer
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Training and Supervision, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Dominick's, 1410 Capital Ave, Watkinsville

Wednesday, September 25

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, White Tiger, 217 Hiawasse Avenue
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare *Henry VIII*, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Ukulele Class, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:45 p.m. Wed@First Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Making Sense of Scripture with Dr. Baer, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 26

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Road
- 6:00 p.m. WDS Family Pizza Night, Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 27

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Sanctuary

Saturday, September 28

- 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Animals, Courtyard

Sunday, September 29

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 12:15 p.m. Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting, Fellowship Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

October 2 - Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church

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

October 6 - World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering, Food Sunday

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.