



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 29, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sixteenth 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 *Prelude on UNSER HERRSCHER* John Ferguson

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 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 from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O people!

Let us praise the Lord as long as we live.

Let us sing praises to our God!

***Hymn 488** *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, the stanzas of Hymn 488 convey the essence of the Yigdal, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God used in synagogue worship.

** Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

You create life and call it good. Forgive us when we cannot see the goodness. You call us to serve you and our neighbor. Forgive us when we serve power, money, or status. You are sovereign and worthy of our praise. Forgive us when we are too weak to trust or too tired to try. Meet us in our confession, and move us deeper into life.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***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.”

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 12:26-27a, page 926

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Go Down, Moses African-American spiritual
arr. Melva W. Costen

When Israel was in Egypt’s land, let my people go!
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!
Refrain: Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
tell old Pharaoh, let my people go!
“Thus saith the Lord,” bold Moses said: let my people go!
“If not, I’ll smite your firstborn dead,” let my people go! *Refrain*
“No more shall they in bondage toil,” let my people go!
“Let them come out with Egypt’s spoil,” let my people go! *Refrain*

Second Lesson

Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15, page 48

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

Sermon

God Sees, God Comes Down, God Sends

Dr. Carol Strickland

Nothing in Hebrew Scripture resonated more deeply with the experience of African Americans in America than Israel’s slavery in Egypt. In the spiritual *God Down, Moses*, the recurring line, “Let my people go,” past and present became one.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 525

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

*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.**

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

Largo

Antonio Vivaldi
arr. Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL 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.**

*Postlude

Improvisation on LEONI

John Coble

The stanzas of Hymn 525 need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call.

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.

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 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. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
The Reverend Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Pat Bryan and Sammy Pope

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Jennings Holloway

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Keith Oelke

11:00 a.m. Mark Hopkins

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield (head),
Bob Glasscock, Julie Jagmin, Lance Jagmin,
Jimbo LaBoon, Ed Law, Marcia Talmadge

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove, Barb Laughlin,
Keith Oelke, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Susan Haire,
Ella Stewart, Steve West

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Susan Boatwright, Lisa Oelke

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Tyler Gillespie

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Lynne Bradenburg by Dot Handley.

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 Presentation, Wednesday, October 2

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.**

Presentation: 6:00-7:00 p.m - Heifer Mission Trip

Youth will report on their mission trip to Heifer Ranch, Arkansas at next week's Wed@First. Following dinner, 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.

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 November 3. If you would like to volunteer, please access this link: www.mealtrain.com/trains/rk2zyl

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, September 30, 5:30 p.m.

Since this church was founded in 1820 our congregation has been active in the community and the world. Beginning in January there will be events to highlight the outreach activities and history of the Church. Many learning experiences will be presented for children and adults and we will prayerfully assess the mission for the future. If you would like to be a part of this team please join us at the next meeting on Monday, September 30, 5:30 p.m. in Staff Conference Room. For more information, please e-mail Diane Adams at dianeadams.athens@gmail.com.

OUR DAILY BREAD, October 2

A team from FPC buys, prepares, and serves meals to our neighbors in need on the first Wednesday of each month at First Baptist Church. For details and to help, please contact Ann Dunn at anndunn8@gmail.com or Fran Lane at fjlane@uga.edu.

FOOD SUNDAY, October 6

Next Sunday, October 6, we will collect non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting *canned pasta*, *cold breakfast cereals*, and *saltine crackers*. Thank you for the 429 items donated in September!

CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga class time has changed 4:30 p.m. in Room 310. The cost per class is \$2. Come, enjoy gentle stretching.

SEEKING WATER STATION VOLUNTEERS

FPC will staff the last water station on the AthHalf race on October 27, as is our tradition. Helpers of all ages are needed to pour and hand out water and Gatorade. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Emmaline Michael, our Outreach Waddel Fellow, at emmalinepm@gmail.com.

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.

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

Next summer (5/31-6/6) our church will send a group of high school students and adults to serve in the mountainous area of Puerto Rico called Utuado 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 today after 11:00 a.m. worship.

Fellowship@First: Church Picnic, Sunday October 20 Sandy Creek Park, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Young and old are invited to join us for a festive afternoon of pumpkin carving and pumpkin-themed games. Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share. There is no cost for the picnic, but reservations are requested. Please sign up online, in the Atrium or by contacting the church office.

If you would like to pre-order a pumpkin (\$5 each), we will take orders through Sunday, October 13. We will bring your pumpkin to the picnic, but be sure to bring your creative ideas and carving equipment with you. Come prepared to have fun, get messy, and celebrate Fall with your FPC church family.

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 29
- - DVD, *The Old Testament*, by Amy-Jill Levine
- 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: *Moses and the burning bush*.

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: *Who is your Lord? What does it mean to trust God?*

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: *Pop Up Youth Game Night! 6:00 p.m. in The Pit. Bring \$2 for pizza.*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 29

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, The PIT
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:15 p.m. Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Pop Up Youth Game Night, The Pit

Monday, September 30

- 5:30 p.m. Bicentennial Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, October 1

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Kitty Donnan, 1050 Simonton Way, Watkinsville
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, October 2

- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
Shakespeare *Henry VIII*, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
Ukulele Class, Room 203
St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Heifer Mission Trip Presentation, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 3

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. Family Promise of Athens (Formerly IHNA) Volunteer Training, First Baptist Church
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Road
- 5:30 p.m. WDS Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Friday, October 4

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel for 3s and 4s, Sanctuary
- 9:35 a.m. WDS Chapel for Toddlers and 2s, Children's Ministry Suite

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 20 - Choir Dedication Sunday, Fellowship@First: Church Picnic

October 27 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service and Water Station

October 27 - Family Promise of Athens (formerly IHNA) host week begins

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.