

October 6, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

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

Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness Johannes Brahms

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Peace & Global Witness Offering* Rob Haire

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
“Come! the banquet is prepared.” Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Listen, O people, for the word of God,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the hungry.
Listen, O people, for the word of God,
growing trees in the desert and fruit in the wilderness.
Listen, O people, for the word of God,
planting faith in the weary and hope in the desperate.
Listen, O people, for the word of God,
and worship God with gladness.

*Hymn 461

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God the maker of all things good, have mercy upon your creation. We gather on Sundays to nourish our faith, but we find the seeds scorched in the light of Monday morning. We want to bear fruits of compassion and kindness, but we fall into selfish habits, and our discipleship withers. Forgive us, God of mercy. Shower us with your grace, and free us to try again.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

* *Those who are able may stand.*

*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.

We officially welcome our second graders as they begin to serve as communion helpers today.

Commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas, Hymn 461 is one of the few to devote attention to how customary features facilitate worship.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier



***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.

Moment for Mission *Fill the Ark 2020 Challenge*

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson Mark 12:28-31, page 926

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

Second Lesson Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 6:4-9, page 161

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

Sermon *Hear O Israel* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 508** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* KINGDOM

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

The author of Hymn 508, editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some language echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar, but as a person of deep faith.

The Nicene Creed was the first official doctrinal statement of the whole church. It developed from the work of the first two ecumenical councils, Nicea in 325 and Constantinople in 381, and was accepted as definitive by the Council of Chalcedon in 451 after two centuries of struggle to clarify the relationship of Jesus Christ to God and humanity. It is the only creed accepted and used by all three major branches of Christendom: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory

Improvisation

John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory

Bread of the World

Richard Shephard

Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead.
Look on the heart by sorrow broken, look on the tears by sinners shed
and be thy feast to us the token that by thy grace our souls are fed.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

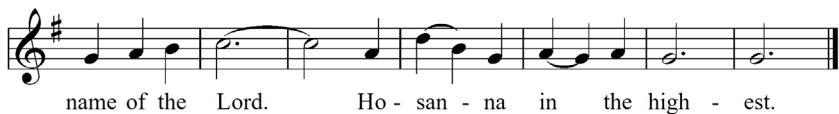
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

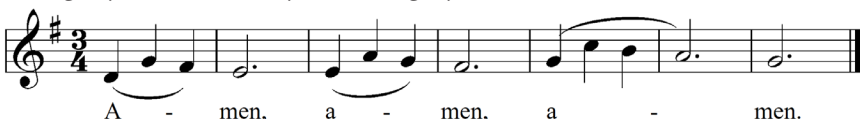
"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"



"...Great is the mystery of faith:"



"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."



The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

The offertory anthem is a prayer-text divided into distinct halves, the first part being an extended address to Christ, and the second being a series of petitions. It is set to music by contemporary English composer Richard Shephard.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is by contemporary American composer Thomas Pavlechko.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Hymn 507 affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of the text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

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

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

- *Hymn 507** *I Come with Joy* DOVE OF PEACE
- *Benediction**
- *Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS
Go, my children fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.
- *Postlude** *Toccata in F* Johann Pachelbel

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.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. Children's Church will resume next Sunday.

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. Daniel and Nathan Baer

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Lachlan Morris

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams

11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Robert Simmons (head),

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Don Lowe,
Jo Anne Lowe, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Melinda DeMaria,
Carol Dolson, Susan Haire, Dan Nadinecek

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Harry Shuford

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Tyler Gillespie

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Susie Mendenhall by the Mendenhall family. The Atrium and Narthex flowers are dedicated in celebration of the marriage of Shannon O'Brien Wilder and Steven Ray Brooks.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Sutton Elizabeth Griffeth. Parents are Andy and Lindsay Griffeth.

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.

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

BOOKLESS BOOK GROUP, October 9

A group of women will meet at 11:30 a.m. at DePalma's, 2080 Timothy Road to enjoy lunch and conversation. All women who are interested are invited to join us. For more information please contact Brenda Glasscock at brendaglasscock@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation Wednesday, October 9

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.”

PTPs to Tour Boutier Winery, October 15

What better way to celebrate autumn than by joining the Prime Time Presbyterians on their first fall event - visiting the beautiful, rustic Boutier Winery & Inn in Danielsville, Georgia. Victor, the owner, will host a guided tour of the winery and their recently purchased charming Bed and Breakfast Inn. A wine tasting of six of their premium wines will follow, and then we will enjoy lunch on site. Anyone interested?! So, mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 15. We will meet at Kohl's parking lot at 10:00 a.m. if you would like to ride the church van, or caravan in your own car. Cost for the tour, wine-tasting and lunch is \$17.50 per person. Lunch will consist of a variety of sandwiches, sides and a drink. Please email or call Phyllis Crowell (crowellpm@aol.com, 706-543-9561) to make your reservation by **October 11**.

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. When you arrive at Sandy Creek in the day of the event, please let the gatekeeper know that you are with FPC, this way you will not be charged park entrance fee.

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.

- October 6 News from the Food Bank, by Chuck Toney, Exec. Dir., Food Bank of NE Ga.
- 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, Natalie Siegman

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: *Love the Lord your God*.

Confirmation Class for 8th and 9th graders began on September 8th. This year students will have 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). Class meets from 9-11am in the PIT. Led by Ryan Baer, Kim Ness and Leighton Parker. TODAY: *Mentor Reveal Breakfast*

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

Youth Group is held 2-3/month (visit www.fpcathenspitt.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: *Youth small groups - understanding World Communion Sunday*.

THIS WEEK

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
- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, The PIT
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 4:00 p.m. Debt Elimination Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 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. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 7

- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, October 8

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Book Fair, Weekday School
- 1:15 p.m. 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, October 9 - Wed@First

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Muffins with Mom, Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, DePalma's, 2080 Timothy Road
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Making Sense of Scripture with Dr. Baer, Moses Waddel Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 10

- 8:30 a.m. WDS Muffins with Mom, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Mulberry Grove, 343 Price St, Statham

Friday, October 11

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

Sunday, October 13

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 15 - PTPs, Boutier Winery, Meeting of NEGA Presbytery,

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

October 22 - First Friends, Taqueria La Parrilla, 2439 Jefferson Rd

October 27 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service and Water Station, Family Promise of Athens
(formerly IHNA) host week begins

*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!*

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*
Ms. Natalie Siegman, *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.