



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!

October 13, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Eighteenth 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.*

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

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

Prelude *Nimrod* Edward Elgar

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *God's 2020 Vision* Courtney Pittman

Song of Gathering Hymn 229, Stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Sisters and brothers!
We gather together.
From different families,
And different places,
From different views,
And different backgrounds.
We gather! We're family!
Praise God!

***Hymn 473**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

** Those who are able may stand.*

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharist emphasis of Hymn 473 shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

You have called us to serve your Word with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Too often our energy fades, and we waste our intelligence. We do not have the time for imagination or the patience for love. Your hope is abundant and your truth steadfast, yet we cannot trust the depth of your grace. Forgive us, God of mercy, and move us to know the goodness of your reign.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, 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 anthem was written for the Church of St. Francis, Ngong, Kenya. Originally a small church of mud and wattle, St. Francis Church (so called from the way birds flew in through the open windows) was consecrated in 1952. Built by African and Asian craftsmen from funds given by Europeans, it has a mixed racial congregation, with services conducted in English and Swahili.

***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 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 3:33-35, page 915

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Christ’s Flock

Martin Shaw

In Christ’s own flock let love be surely placed,
from Christ’s own flock let concord hate expel:
of Christ’s own flock let love be so embraced,
as we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell.
Christ is the author of all unity, from whence proceedeth all felicity.
O sing unto this glittering glorious King,
O praises bring from every living thing:
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia!

Second Lesson Ruth 1:1-17, page 238

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

Sermon

Ruth

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 438

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

*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

Aria

Craig Phillips

*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 298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

Hymn 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

*Postlude

Gavotte

Georg Frideric Handel

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.

The stanzas of Hymn 298, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th 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. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Logan Bono and Benjamin Crim

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Lucy Attaway

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

Liturgists

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Leslye Queen

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Bobbie Heath (head),
Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Robert Simmons (head),
Abigale Bishop, Jimmy Bishop, Matt Bishop,
Georgia Blue Simmons, John Walden

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Laura Hill,
Barb Laughlin, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Dan Nadenicek, Courtney Pittman

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Sandy Boyles

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Tyler Gillespie

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Robinson McKay, Jr. and Max Louis Wendler by Carol McKay.

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, October 16

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 November 3. If you would like to volunteer, please access this link:

www.mealtrain.com/trains/rk2zyl

ATHHALF PRE-RACE SERVICE,

October 27

Invite your racing friends and supporters to our informal worship at 6:30 a.m. in the Atrium.

Due to the race there will be no 8:45 a.m. service on October 27.

SEEKING WATER STATION VOLUNTEERS

As is our tradition, FPC will staff the last water station on the AthHalf race on October 27. 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.

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF, October 27

Children are invited to wear “church friendly” costumes as we “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.” Be sure to join them before and after the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Atrium as they collect for UNICEF and provide refreshments.

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.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY, November 17

This year we will continue our annual tradition of filling grocery bags with Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Bags will be available beginning October 20. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before November 17.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga meets on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Room 310. The cost per class is \$2. Come, enjoy gentle stretching.

Choir Dedication Sunday, Sunday October 20

Join us next Sunday for our annual celebration of our music ministry when we honor members of our choirs and they also publicly commit themselves to offering their time and talents by serving in one or more of our choirs.

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 on the day of the event, please let the gatekeeper know that you are with FPC, so you will not be charged an entrance fee.

If you would like to pre-order a pumpkin (\$5 each), we will take orders through **today, 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 13 - 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, 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: *Ruth follows Naomi*.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

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. *Confirmation class resumes on 11/10*.

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: *There is no youth group tonight*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 13

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. New Elder Training, Staff Conference Room

Monday, October 14

- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship and Evangelism Meeting, Associate Pastor's Office
- 5:15 p.m. Administrative 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, October 15

- 8:30 a.m. NEGA Stated Presbytery Meeting, Nacoochee
- 10:00 a.m. PTPs Tour Boutier Winery
- 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, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, October 16 - Wed@First

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 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, Children's Ministry Suite
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
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 17

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Workday, **No School**
- 2:30 p.m. Mellows, Quiet Oaks, 343 Price Street, Crawford

Friday, October 18 - Weekday School Fall Break - No School

Sunday, October 20, Choir Dedication Sunday

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

October 27 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service and Water Station, No 8:45 service, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, Family Promise of Athens (formerly IHNA) host week begins

November 6 - Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church

November 7 - Family Promise (Formerly IHNA) Volunteer Training, First Baptist Church

November 10 - Stewardship Sunday, Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting

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, *Middle School Ministry*
Ms. Jordan Osborne, *Middle School Ministry*
Ms. Natalie Siegman, *High School Ministry*

WADDEL FELLOWS

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

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.