



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 20, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Choir Dedication 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.

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 *A Westminster Carillon* Michael Bedford

The prelude is performed by the Handbell Choir.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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

Moment for Mission *God's 2020 Vision*

8:45 a.m. 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!**

11:00 a.m. Song of Gathering *I'm Gonna Sing* African-American Spiritual

The 11:00 a.m. Song of Gathering is sung by the Cherub Choir.

Call to Worship from Psalm 150

Come with joy into God's sanctuary!
Let us praise the Lord!
With trumpet and pipe, strings and cymbals!
Let us praise the Lord!
Everything that is alive —
Let us praise the Lord!

Written to supply the tune of Hymn 264 with words suitable for occasions celebrating music, the text explores how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how sung faith has kept the church authentic, and how sound can be praise.

***Hymn 264** *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* ENGELBERG

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, forgive us when we forego peace for easy resolution; when we trade justice for convenience; when we doubt whether you are real enough, whether we are good enough, whether your love is strong enough to overcome the destructive powers of our world. Forgive us, O God, and move us to know your transformative grace.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

GLORIA



***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.

11:00 a.m. Dedication of Choirs

11:00 a.m. Anthem *With a Voice of Singing* Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,

O sing praises to the honor of his name,

make his praise to be glorious.

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 2 Samuel 6:1-5, page 277

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

Second Lesson Psalm 150, page 572

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

Sermon

Worthy of Praise

Dr. Ryan Baer

Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

Today we honor the ministry of our six choirs: Cherub Choir (age 4-grade1), St. Andrews Choir (grades 2-5), Celebration Singers (grades 6-12), Chancel Choir, The Mellows, and the Handbell Choir.

The anthem is sung by the St. Andrews Choir, Celebration Singers, and Chancel Choir.

After the 11:00 a.m. Anthem, children, ages 4 through 1st grade, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

*Affirmation of Faith Excerpts from *A Brief Statement of Faith*
In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory *Improvisation on ENGELBERG* John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory *The Chorister's Prayer* K. Lee Scott
Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple;
grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*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 220 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* OLD HUNDREDTH

*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 *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* Craig Phillips

In 1983, the PC(USA) was formed by the reunion of what were the Northern and Southern streams of the Presbyterian denominations in the USA. The Brief Statement of Faith was written to articulate the common identity Presbyterians share. This creed is arranged in a trinitarian framework that is meant to be used in worship. These excerpts are from the section on the Holy Spirit.

Having been exiled from Scotland during a religious persecution, the author of Hymn 220 was influenced by the style of psalm paraphrases sung in Geneva. He had in mind the famous "doxology" tune OLD HUNDREDTH. It is the oldest English metrical psalm in use today.

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. 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. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Jill Hopkins

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Bobbie Heath (head),
David Cole, Keith Oelke

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

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Laura Hill, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Jane Mann

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Tyler Gillespie

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of and with gratitude and love to Herbert and Ida Hughes by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The greenery arrangements in the Narthex are in memory of Harold Erastus Maxwell.

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 23

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 a Meal Train scheduled 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 are available beginning today. 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.

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

All 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. When you arrive at Sandy Creek today, please let the gatekeeper know that you are with FPC, so you will not be charged an entrance fee.

Please bring your own pumpkin if you did not order one, as well as your creative ideas and carving equipment. Come prepared to have fun, get messy, and celebrate Fall with your FPC church family.

Directions

Sandy Creek Park is located at **400 Bob Holman Rd, Athens GA 30607**. If you are leaving from FPC above-ground parking lot, make a right on E Dougherty St, then left onto College Ave. After 0.7 miles, make a left onto Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy (which becomes Commerce Road/Highway 441 North) and go 3.5 miles. Then turn right onto Bob Holman Rd. After 0.7 mile you should see Sandy Creek gate on your right. Tell the gatekeeper you are with FPC. At first junction, turn left and look for pavilion on left.

Rain Plan

In case of rain, we will picnic in Fellowship Hall, 5:00–7:00 p.m. Stay tuned to the announcements during worship and FPC Facebook page.

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 20 - Community Forestry with speaker Jason Gordon, Ph.D., from the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources. 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: *David becomes King*.

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: *Pumpkin carving and creating college care packages.*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 20 - Choir Dedication Sunday, Food Bag Sunday

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

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

3:00 p.m. Fellowship@First: Church Picnic, Sandy Creek Park, 400 Bob Holman Rd, Athens, 30607

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 21

5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, October 22

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room

5:30 p.m. New Elder Training, Staff Conference Room

6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Training and Supervision, Moses Waddel Room

6:00 p.m. First Friends, Taqueria La Parrilla, 2439 Jefferson Rd.

Wednesday, October 23 - Wed@First

11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Ted's Most Best, 254 Washington Street

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 301

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

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 24

9:00 a.m. Monthly Program Staff Planning Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room

10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study Class, Staff Conference Room

2:00 p.m. Mellows, Arbor Terrace, 170 Marilyn Farmer Way

Friday, October 25

9:00 a.m. Special Combined Weeday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite

Sunday, October 27 - Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, Atrium, **No 8:45 am. Service**

11:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

Sunday, October 27 - Sunday, November 3 - Family Promise (formerly IHNA) Host Week

LOOKING AHEAD

November 3 - All Saints' Sunday, Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 5, 6, 7 - Weekday School Bulb Planting

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, Frozen Chosen Cup

November 13 - Last Wed@First of the semester

November 17 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday, 30 Hour Famine

November 24 - Thornwell Offering, Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

December 3 - Project Safe Work Day

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.