



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 27, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Twentieth 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Moment for Mission

God's 2020 Vision

Robbie Bryan

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 names be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Hymn 477 resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation 7:9-11. The tune has had many names, the one used here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714-1901.

Call to Worship

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Praise be to our servant king!

The yoke of Christ is gentle, and his burden is light.

Praise be to our servant king!

Let us follow the one who was subject to all:

Praise be to our servant king!

*Hymn 477

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, the voice of Christ beckons us to follow, but we cannot hear his voice over the noise we have created. You call us to hope, but we choose fear, for we would rather be safe than risk being faithful. You offer us freedom, but we choose independence, pretending that we have ultimate control. You offer us life, but we find our selves perishing, buried by the burdens we refuse to share. Forgive us, God of life. Heal us, and bring us peace.

***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!

***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 10:42-45, page 924

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

Anthem *Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace* Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace
throughout all generations;
thou art alone our sword and shield,
Lord who dost guide the nations.
Defend us, O God, we pray thee.

Second Lesson 1 Kings 12:1-16, page 314

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

Sermon *The Power of Good Words* Dr. Ryan Baer

Worshippers may 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, all children, ages 4 through grade 5, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in Fellowship Hall.

The anthem is a translation of a text by Martin Luther, based on the Latin *Da nobis pacem*. Mendelssohn's setting of the text recalls themes from his other works, including the Hebrides overture.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 421 *The Church of Christ in Every Age* WAREHAM

*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

Offertory *When We Are in Deepest Need* J. S. 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 260 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG

*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 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Helmut Walcha

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.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for A Mighty Fortress, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

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 9:30 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 Fellowship Hall, where the children will be trick or treating for UNICEF.

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

Andrew Miller and Lachlan Morris

Call to Worship Liturgist

Jimmy Bishop

Lay Readers

Kate MacMillan

USHERS

Robert Simmons (head),
Terry McRae, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale,
Georgia Blue Simmons, Marcia Talmadge

GREETERS

Jayne Bailey, David Beck, Lillian Beck

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Children's Ministry

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Tyler Gillespie

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her daughter Beverly McLearn by Caryl Woosley.

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 30

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.** If you made reservations earlier but cannot come please notify us by Monday.

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."

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

November 24, 4:30 p.m.

All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors in the Meeting House at Piedmont College for this worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et al.). The sponsor, Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, includes representatives of more than 50 congregations in the Athens area. In a time when there is so much division, let's unite in ⁴ thanksgiving. The Meeting House at Piedmont College, 595 Prince Ave.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF, Today

Be sure to join the children after the 11:00 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall as they collect for UNICEF and provide refreshments.

FAMILY PROMISE (FORMERLY IHNA) HOST WEEK, Today–November 3

Thank you to all our volunteers. Please pray for our guests and volunteers as we show God's love this week through hospitality.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

November 3, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

The observance of All Saints' Day will take place during both services and will include reading the names of those who have died in the last year.

FOOD SUNDAY, November 3

Next Sunday, November 3, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens–Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting *soup*, *spaghetti sauces* and *canned pasta*. Thank you for the **345** items donated in October!

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

COMMITMENT SUNDAY, November 10

During worship we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2020. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge as we share our stories of generosity with Athens and the world!

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 today through November 10. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before November 17.

Flower Committee Thursday, November 7, 4:30 p.m.

The Flower Committee will meet on Thursday, November 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Light refreshments will be served and new committee members will meet existing members. Flower tips will be shared along with Advent Season decorating plans and volunteer opportunities.

Signups will be available for monthly flower committees. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please join us so you can learn more about this wonderful group.

Our Flower Committee Chairs Diane Adams, Suzanne King, and Sydney Jackson look forward to seeing you soon!

Holiday Meals on Wheels

Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day volunteers from First Presbyterian Church deliver nutritional meals to homebound seniors. By assisting on these days, we allow year-long volunteers to take a break during the holiday season. In addition, First Presbyterian pays for the meals for these 3 days. The cost is generally around \$1,000. Volunteers meet at the Council on Aging at 135 Hoyt Street at 10:00 a.m. The routes take about 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

If you are interested in delivering meals, or in making a donation to help pay for the meals on these 3 dates, please contact Sally Vandiver at sally.vandiver@gmail.com or contact the church office at 706 543-4338. Since this is a popular family event, please be sure to sign up early as the slots fill quickly.

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 27 - There will be no class today due to AthHalf.** 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: *The Kingdom divided*.

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: *Fall Photo Scavenger Hunt - Meet in Fellowship Hall due to Family Promise.*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 27 – Sunday, November 3 – Family Promise (Formerly IHNA) Host Week

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

- 6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, Atrium, **No 8:45 am. Service**
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 28

- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, October 29

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Bride's Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, October 30 – 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 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 31

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Magnolia Estates, 1641 Virgil Langford Road

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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 1 – First Sunday of Advent

December 3 – Project Safe Work Day

December 8 – Christmas Pageant, Christmas Dinner

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.