



November 10, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Stewardship Commitment 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

Be Thou My Vision

Dale Wood

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

DUKE STREET

**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship

Come, you who are burdened.

Come, worship God, who sets us free.

Come, you who are weary.

Come, follow the Spirit, who gives us strength.

Come, you who are seeking.

Come, listen to Christ, who teaches us the way.

Come, you who are willing.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 478 *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* LAUDA ANIMA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You are the God of the living, breathing life into every corner of death. Forgive us, Lord, when we do not recognize you: when we ask the wrong questions or do not hear the answers; when we choose empty silence over faithful words; when we choose empty words over faithful silence; when we choose not to act when faithful action seems risky. Forgive us, O Lord, God of the living, for our lives depend on you.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

Hymn 478, a free paraphrase of Psalm 103, gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. The repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

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."

***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.

After the Confirmand & Mentor Blessing at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages 4 - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

11:00 a.m. Confirmand & Mentor Blessing

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

PROSPECT

E - ter - nal light, shine in my heart; e - ter - nal hope, lift
up my eyes; e - ter - nal power, be my sup -
port; e - ter - nal wis - dom, make me wise.

First Lesson

Mark 10:13-14, page 923

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Be Still

Rick Sowash

Be still and know that I am God.

Second Lesson

Hosea 11:1-9, page 827

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

Sermon

Return to Me

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

The stanzas of Hymn 339 are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

***Hymn 339**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

***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; (cont.)**

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

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.

Dedication of Stewardship Commitments for 2020

Hymn 414 *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* FOREST GREEN

Hymn 428 *We Give Thee but Thine Own* SCHUMANN

Prayer of Dedication of the Commitments for 2020

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Beautiful Savior* Charles Ore

*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 272 *God of the Sparrow* ROEDER

*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 *Improvisation on SLANE* John Coble

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.

Members and friends are asked to bring their commitment cards forward and place them in the brass containers as the hymns are sung.

Hymn 414, with a text by a Presbyterian pastor in California, expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger (Ralph Vaughan Williams) collected it in 1903.

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. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Acolytes

Benjamin Crim and Andrew Miller

Call to Worship Liturgist

Jennings Holloway

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Melinda DeMaria

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Larry Jones, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Jacki Macker (head),
Jerris Hayes, Julie Hayes, Jay Holloway,
Joy Holloway, Patti Reed

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Faye Marshall,
Terry Nestor, Keith Oelke

11:00 a.m. Carol Dolson, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Kitty Lay

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Brenda Glasscock

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Roger Burbage

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Veteran's Day by Randy Dudley.

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.

Last Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation, Wednesday, November 13

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."

Angel Tree

Will you be someone's angel this year? Please consider purchasing Christmas gifts for one or more of the 150 Salvation Army "angels" (infants -12-year-old children) posted in the Fellowship Hall. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel." All gifts are due December 12.

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 send a card, please mail 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 **December 14**. If you would like to volunteer, please access this link: www.mealtrain.com/trains/rk2zyl

THANKSGIVING FOOD BAG SUNDAY

This year we continue our annual tradition of filling grocery bags with Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Bags are available today and in the church office this week. Please return them filled with a Thanksgiving meal for four on or before next Sunday, **November 17**.

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING

Thornwell has been helping children and families all across South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida since 1875. Today, Thornwell continues its long history by offering a foster care program and other family and educational support programs. Give generously to the Special Offering for Thornwell the Sunday before Thanksgiving, **November 24**.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 24, 4:00 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.

Bethlehem Ministry, November 17

We welcome a visit on November 17 from Kristen Pace, the new executive director of Bethlehem Ministry, an educational, medical, and economic development mission in Haiti with which our church has had a longstanding relationship. All are invited to hear Ms. Pace 9:45 – 10:40 a.m. in the Moses Waddel Room.

Holiday Meals on Wheels

Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day volunteers from First Presbyterian Church deliver nutritional meals to homebound seniors. FPC also pays for the meals on these three days. The cost is generally around \$1,000. Volunteers meet at the Council on Aging at 135 Hoyt St. at 10:00 a.m. The routes take 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

If you are interested in delivering meals, please contact Sally Vandiver at sally.vandiver@gmail.com. Since this is a popular family event, please be sure to sign up early as the Thanksgiving slots are already full and others fill quickly.

Donations can be made by writing a check to First Presbyterian with "Meals on Wheels Holiday Donation" noted on the bottom.

Historian Ron Bogue to present FPC History Part 5 to PTPs

Tuesday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.

Local historian Ron Bogue will present Part 5 of the series he has created that explores the history of First Presbyterian Church. The presentation will be in the Moses Waddel Room and will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Following the presentation, we will walk or drive to South Kitchen & Bar restaurant, 247 East Washington Street, for lunch. Please email or call Phyllis Crowell (crowellpm@aol.com, 706-543-9561), by Friday, **November 15**, to make a lunch reservation. The Prime Time Presbyterians invite anyone interested in hearing a lively, entertaining, and informative presentation about our church's history and socializing with good friends to attend.

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.

- November 10: DVD series *The Other Side of History*.
- 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: *God's beloved children*.

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. TODAY: *Introduction to The Book of Confession and Book of Order. Blessing of confirmands and mentors during 11:00 a.m. worship.*

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. TODAY: *The 6th Annual Frozen Chosen Cup will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church from 3:00-5:00 p.m. today - field day theme!*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 10, Commitment Sunday

- 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
- 12:30 p.m. Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Frozen Chosen, Covenant Presbyterian Church
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202

Monday, November 11

- 5:15 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, November 12

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training and Supervision, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, November 13

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe, 815 N. Chase 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
- 5:45 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, November 14

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study Class, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Bentley Adult Day Care, 135 Hoyt Street

Sunday, November 17 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday, Bethlehem Ministry Update

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

LOOKING AHEAD

November 19 - PTPs, First Friends

November 24 - Thornwell Offering, Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service

December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

December 3 - Project Safe Work Day

December 4 - Senior Adult Christmas Tea

December 8 - Christmas Pageant and Dinner

December 10 - Live Nativity, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

December 15 - Festival of Lessons and Carols

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, *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.