



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

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!

November 17, 2019

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-Third 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

Shalom (Peace)

Dan Locklair

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

Bethlehem Ministry

Kristen Pace

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.**

We welcome today 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.

Call to Worship

The day of the Lord is coming!

God will create a new heaven and new earth.

The glory of the Lord is coming!

God will overturn each stone and bring justice into light.

The Spirit of the Lord is coming!

God will draw us into communion, and all our prayers will be thanksgiving.

***Hymn 142** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* CORONATION

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O God of mercy, hear our prayers. Your spirit calls us to movement and change, but we are stubborn, hesitant, and fearful. We choose the familiar over the faithful, the comfortable over the courageous, selfishness over service, and diatribe over dialogue. O God of mercy, hear our prayers. Forgive our sins and move us to live as people transformed.

The 18th-century text of Hymn 142, celebrating the sovereignty of Christ, has been through several revisions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

***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 first anthem, sung by St. Andrews Choir, children ages 4 - grade 1, are invited to Children's Church with Charlotte Chromiak held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Prayer of St. Francis

Carol McClure

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where I find doubt and despair, where I find sadness and hate, let me shine with your faith and hope, let me shine with your joy and love. Let me seek to love with compassion. Let me seek to give and forgive, as you gave for me in your death, God's gift of love so that I might live.

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

Isaiah 5:1-7, page 621

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

The second anthem, sung by the Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers, is 20th-century text based on Isaiah 11:6-9 and 55:11-13 set to an anonymous shape note tune. The movement from near rhymes in stanza one to exact rhymes in stanza two reinforces the theme of fulfilled prophecy.

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Isaiah the Prophet

Austin Lovelace

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's earthly kingdom shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace;
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the seas.
Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth,
and the briar and thorn tree grow wild.
Lord, hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth,
when no one shall hurt or destroy,
when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land,
and your people shall go forth in joy.

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-5, page 627

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

Sermon

The Shoot in the Stump

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 413 *All Who Love and Serve Your City* CHARLESTOWN

*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

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 *Improvisation on JERUSALEM* John Coble

*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 450 *O Day of Peace* JERUSALEM

*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 *O Day of Peace* Mark Sedio

The text of Hymn 413 greatly enriches the neglected genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34), and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

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.

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*

The Reverend Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*

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

Acolytes

Petch Bryan, Harris Earl

Call to Worship Liturgist

Declan Wilder

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Keith Oelke

11:00 a.m. David Magrino

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),

Larry Jones, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Jacki Macker (head),

Allen Crowell, Phyllis Crowell, Courtney

Pittman, Patti Reed, Mary Catherine Smith

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove, Laura Hill, Barbara

Laughlin, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Susan Landrum,

Tom Landrum, Melinda Miller

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Dave and Lillian Beck

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Roger Burbage

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Frances Brandon Lane Wilfong (born 100 years ago tomorrow on November 18, 1919) by her children, Tom Lane, Richard Lane, Patricia Lane Petelle, Barbara Lane Moore, and Winston Wilfong.

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Starting this Wednesday, **November 20**, Prayers for Healing will change its time to 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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 next Sunday, **November 24**.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 24, 4:00 p.m.

All are invited for this worship service held at the Meeting House at Piedmont College, 595 Prince Avenue and sponsored by the Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Athens, which includes representatives from more than 50 congregations and many faith traditions. The offering will support Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS TEA

Wednesday, December 4, 2:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the annual Christmas Tea hosted by the Senior Adult Ministry on Wednesday, December 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This year's theme is "O Hear the Angel Voices," and will feature The Mellows leading Christmas songs and a message by Dr. Baer entitled, "The Birth Announcement." Please RSVP to the church office at (706) 543-4338 by **November 25**.

SALVATION ARMY 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 Fellowship Hall. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel." All gifts are due **December 12**.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga meets on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Room 310. The cost per class is \$10. Come, enjoy gentle stretching.

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. This is a popular event so please sign up early as the Thanksgiving slots are already full.

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

Casa de Amistad Boxes

Please help provide low-income Hispanic families with food for a special Christmas meal. Last year FPC members provided traditional Christmas food for over 100 families.

You may write a check to FPC for \$40.00 marked, "Casa Boxes" **by December 2** and the shopping will be done for you! Or fill a box, laundry basket, large bucket, or other reusable container with the items listed below.

- 5 lb bag of rice
- 2 lb bag of dried pinto beans
- Bag of onions
- Chili peppers (dried red New Mexico pods)
- Cooking oil
- Mole (brown sauce for meat)
- Masa (flour for making tortillas)
- Can of jalapeños
- Adobe powder (in spice area) or fresh garlic
- Can of tomatoes
- Bag of cookies or a cake
- Gift certificate from Los Compadres or Walmart for \$10
- Christmas card

Boxes are due to the church **by December 8**. Gracias!

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 17: Bethlehem Ministry
- Speaker: Kristen Pace
- 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: *Israel, God's Vineyard*.

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: *Confirmands will be participating in the 30 Hour Day of Service and activities*.

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: *Breaking of the fast for participants of 30 Hour Famine*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 17 - Thanksgiving Food Bags

- 8:00 a.m. 30 Hour Famine Day of Service
- 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, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202

Monday, November 18

- 4:00 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, November 19

- 10:00 a.m. PTPs History of the Church Part V by Ron Bogue, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 5:00 p.m. New Elder Training, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Hilltop Grille, 2310 W. Broad Street

Wednesday, November 20

- 11:00 a.m. Weekday School 3-year-old Thanksgiving Program, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 21

- 2:30 p.m. Mellows, Athens Heritage, 960 Hawthorne Ave.

Friday, November 22

- 9:05 a.m. Combined Special Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary

Sunday, November 24

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching, Thornwell Offering
- 4:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, Meeting House at Piedmont College

LOOKING AHEAD

December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

December 3 - Project Safe Work Day

December 4 - Senior Adult Christmas Tea, Our Daily Bread

December 8 - Christmas Pageant and Dinner

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

December 15 - Festival of Lessons and Carols, The Longest Night of the Year Service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2021
Robbie Bryan	Jeff Bangle	Jennifer Walden Abbott
Greta Terrell Covington	Meghan Bawcum	Sandy Boyles
DeeAnn Cox	Bob Burton	Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Bob Glasscock	Julie Hayes	Elizabeth Earl
Mary Havick	Sydney Jackson	Ed Ferguson
Joe Hermanowicz	Avery McLean	Rob Haire
Richard Lane	Jeanne Nadenicek	Grace Lu
Mary Peace	Carl Nichols	Chris Pope
Lawton Stephens	Tom Reigle	Mixon Robinson
Dan Trier	Judy Scanlon	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.