



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 24, 2019
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Reign of Christ 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.*

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

Now Thank We All Our God Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Thornwell

Leslie Trier

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

We gather on this holy day,
for we have seen Love crucified and raised.
We gather around a font and a table,
for we have known Joy through water and bread.
We gather around an ancient story,
for we have heard Truth in the words of the Scriptures.
We gather around the Holy Spirit,
who enlivens our hearts for the worship of God!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of Hymn 551 is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer, George Job Elvey, was organist for forty-seven years.

*Hymn 551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

**Those who are able may stand.*

At "The Peace," worshippers are invited to greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

After "The Peace" 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.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of wonder and might, forgive us when we put our faith in earthly power instead of in your promises. You call us to work for your reign in this world, "on earth as it is in heaven." Forgive us when we take those words as a platitude instead of a pledge. Forgive us, O Lord. Move us and challenge us to be servants of peace and justice.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*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.

*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.

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson

Luke 24:30-32, page 966

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

King of Glory, King of Peace

J. S. Bach

arr. William H. Harris

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou has granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst' clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.
Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

Second Lesson

2 Kings 22:1-10, 23:1-3, page 351

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

Sermon

Finding Our Way Again

Dr. Ryan Baer

The anthem is a text by George Herbert, set to music by J.S. Bach, in an arrangement by English composer William H. Harris.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 289 *O God of Every Nation* LLANGLOFFAN

*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 *Reflection on KREMSER* Alfred V. Fedak

*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 555 *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*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 *Now Thank We All Our God* Egil Hovland

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.

During the darkest days of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), Lutheran Pastor Rinkart could still write a table grace expressing thanks for God's gifts in the past, praying for guidance for the future, and ending with a majestic outburst of worship and praise to God.

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

Jimmy Bishop, Lizzie Simmons

Call to Worship Liturgist

Lachlan Morris

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Margaret Johansen

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Jacki Macker (head),
Allen Crowell, Phyllis Crowell, Jimbo
LaBoon, Patti Reed, Mary Catherine Smith

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Diane Hartzell, Grace Lu, Lisa
Oelke, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Ally Simmons

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Lawton Stephens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mary Gannon Gunn, Meg Gunn Dure, and Robert Russell Gunn, II by Page Pate.

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

Financial Peace University Begins January 5

Financial Peace University is a proven, biblical plan for getting out of debt and building a secure financial future. Ryan and Amy Baer applied the principles they learned in this video-based course to pay off their student loans, car notes, medical bills, and credit cards, to build an emergency fund, and to begin saving for the future. They will facilitate this nine-week series on Sunday afternoons from 1:00-2:30 p.m. beginning January 5. *Nursery will be provided upon request. To learn more*
4 *and to register, go to <http://fpu.com/1104430>.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, Today, 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.

FOOD SUNDAY, December 1

Next Sunday, December 1, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting *toiletries, cleaning products* and *paper products (tissue, paper towels, etc.)*. Thank you for your donations on November 3 and in the Thanksgiving Food Bags!

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 **tomorrow, November 25**.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

Thank you! All of our angels have been chosen. Remember, all gifts are due by **Sunday, December 12**, and can be dropped off in the church office before then.

Christmas Pageant and Dinner Sunday, December 8, 5:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to embrace the true meaning of Christmas as told by our children. The pageant will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will be followed by dinner in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for dinner (donations gratefully accepted). Reservations for dinner are requested and can be made on the fellowship pad, via website, or by calling the church office.

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

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

All are invited to this hands on experience of the birth of our savior. Bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy our congregation members and Weekday School families as the Holy Family and Wisemen, Shepherds, as well as a camel and 20 other live animals!!! There will be live Christmas music (handbells, guitar and MORE,) the ESP Joyristas Hot Chocolate, and a Christmas ornament to make in the WDS classrooms! There is "Room in the Inn" for YOU! COME, LET US ADORE HIM!!!

Service of the Longest Night, Sunday, December 15

Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a service of worship called the Service of the Longest Night. The service takes its name from the fact that in the Northern Hemisphere in December, there are more hours of darkness than light, and this service acknowledges that many in our community do not find this to be "the most wonderful time of the year." We will pray with and for those in our community who may be hurting and grieving, while remembering that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Holiday Meals on Wheels

Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day volunteers from First Presbyterian Church deliver nutritional meals to homebound seniors. 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. Thank you to all who volunteered for Thanksgiving! Donations can be made by writing a check to First Presbyterian with "Meals on Wheels Holiday Donation" noted on the bottom.

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 24: DVD Study, *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: *Josiah finds the scroll.*

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: *Confirmation resumes on 1/12.*

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: *There is no youth group tonight. Families are encouraged to attend the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 4pm.*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 24 - Thornwell Offering

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

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

4:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, Meeting House at Piedmont College

Monday, November 25

9:05 a.m. Weekday School Thanksgiving Break begins

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

5:00 p.m. 2020 Bicentennial Committee Meeting, Breakout Area

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

5:30 p.m. Debt Elimination Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, November 26

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, November 27

12:00 p.m. Church office closes for Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 28 - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels Food Delivery

Friday, November 29 - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday, Food Bag Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching, Thornwell Offering

LOOKING AHEAD

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 - Holiday Benevolence Market, 9:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Adult Sunday School Christmas Social
Festival of Lessons and Carols
Service of the Longest Night, 7:00 p.m.

December 24 - Family Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Services, 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Poinsettia Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Tuesday, December 17**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a pew pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications.

Each dedication will be listed in the December 22 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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.