



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!

January 19, 2020
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday After Epiphany

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 *Improvisation on ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR* John Coble

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

Hymn 474, Stanza 1

**O splendor of God's glory bright,
from light eternal bringing light;
thou light of life, light's living spring,
true day, all days illumining.**

Call to Worship

Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

We welcome the Anointed One, who makes us whole.

Look! God's Chosen One, who calls us each by name!

We greet the Messiah, who summons us to follow.

Come and see – the Lord is here!

Our hearts are made glad by God's grace! Praise the Lord!

*Hymn 551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Baptizing God, by water and the Spirit you anoint disciples and witnesses, prophets and teacher, to make your reign known throughout the earth. But we deny your claim on our lives, and pretend we have no part in proclaiming the good news. You call us to testify to your grace, but we fall silent. You call us to declare your truth, but we shrink from speaking out. You call us to point others to Christ, but we fade into the crowd and hope others will take the lead.

Forgive us, Lord. Send your Spirit upon us, and reclaim us for your work so that our words and deeds might glorify you.

**Those who are able may stand.*

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving association, 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 was organist for forty-seven years.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier



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 Peace" at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages 4 - 1st grade, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

8:45 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Tai-Tai Burg, son of Timothy and Karen Burg, into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Tai-Tai by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

***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.**

Baptism Hymn 492

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

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 Psalm 126, page 561

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

11:00 Anthem *Behold, a Sower!* Crawford R. Thoburn

Behold, a sower from afar goes onward forth with might;
the rolling years the furrows are, the seed, the growing light;
for all the just God's word is sown, it springeth up alway;
the tender blade is hope's young dawn, the harvest, love's new day.
O Lord of life, to you we lift our hearts in praise for those,
your prophets, who have shown you gift of grace that ever grows,
of truth that spreads from shore to shore, of wisdom's widening ray,
of light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.
Shine forth O Light, that we may see, with hearts all unafraid,
the meaning and the mystery of things that you have made;
shine forth, and let the long dark past beneath the beam grow bright;
shine forth, and touch the future vast with your untroubled light.
Light up your word; that ancient page from all past bondage free,
light up your way; lead forth this age in love's large liberty.
Oh, Light of light! Within us dwell through us your radiance pour,
that word of life all truth may tell, and praise you evermore!

The anthem sets a text by Washington Gladden to the early American hymn tune LEANDER from Johnson's Tennessee Harmony (1818). The arrangement is by American composer Crawford Thoburn.

Second Lesson Mark 4:1-20, page 915

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

Sermon *The Sower* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 374** *Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace*
DICKINSON COLLEGE

***11:00 a.m. Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *For the Fruit of All Creation* Frank Stoldt

***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**

Hymn 374 is a paraphrase of the Prayer of St. Francis. The tune is by an American composer for the 1959 commencement at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, when the composer was awarded an honorary doctorate of music degree.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 563** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* LIFT EVERY VOICE

***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.

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship in the Atrium.

***Postlude** *Praeludium in G* Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Pat Bryan and Wright Cook

Call to Worship Liturgist

Jennings Holloway

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. John Walden

Baptism Elder

8:45 a.m. Diane Hudgins

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins (head),
David Cole, Don Hill

11:00 a.m. Tommy Jackson (head),
Sydney Jackson, Jim McDonald,
Robyn McDonald, Patti Reed

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Diane Hartzell, Laura Hill,
Don Lowe, Jo Anne Lowe

11:00 a.m. Dave Beck,
Lillian Beck, Carol McKay

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Shirley Chambliss

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wayne F. Middendorf by the Middendorf family.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Today, 5:00 p.m.

The Athens Area Human Relations Council, Inc., in partnership with Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens Presents an Ecumenical Service Commemorating the Life & Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors at Redeemer Presbyterian Church (165 Pulaski St.) where the Honorable Judge Patricia Barron will deliver the keynote message.

2020-21 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Our Weekday School Registration for Fall 2020 began on January 13, with community registration **this week**. Anyone wishing to schedule a tour should email our Director, Elaine Johnson, at elaine@firstpresathens.org. Registration forms are found in the WDS lobby or online at firstpresathens.org. Our Weekday School serves ages 3 months through 5 years.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2020 are available for pickup in Fellowship Hall. If yours are not there and you would like some, please contact Roger Burbage or Katherine Worsham in the church office.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

February 9, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sign up in the Atrium, reserve an appointment at redcrossblood.org, or contact the church office. In celebration of FPC Bicentennial, our goal is to reach 31 units of blood, one for each founding member and former FPC Minister. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall Break Out Area and help save a life!

TUESDAY SUPPERS AT THE PSC

If you like to see hungry, appreciative young adults eat a delicious meal prepared by you (or you and some friends), please go to www.PSCuga.org/worship and click on the Sign Up Genius link to see the spring schedule for our Tuesday Suppers.

We ask that groups provide us with a menu ahead of time so that we can make alternative arrangement for students with particular dietary restrictions as needed. For more information, please contact Will Norman at will@pscuga.org or Leslye Queen at leslye@pscuga.org.

WEDNESDAY@FIRST

Fellowship suppers begin in February 5. Contact Rosemary Stancil (rstancil@charter.net) if you are willing to help cook or clean up.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch, Sunday, January 26, 12:05 p.m.

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch next Sunday, January 26. We will receive the Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, 2020 Budget, and elect members at-large to serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee. There is no charge for lunch, but reservations are requested online or in the church office by January 22.

200 Hours of Service in January - 150 hours so far

Help us reach our goal of 200 hours of outreach service by church members this month to honor our bicentennial. Please log your hours on the record sheet in the Atrium or via the link on our website home page (www.firstpresathens.org/hours-of-service). Opportunities to serve are:

Project Safe Thrift Store - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Monday, January 20, organize merchandise. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

Any MLK Day of Service Project - Athens Clarke County sponsored projects: www.givepulse.com/group/118913-Athens-MLK-Day-of-Service.

Our Daily Bread Breakfast - 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 21, prepare and serve breakfast at First Baptist. Email Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net or (678) 371-1757 to sign up.

Any other community service performed in January.

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.

- January 19: video from Amy-Jill Levine, *Who Did They Say He Was? Jesus in Text and Context*.
- 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

Finishing the study of the book, *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor and study of the book, *The Book of Job* by Donald Kraus.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Andrew Marshall

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 *John Calvin for the Armchair Theologian*, by Christopher Elwood.

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: 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: *Jesus reaches in parables*.

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: *No confirmation class*.

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: *No youth group tonight*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 19

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrew's Singers, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Martin Luther King Ecumenical Service, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 165 Pulasky St.

Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King Day of Service, Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Volunteer Work Day, 955 Hawthorne Ave in Bell's shopping center

Tuesday, January 21

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, January 22

- 8:30 a.m. Doughnuts with Dads, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Chops & Hops, 2 South Main St, #112, Watkinsville
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 23

- 8:30 a.m. Doughnuts with Dads, Fellowship Hall
- 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, January 26

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 12:05 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch

LOOKING AHEAD

January 28 - First Friends, Homemade, 1072 Baxter St.

January 31 & February 1 - Session Retreat

February 2 - Stephen Ministers Commissioning, Souper Bowl of Caring

February 5 - Our Daily Bread Lunch, Wed@First Dinner

February 9 - Youth Sunday

February 12 - Bookless Book Group

February 16 - Wayne F. Middendorf Concert Series presents "Through the Church the Song Goes On" & Reception

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2022
Jeff Bangle	Jennifer Walden Abbott	Karen Burg
Meghan Bawcum	Sandy Boyles	Kitty Donnan
Bob Burton	Michelle Clendenen-Shaw	Larry Jones
Julie Hayes	Elizabeth Earl	Andy Jordan
Sydney Jackson	Ed Ferguson	Jimbo LaBoon
Avery McLean	Rob Haire	Tom Landrum
Jeanne Nadenicek	Grace Lu	Beverly Phares
Carl Nichols	Chris Pope	Courtney Pittman
Tom Reigle	Mixon Robinson	Smith Wilson
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*
Ms. Katherine Worsham, *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. Naina Amballa, *Website Technician*
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.**