



# 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 26, 2020  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Third 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**      *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*      Johann Pachelbel

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**      Red Cross Blood Drive      Joe Neighbors

### 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

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

**whom shall I fear?**

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

**of whom shall I be afraid?**

**\*Hymn 487**      *When Morning Guilds the Skies*      LAUDES DOMINI

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**Living God, you have given us all we need to follow you, yet we doubt ourselves, criticize others, grasp for meaningless pleasures and seek hollow assurances. Forgive us for refusing to see what is in front of our faces. Restore us by the power of your son, Jesus Christ.**

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Hymn 487 is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from the original 14 stanza German text may not convey that. Hymnal editors make different choices, which create slightly different versions of this hymn in various hymnals.

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

**\*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!

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 - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

**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 89:1-4, page 534

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

The text of the anthem is from "The Quest of the Historical Jesus" by Albert Schweitzer, set to music by American composer Jane Marshall (1924-2019). The anthem concludes with the Lutheran chorale O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright.

**11:00 Anthem**

*He Comes to Us*

Jane M. Marshall

He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside he came to all those who knew him not, he speaks to us, he speaks the same word: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the task which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright, thou beamest forth in truth and light!  
 O Sovereign meek and lowly.

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, my Lord and master, thou has won my heart to serve thee solely!

Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,  
 rule and might o'er all possessing.

**Second Lesson**

Mark 5:1-20, page 916

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

**Sermon**

*Living Among the Tombs*

Dr. Ryan Baer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn**

*O Christ the Healer*

O WALY WALY

1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for  
 2 From ev - ry ail - ment flesh en-dures our bod-ies clam - or to be  
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de-sires, how weak our knowl - edge of our-  
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis-  
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may

O Christ the Healer, a prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of places and people. In the midst of such widespread need, worshiping communities are balled to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

friends. How can we fail to be re -  
 freed; yet in our hearts we would con -  
 selves! Re - lease in us those heal - ing  
 ease; our com - mon life de - clares our  
 find the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing

stored, when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
 fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.  
 truths un - con-scious pride re - sists or shelves.  
 ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
 us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

**\*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.**

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.

**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** O WALY WALY Emma Lou Diemer

**\*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 361** *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

**\*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.**

It seems odd now to think of singing Hymn 361 to the tune ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music.

*Following worship, all are invited to attend the annual congregational meeting and lunch in Fellowship Hall.*

*Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861*

**\*Postlude** *Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Mark Sedio

**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*

Andrew Miller and Lachlan Morris

### *Call to Worship Liturgist*

Harris Earl

### *Lay Readers*

**8:45 a.m.** Keith Oelke

**11:00 a.m.** Jean Martin-Williams

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** Scott Collins (head),

Don Hill, Mary Peace

**11:00 a.m.** Tommy Jackson (head),  
Betsy Canfield, Rod Canfield, Bob Glasscock,  
Patti Reed, Harry Shuford

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Laura Hill, Keith Oelke,

Lisa Oelke, Mary Peace

**11:00 a.m.** Bob Bostrom, Nancy Bostrom,  
Dan Nadenicek, Ella Stewart

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of CPL Evan Andrew Marshall, a member of FPC, who was killed in action in Mosul, Iraq, on January 28, 2008, while serving our country by Drew Marshall.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Corley Mozell Padgett on January 18, 2020. Her parents are Gabe and Kristen Padgett, and grandparents are Lee and Becky Padgett.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

---

---

## Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch, Today, 12:05 p.m.

Please join us after the 11:00 a.m. service for our Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch. We will receive the Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, 2020 Budget, and elect members at-large to serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FOOD SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **February 2**, we will collect non-perishable food items for the Athens–Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they request *saltine crackers, salty snack foods and condiments (such as ketchup, mayo, salad dressings, BBQ sauces)*. Thank you for donating 294 items in December and 209 items in January!

### 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](http://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.

The need for blood is critical during this time of the year. If you're not able to join us in February 9, please considering scheduling an appointment for another day and help save a life!

### 200 HOURS OF SERVICE IN JANUARY

Thank you!!! We not only reached but are close to double our goal. We have more than 350 hours so far. Please log in your volunteering hours for this month of January on the record sheet in the Atrium or via the link on our website home page.

### OUR DAILY BREAD

**February 5 and 18**

On the first Wednesday of each month FPC buys, prepares and serves lunch to our neighbors in need at First Baptist Church. On the third Tuesday of each month we serve breakfast there.

For details and to help with lunch, please contact Ann Dunn at [anndunn8@gmail.com](mailto:anndunn8@gmail.com) or Fran Lane at [fjlane@uga.edu](mailto:fjlane@uga.edu). To help with breakfast, please contact Patty Whiten at [pattywhiten@windstream.net](mailto:pattywhiten@windstream.net).

### WED@FIRST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Fellowship suppers start on February 5. Contact Rosemary Stancil ([rstancil@charter.net](mailto:rstancil@charter.net)) if you are willing to help cook or clean up.

### 2019 HOLIDAY BENEVOLENCE MARKET UPDATE

The 25th anniversary of the Holiday Benevolence Market was an amazing success with the donation of \$23,298 to the 26 participating non-profit organizations. Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's market and those who saw the benefits of this "ecumenical giving tradition" that began in 1994.

---

---

### Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation Beginning February 5, Fellowship Hall

**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.**

**Conversation: 6:30-7:30 p.m led by Dr. Ryan Baer - "The Book of Psalms"**

What is a psalm? Who wrote the psalms, and why? Why should we bother reading, praying, and singing the psalms today? Join us in the Moses Waddel room from 6:30-7:30 during Wed@First as Dr. Ryan Baer leads us in a conversation about the Book of Psalms.

---

---

*The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series*

presents

***"Through the Church the Song Goes On"***

Led by FPC Chancel Choir with special guests

**Sunday, February 16, 4:00 p.m.**

# 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 26: 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

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 heals an outcast*.

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: *Introducing the Disciples - mentors asked to attend*.

SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Youth Group is held 2-3/month (visit [www.fpcathenspit.com](http://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: *Youth Sunday planning continues*.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 26

- 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
- 12:05 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Singers, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Sunday Planning, The PIT

### Monday, January 27

- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Bicentennial Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

### Tuesday, January 28

- 12:45 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Homemade, 1072 Baxter St.
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training and Supervision, Moses Waddel Room

### Wednesday, January 29

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### Thursday, January 30

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Silverleaf, 705 Whitehead Road

### Friday, January 31

- 6:00 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Session Retreat, Moses Waddel Room

### Saturday, February 1

- 8:30 a.m. Session Retreat, Moses Waddel Room

### Sunday, February 2, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, Souper Bowl of Caring Stephen Ministers' Commissioning

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

**February 9** - Youth Sunday, Red Cross Blood Drive

**February 12** - Bookless Book Group, Savannah Room at The UGA Hotel, 1197 South Lumpkin St.

**February 15-17** - Youth Winter Retreat

**February 16** - Wayne F. Middendorf Concert Series presents "Through the Church the Song Goes On" with reception following

**February 17** - Presidents Day, Church Office Closed

**February 18** - Our Daily Bread Breakfast

**February 23** - First Things New Member Class, Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting

## 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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**