



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!

February 2, 2020
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Gerre Hancock

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Souper Bowl of Caring

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who hunger for justice,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are we when we gather to hear God's Word,
For we will be nurtured and sustained.

*Hymn 461

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*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.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

*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.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national youth-led movement that started in 1990 to combat poverty and hunger.

FPC 2nd Graders are our Communion Helpers. Bringing in the bread and cup at the 11:00 a.m. service are Anna Simmons and Eli Sapp.

Hymn 461 was commissioned for the dedication of a renovated worship space in Austin, Texas. It is one of the few hymns to devote attention to how customary church features facilitate worship. The tune was composed in wartime in Britain to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.

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 anthem, sung by the St. Andrews Choir, is a spiritual that possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, including the phrase “Lord, have mercy on me.”

On Communion Sundays children are invited to remain in the sanctuary.

New Stephen Ministers:
 Kathy Allaire
 Jean Bock
 Judy Burch
 Kent Burel
 Marianne Causey
 Bobbie Epting*
 Deborah Googe
 Jerris Hayes
 Jo Carol Nessel-Sale
 Madeline Van Dyck*
 *to be commissioned
 Feb. 23 at 8:45 a.m.

Because dense populations often result in concentrated hardships, Hymn 408 is a vivid yet timeless evocation of urban need, connecting to our own day as well as Jesus’ lament over Jerusalem.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

***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.

11:00 Anthem *Let Us Break Bread Together*
 African-American Spiritual

11:00 Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

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 131, page 562
 This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson Mark 5:21-43, page 917
 This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Whole Story* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 408** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* GERMANY

***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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 Offertory *Improvisation on GERMANY* John Coble

11:00 Offertory *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na
in the high- est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died; Christ is ris - en;
Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is by contemporary American composer Thomas Pavlechko.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

. . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Following 8:45 worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship in the Atrium.

***Hymn 307** *Fight the Good Fight* *DUKE STREET*

***Benediction**

Following 11:00 worship, all are invited for a reception in Fellowship Hall honoring Stephen Ministers.

***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.**

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under

***Postlude** *Postlude in D* Healy Willan

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.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. Children's Church will resume next Sunday.

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

Petch Bryan and Lizzie Simmons

Call to Worship Liturgist

Lachlan Morris

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright
11:00 a.m. Charlie Young

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head),
Don Lowe, JoAnne Lowe
11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head), Sandra Kays,
Stan Kays, Tom Lane, Jim London,
David Mendenhall, Marcia Talmadge

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Faye Marshall, Terry Nestor
11:00 a.m. Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Dan Nadenicek, Dewitt Pittman

RECEPTION HOST

Congregational Care Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bob and Sue Marion by Jack and Sally Vandiver. The Atrium refreshment table flowers are given in honor of the birthday of Ryan Baer by the Baer 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

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation Beginning this Wednesday, 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.

Please contact Rosemary Stancil (rstancil@charter.net) if you would like to help cook or clean up.

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 (sponsor code AFPC), 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. Thank you to all who scheduled an appointment, we have 23 units of blood so far!

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!

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series

presents

“Through the Church the Song Goes On”

Led by the Chancel Choir with Special Guests

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

First Things for Newcomers

Sunday, February 23, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

First Things for Newcomers in Moses Waddel Room (3rd floor)

First Things is an opportunity to learn about First Presbyterian Church, to meet the staff and other newcomers, and for us to have some conversations about what it means to live out our discipleship as members of Christ's church.

Sunday, March 1, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

After attending First Things for Newcomers, you're invited to the New Member Tea to meet the Session and be received into membership. The New Member Tea is informal and will be hosted by Sandy and Jim Boyles, 1021 Maple Court, Athens, 30606. Children are welcome!

Sunday, March 8, 8:45 or 11:00 a.m.

New members will be introduced to the congregation during the morning worship services, and receptions will be held after both services to welcome the newest members of FPC.

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.

- February 2: Rev. Will Norman, Campus Minister at the PSC, *The role of campus ministry in the life of the wider church*.
- 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: *A woman healed, a girl raised*.

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: *Youth Sunday preparations*.

SUNDAY EVENINGS 4:00-5:30 p.m. (*Note time change*)

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: *Youth Sunday rehearsal from 4:00-5:30 p.m.*

THIS WEEK

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
- 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, The PIT
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Reception in Honor of Stephen Ministers, Fellowship Hall
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 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

Monday, February 3

- 10:00 p.m. Circle Two, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, February 4

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Beverly Simpson, 375 Idylwood Drive
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Drive

Wednesday, February 5

- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- Ukulele Class, Room 203
- 5:45 p.m. Wed@First Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. A Conversation About the Book of Psalms, Dr. Baer, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, February 6

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. Family Promise Volunteer Training, Day Center at First Baptist Church
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Magnolia Estates, 1641 Virgil Langford Road, Watkinsville

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

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services

LOOKING AHEAD

February 12 - Bookless Book Group, Savannah Room, 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 for Newcomers, 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.