



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 23, 2020
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Transfiguration of the Lord

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

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

High \$5 for Heifer International

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

Do you see it? In fire and cloud our God appears:

the glory of the Lord settles over us.

Do you hear it? A voice thunders from heaven:

"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him."

Open your eyes; unstop your ears. We are gathered on holy ground.

Let us magnify the Lord!

*Hymn 371

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we search for you amidst the grand and glorious, the sacred and serene. We are eager to bask in your splendor and dwell with you in sanctuaries that shelter us from the sorrow of this world. We forget you are also present in the ordinary and the profane, the desperate and the despised. You send us back down the mountain to proclaim your law of grace and live your command of love – to tread the path that Jesus tread. Transform us, embolden us, and free us from fear, that we might be beacons of your light.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, and check in on Facebook.

The majestic Hymn 371 celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

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."

After "The Peace" at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages 4 - grade 5, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop which will be held in Fellowship Hall this morning.

New Stephen Ministers to be commissioned today:

Bobbie Epting
Madeline Van Dyck

Some version of the Transfiguration is always read on the last Sunday after Epiphany. The text of Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain, that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

*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.

8:45 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

Psalms 27:1-4, page 493

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

11:00 Anthem

A Winter Carol

Fred Gramann

Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
and all the earth lies dead and drear.
And yet God's love is not withdrawn; his life within the keen air breathes;
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,
and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.
And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now, and warmer glows her light within.
O God! who gives the winter's cold, as well as summer's joyous rays,
us warmly in thy love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days.

Second Lesson

Mark 8:27-9:8, page 921

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

Sermon

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

we are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
 Your di - vin - i - ty re-vealed there fills us with the self-same awe.
 Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word,
 where you shout-ed "It is fin- ished!" where for all the world you died.
 can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that we have seen and heard;

There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
 Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our dead-liest foe.
 "Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
 Hear the stunned cen - tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
 say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

***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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

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.

Offertory *Improvisation on UNSER HERRSCHER* 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

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

Following 11:00 worship,
all are invited for a time of
fellowship in the Breakout
Area in Fellowship Hall.

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

*Hymn 144	<i>Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!</i>	HYFRYDOL
*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	<i>Toccata</i>	Grayston Ives

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.

Please join the children of the church for homemade cookies and hot cocoa in Fellowship Hall directly following the 11:00 a.m. service. The children are very excited to serve as Fellowship Hosts and Hostesses this morning and will be ready for your High \$5s for Heifer. Thank you for supporting our children and youth as they raise \$5000 for Heifer International's Fill the Ark Mission Project.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Tom Landrum, *Liturgist*

Acolytes

Wright Cook and Lachlan Wright-

Call to Worship Liturgist

Jennings Holloway-

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Tom Landrum

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head),
Don Lowe, JoAnne Lowe

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Jerris Hayes, Julie Hayes, Jim London,
David Mendenhall, Marcia Talmadge

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Barb Laughlin,
Terry Nestor, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Martha Elmore, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Children of the Church

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

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

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS:

SONGS OF LOVE

The forty days of Lent are traditionally a time to nurture growth in faith. To encourage this, beginning Ash Wednesday, a daily devotional written by members and friends of the church will appear in your email inbox. Each meditation is a reflection on a favorite hymn which we hope will keep you humming all day. Desiring to be good stewards of creation (trees), only a few copies will be printed and available for those who do not use email.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Thank you all who volunteered for our Blood Drive. We have met our Bicentennial goal of 31 units of blood, one for each founding member and former FPC Minister. If you were not able to attend the blood drive but would like to donate, please go to the Red Cross Donor Center (3533 Atlanta Highway, Athens). When donating, let the receptionist know you are donating on behalf of FPC and our drive will receive credit for your donation.

FOOD SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **March 1**, we will collect non-perishable items for the Athens–Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they request:

* *canned salmon*

* *paper towel*

* *toilet paper*

Thank you for donating 371 items in February!

FAMILY PROMISE OF ATHENS

The next Family Promise of Athens host week is March 22 – 29. The sign-up poster is available in the Atrium. Please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com, Jean Bock at jbock@bellsouth.net or Frank Sherrill at frankwherrill@gmail.com with questions.

NEW FPC T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

In celebration of our church's 200th birthday, we are selling new t-shirts. Adult sizes are \$20 and child sizes are \$10. All proceeds benefit the Puerto Rico Mission Trip. They will be on sale between the services and after the 11:00 a.m. service on the next two Sundays or you may contact Kim Ness at kness@firstpresathens.org to purchase yours!

Ash Wednesday

February 26

Worship, 12:00 & 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a traditional service including communion and imposition of ashes. Following the 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service we will remain for a time praying for those who need healing.

Childcare will be provided for infants – 4 years old during the Ash Wednesday 6:00 p.m. service.

Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

\$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 Monday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.**

Stephen Ministry

If you are going through a difficult time, one of FPC's Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's ultimate Valentine) back into your life. A Stephen Minister can provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. He or she will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of FPC's Stephen Leaders. Our Stephen Ministry team works with church members and non-members. FPC Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

Contact a Stephen Leader for more information:

Bob Frisch: rpfrisch@aol.com, 914-262-1078

Dawn Frisch: dawnmfrisch@aol.com, 914-255-3447

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Carol Strickland: cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, 706-765-7671.

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 23: Guests Dr. Scott Nesbit & Lisa Bayer, who will be speaking about the project, *Universities Studying Slavery*.

- 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: *Transfiguration*.

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: *Middle school and High school small groups meet.*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 23

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 3:00 p.m. First Things for Newcomers Class, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Puerto Rico Mission Trip Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. MS and HS Small Groups, The PIT

Monday, February 24

- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Prime Time Presbyterians, Trip to Madison
- 11:00 a.m. Family Promise of Athens La Table, Athens Country Club
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Girasoles, 24 Greensboro Highway, Watkinsville, 30677
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Teacher Conferences
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Homemade, 1072 Baxter Street
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, The PIT
- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service and Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare Class, The Merchant of Venice, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Ukulele Class, Room 203
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 27

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study Class, Staff Conference Room
- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Council, Brides Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Morningside Assisted Living, 1291 Cedar Shoals Drive

Friday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 1 -** Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, New Member Tea
- March 2 -** Week of Wonder 2020 (VBS) Online Registration Opens
- March 4 -** Our Daily Bread, Lunch
- March 5 -** Family Promise of Athens Volunteer Training
- March 8 -** Daylight Savings Time Begins, New Members Reception
- March 11 -** Circle 7, Bookless Book Group
- March 17 -** Our Daily Bread, Breakfast
- March 22 & 25** Envisioning the Future of the Church with Matt Bishop

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.