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!

March 8, 2020
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

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 *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering Hymn 77, Stanza 1

Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
the One who came to serve.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
the One who knows our need.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
the One who leads us into life.

***Hymn 420** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

The stirring Hymn 420, used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930, was written by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

***Call to Confession**

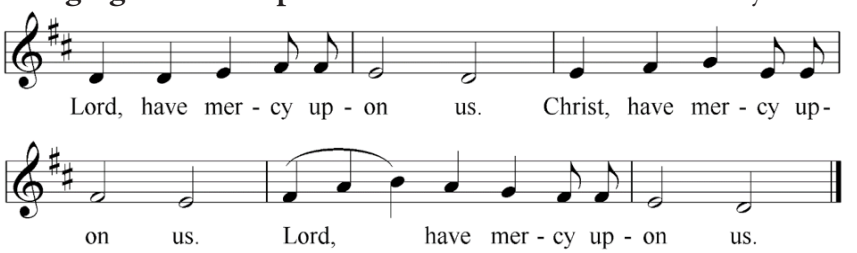
***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, forgive us, for we have fallen short of your vision for humanity. We have put ourselves before others. We have ignored the vulnerable. We have forgotten you altogether, and we have missed the point of your kingdom. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake.

***Silent Prayer**

After a moment of silent prayer, the traditional response Kyrie eleison *("Lord have mercy") will be sung.*

***Congregational Response** Healey Willan



**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."

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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 "Introduction of New Members" at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages 4 - 2nd grade, are invited to Children's Church with Natalie Bishop held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

Introduction of New Members

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 34:11-14, page 498
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 Anthem *Teach Me, O Lord* Thomas Attwood
Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.

Second Lesson Mark 10:32-52, page 923
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Reserved Seating* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

In the challenging text of Hymn 421, written by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

***Hymn 421** *The Church of Christ in Every Age* WAREHAM

***Affirmation of Faith** *Colossians 1:15-20*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

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 *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* Helmut Walcha

***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 282** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 2

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

***Postlude** *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*
John Dunstable

Following 8:45 worship, all are invited to the New Member Reception in the Atrium.

Following 11:00 worship, all are invited to the New Member Reception in Fellowship Hall.

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 and Lachlan Morris

Call to Worship Liturgist
Logan Bono

Lay Readers
8:45 a.m. Jody Corry

11:00 a.m. Mark Hopkins

USHERS
8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head)**,**
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
Bob Bostrom, Betsy Canfield,
Rod Canfield, Arlene Shirley

GREETERS
8:45 a.m. Jim Dove,
Lisa Oelke, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Bob Glasscock, Brenda Glasscock,
David Mendenhall, Ella Stewart

NEW MEMBER RECEPTIONS HOST
Fellowship and Evangelism Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER
Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS
The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bertha Brandenberg and Norman Handley by Dot Handley.

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.

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.
- March 8: DVD Studies, *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. Join us as we pack sack lunches for the Homeless Day Center on the first Sunday of the month.
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 came to serve.*

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 due to Spring Breaks.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: SONGS OF LOVE

We started our daily e-mail Lenten Devotionals on Ash Wednesday. Written by members and friends of the church, each meditation is a reflection on a favorite hymn which we hope will keep you humming all day. To receive the daily devotional, please contact the church office. Desiring to be good stewards of creation, only a few copies will be printed and available for those who do not use email.

WEEK OF WONDER 2020: Growing God's Love! Online Registration Open!

First Presbyterian Vacation Bible School has a new name – Week of Wonder! Mark your calendars with our Week of Wonder, Tuesday, May 26 - Friday, May 29. We need adult and youth volunteers. Please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org if you would like to join our wonderful Week of Wonder Volunteer Team.

SAVING VISION MONTH

Your donation of old but useful eyeglasses will help many who are in need of vision correction receive a true "twenty-twenty" gift in the year 2020. Donations accepted include prescription glasses, reading glasses, and sunglasses (prescription or plain). Our Bicentennial goal is to collect 200+ pairs of glasses. Donation stations are located in the Atrium and at both Dougherty Street entrances.

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 frankwsherrill@gmail.com with questions.

BOOKLESS BOOK GROUP

The Bookless Book Group is open to all women and will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11 at Heirloom Cafe, 815 North Chase Street for food and fellowship.

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation

Wednesday, March 11, 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. Please contact Rosemary Stancil (rstancil@charter.net) if you would like to help cook or clean up.**

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.

Stephen Ministry

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life or the life of someone that you know. Our Stephen Ministry team works with church members and non-members. **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

Meet our Newest Members - Winter 2020

Jamie and Larry Baer
better known as Pops and Mimi to the Baer family join FPC by transfer of letter from Custer Road United Methodist Church, Plano, TX. Larry is a PCUSA Elder. They have one son, Ryan, our Senior Pastor, and daughter-in-law, Amy, and three perfect grandsons. Jamie is a retired teacher, and Larry is a market analyst. Jamie enjoys reading and playing bridge while Larry enjoys playing golf, bird hunting, and youth athletics.

Trish Yeatts Butcher and Andrew (Andy) Maxwell Butcher
Trish joins by reactivation of membership of FPC, and her husband Andy joins by profession of faith. He will be baptized next Sunday along with their 11-month-old son Max. Trish is a healthcare attorney with the law firm of Hamil Little, and Andy is a field sales engineer at Bruel & Kjaer. Trish enjoys art, and Andy enjoys woodworking.

Joselin Chacon
joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith. She is engaged to member Jonathan Wilson and enjoys family life with Jonathan and his son Jaylen, who also attends FPC. Joselin is a nurse in the field of gastroenterology. She likes hiking, photography, and going to the lake.

Diane and John DeBarry
join FPC by transfer of letter from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, Duluth, GA where they both served as Elders and founding members. Diane and John are both retired. Diane enjoys reading and playing cards, and John plays golf every chance he gets.

Sarah and Paul Johnson
join our church by reaffirmation of faith. Sarah is a stay-at-home mom and a communications specialist. Paul is a cardiologist with Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital. Sarah enjoys running, reading and writing. Paul loves nature and travel. They have two children, a son Henry (9) and a daughter Grady (7).

Meet our Newest Members - Winter 2020

Chelsea and Philip Manning
join FPC by reaffirmation of faith. Chelsea is an Assistant Principal at Westside Middle School, and Philip teaches computer science related courses and is the head coach of the Oconee County Varsity girls' basketball team. Chelsea enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and UGA football. Philip enjoys sports, reading, and home improvement projects.

Gabrielle Mason
joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith. She is retired from the University of Georgia after serving in a variety of Administrative Specialist roles which concluded as the Executive Assistant to the Dean in the Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communications. Gabrielle enjoys yoga, guitar, singing, hiking, and painting.

Ansley and Mac McKnight
Ansley joins FPC by transfer of letter from the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, GA while her husband Mac joins by transfer of letter from St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Columbus, GA. Ansley is a nurse at St. Mary's hospital and enjoys cooking, baking, and anything outdoors. Mac is Senior Vice President of CRE/Commercial Banking at Synovus Bank. He enjoys golf, UGA Athletics, and men's groups.

Teresa and Al Tammany
join FPC by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa, CA. Teresa is a retired attorney and Al is a retired banker and consultant. They both enjoy hiking, bicycling, and playing tennis. They have three adult children.

Debbie Yarrow
joins FPC by transfer of letter from University Lutheran Church of Clemson, SC. Debbie teaches English to ESOL students at Sims Academy of Technology in Barrow County. Already a member of our choir, Debbie enjoys, singing, playing the piano, genealogy, writing, and playing cards. She has three grown children.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 8, Second Sunday in Lent
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
9:35 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. New Member Receptions
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, March 9
9:00 a.m. Weekday School Spring Break begins

Tuesday, March 10
1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, March 11
9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe, 815 North Chase Street
12:30 p.m. 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
5:45 p.m. 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, March 12
10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study Class, Staff Conference Room
4:30 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, March 15
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

March 17 Our Daily Bread, Breakfast

March 22 & 25 Envisioning the Future of the Church Bicentennial Event

March 22 - 29 Family Promise of Athens Host Week

March 24 First Friends

March 25 Bookless Book Group

March 26 Josephine Paine Bible Study Class

April 1 Last Wed@First of the semester

April 2-8 Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall

April 5 Palm Sunday, Wayne F. Middendorf Concert Series presents *Geneva Stonecipher-Overbaugh, Organist* (with reception following)

April 9 Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

April 10 Good Friday Presbyterian Community Service, Friendship Presbyterian Church

April 11 Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic

April 12 Easter Sunday Worship & Brunch