



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 15, 2020
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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.*

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

SHADES MOUNTAIN

Robert Buckley Farlee

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 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

Come, you who are thirsty –

here is living water.

Come, you who are weary –

here is the font of eternal life.

Let us drink from the well of grace.

Let us worship the Lord!

***Hymn 417** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* REGENT SQUARE

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Lord, time and again, you defy our expectations. You cross barriers of culture and creed and look into the eyes of a stranger. We confess that we are not keen to do the same. While you teach inclusion, we preserve division; while you model hospitality, we default to suspicion. Open our eyes to see your mission for what it is – the healing of the world. Astonish us with your grace, O God, that we might move from surprise to service, and from doubt to faithfulness. By your Spirit, inspire and empower us to proclaim your good news in word and deed.

Although the ancient text of *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of god and the second to the place where they meet. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

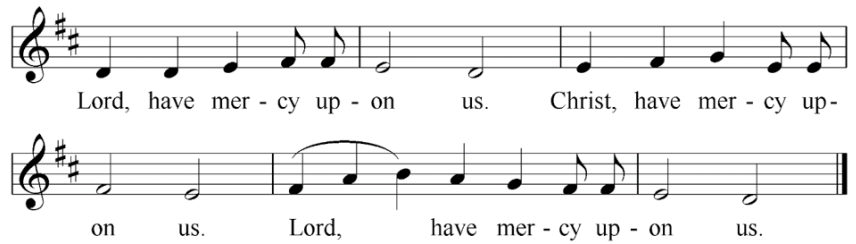
*Silent Prayer

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

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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 passing the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages 4 - 2nd grade, are invited to Children's Church with Charlotte Chromiak held in the Children's Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

***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.

8:45 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Andrew (Andy) Maxwell Butcher, Sr., and Andrew Maxwell (Max) Butcher, Jr., 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 Andy and Max by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them 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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 86:8-13, page 533

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

11:00 Anthem

The Tree of Life

K. Lee Scott

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.
Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"
There on its branches see the scars of suffering:
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.
Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it. (*cont.*)

The anthem is an arrangement of an evocative hymn on Christ's Passion. The original twelve-stanza hymn by a 17th-century Hungarian pastor. The hymn tune, called SHADES MOUNTAIN, honor's the composer's home in the foothills of the Appalachians.

Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.
 See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!
 Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."
 This is my ending, this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.
 All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose Passion
 offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon.
 Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!

Second Lesson Mark 12:1-17, page 925
 This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Render Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 391 *Take My Life* HENDON

*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 *Forty Days and Forty Nights* Alec Wyton

*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 253 *I'll Praise My Maker* OLD 113TH

*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 *Improvisation on ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE*
 John Coble

I'll Praise My Maker, a paraphrase of Psalm 146, was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, SC) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set is one Watts had in mind for it.

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

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*

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Jay Holloway

Baptism Elder

8:45 a.m. Lawton Stephens

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head),
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
Dave Beck, Lillian Beck, Stephen Covington,
Arlene Shirley, Tom Wilfong

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,
Grace Lu, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Melinda Miller, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Lois and Joe Neighbors

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Betsy and Bill Bushnell.

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.

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.

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation Wednesday, March 18, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE TRIP TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Join the Presbyterian Heritage Trip to Northern Ireland this September! Information about the trip can be found on our website. For more information, please contact Sam Thomas at sthomas@trrcobbhouse.org.

FIRST FRIENDS

The next dinner will be on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. at Sr. Sol on 2455 West Broad Street, Athens. Please join us!

BOOKLESS BOOK GROUP

The next lunch will be on Wednesday, March 25 at 11:30 a.m. at Heirloom Cafe, 815 N. Chase Street, Athens. For more information please contact Polly Erickson at pollyandawgs@yahoo.com.

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.

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.

Envisioning the Future of the Church

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Athens, we encourage everyone to share their perspectives about the future of our church and congregation. To that end, there will be two opportunities to participate in “Envisioning the Future of the Church” sessions. The first session will be held during lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, March 22** (lunch will be a fundraiser for the Puerto Rico Mission Trip). The second session will be held after the Wednesday@First dinner on **Wednesday, March 25** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Reservations are required only for dinner on Wednesday, and can be made through the Fellowship Pad, online, or by contacting the church office by Monday, March 23 at 12:00 p.m.

Puerto Rico Mission Trip Fundraiser

The Puerto Rico Mission Team will be providing lunch for the “Envisioning the Future of the Church” event on March 22 to raise funds for our upcoming trip in May. In addition to grilled cheese sandwiches, attendees will have their choice of chicken or vegetarian taco soup, and homemade cookies. No reservations are required, and we appreciate whatever amount diners choose to donate.

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

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 15: Guest speaker Charles Smith from Habitat on *Kinda Tiny Homes*.
- 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: *Parable of the wicked tenants*

SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:00-8:00 p.m. *(note later end time)*

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: *A Holy Journey to the Cross - small group dinner "journeys."* Dinner at pastor's homes starting at 6:00 p.m. with dessert to follow at Ness home. Parents pick up at 8:00 p.m. (200 Glenwood Drive).

Middle School Girls: Dr. Strickland's Home (1141 Nona Drive)

Middle School Boys: Dr. Baer's Home (126 Telfair Place)

High School: Rev. Davis' Home (390 Old Princeton Road)

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 15, Third Sunday in Lent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 4:30 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Progressive Dinner

Monday, March 16

- 8:15 a.m. Weekday School Parent Conferences
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, March 17

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, March 18

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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 19

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Avery Place, 124 Avery Street, Winterville

Sunday, March 22

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 12:00 p.m. Envisioning the Future of the Church
Puerto Rico Mission Trip Fundraiser Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Family Promise Host Week Begins

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, April 6**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a Fellowship Pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications.

Each dedication will be listed in the April 12 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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.