



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!

October 11, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

Praeludium in G

Dietrich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

DUKE STREET

**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship

Come, all who hunger for good news.

We thirst for words of hope and healing.

Come, from rural road and city street.

We gather at the King's invitation.

Come, join the celebration.

Let us worship the Lord!

Hymn 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Extravagant God, you invite us to your table in the kingdom of heaven. But we do not take our place at the feast. We say, "We have more important things to do," and turn back to labors that threaten to consume us. Beckon us again, we pray, that we may respond with gratitude. In your mercy, gather us in that we might experience the joy of your kingdom and taste the abundance of your grace.

Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

A special word of welcome:

thank you for being with us online for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

Most classical hymns are Biblically oriented, and *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* has references to Isaiah 33, Psalm 87, I Peter 2, Revelation 1, and Exodus 13. The author, John Newton, famous for *Amazing Grace*, wrote hymns to educate his congregation about the Bible. Like other great hymn writers, he knew hymns are excellent tools for teaching.

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Luke 23:34

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

Solo *God Be in My Head* Jennifer Stammers

God be in my head and in my understanding,
be in my eyes and in my looking,
be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
My every breath is drawn for thee,
that thou may look with favor upon me.
God be at my end and be at my departing.

Second Lesson Exodus 32:1-14

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

Sermon *The Intercessor* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 276 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

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.**

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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* Johann Sebastian Bach

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

The text of the solo is from the 16th-century *Sarum Primer*. It is set to music by contemporary American choral composer, choral director, and music educator, Jennifer Stammers. (Used by permission, SJMP no. 1941)

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* is one of the few among 1200 texts by a Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune was composed especially for these words.

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.

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Hymn *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* AR HYD Y NOS

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Hymn 540, Stanza 1

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude *AR HYD Y NOS* Frank Stoldt

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author, Jaroslav Vajda, was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

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

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Ms. Kitty Donnan, *Liturgist*
Mr. John Tsao, *Soloist*

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Paulo Santos

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, or by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org).

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Robinson McKay, Jr. and Max Louis Wendler by Carol McKay.

The rosebuds today celebrate the births of:

- Eliza-Lee Fisher Heath on September 26, 2020, child of Randy and Sarah Bell Heath, grandchild of Jeannie and Bobby Heath.

- Margaret Hale Bikoff on September 27, 2020, child of, Erin and James Bikoff, grandchild of Eve and Mike Morris.

Called Congregational Meeting

Today, 11:30 a.m.

The Session calls the congregation to meet via Zoom videoconference today at 11:30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee and electing officers to the class of 2023. To join the meeting via videoconference, go to: us02web.zoom.us/j/7065434338. Please follow any additional instructions that might show on your screen, like opting to join the meeting through the browser or the Zoom app on your phone or computer, and add your name when prompted. If it asks for a password, it is 185185. After that you should join the waiting room, where the host will accept you in the meeting.

Alternatively, you may dial into the meeting via telephone by calling 346-248-7799, and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 706 543 4338.

First Things for Newcomers

October 25, 4:00 p.m.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more about FPC membership? "First Things," a class to introduce you to the mission and ministry of our church, will be held 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom on Sunday afternoon, October 25. Dr. Ryan Baer will facilitate the class where you will meet our program staff as well as other newcomers and have a chance to ask questions about our church. Those who wish to join the church will meet with our governing board (Session) the following Sunday afternoon, also via Zoom. Please notify the church office (706-543-4338) if you would like to sign up for "First Things," or email Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Sundays at 11:30 a.m. (back on 10/18 due to the Congregational Meeting today)

Join Dr. Ryan Baer for “Sunday Conversations” as we reflect on the morning worship service and take a deeper dive into the Bible texts read and proclaimed from the pulpit.

Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 (PW: 185185)

Led by Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

WALK THE LABYRINTH

Mondays: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We have a new cloth labyrinth that is now displayed in Fellowship Hall. All members are invited to come to the church to have a few moments of peace and prayer as you walk the labyrinth and/or sit in the sanctuary.

Reservations and masks are required. The labyrinth and sanctuary will be open to church members (with reservations) on Saturday mornings and Monday afternoons. A staff member will be available to greet church members at the atrium doors, front of the church. To sign up, click on the Signup Genius link on firstpresathens.org or contact the church office at (706) 543-4338.

BOOK STUDY: *Strength to Love*, MLK Jr. **Tuesdays at noon**

Martin Luther King’s sermons seem as relevant today as they’ve ever been. Each week we will discuss one or more of his sermons that deal directly with racial justice, reflecting on what his words call us to do. Join for one or all sessions. Homework for October 13: chapters 7, 8, 9. Focus on chapter 8, The Death of Evil upon the Seashores.

Zoom ID: 894-7644-7825

For more information, contact Erik Ness (erikness@yahoo.com) or Carol Strickland (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org).

ATHENS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON AGING FOOD PICKUP & DELIVERY

Would you like to help deliver food for those who are homebound? Athens Community Council on Aging is requesting help from First Presbyterian on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. You will load multiple bags of groceries into your vehicle at the Cotton Press at 149 Oneta St. and unload them at the Columbia Brookside office. The route takes no more than 1 hour. There is very little contact, and masks are worn for each pickup and delivery. A large SUV or truck is helpful. If you are interested, contact Sally Vandiver at sally.vandiver@gmail.com and she will put you on the schedule.

PRAYER EXERCISES

Wednesdays at noon

Join Carol Strickland on Wednesdays at noon via Zoom for “Prayer Exercises.” In these weekly sessions we’ll be introduced to a variety of ways to pray. The sessions last 20-30 minutes. Please join us next Wednesday, where John Coble will lead a class on praying with music.

Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 (PW: 185185)

Led by Dr. Carol Strickland (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Many of the classes started meeting via Zoom. For more information, and to join a class, go to **FirstPresAthens.org**, and click on the “Sunday School Information” button. There you will find information about the classes, and contact information of the instructors if you have any further questions.

Holiday Meals on Wheels Delivery

In these strange times many things have changed, but one thing is the same--Seniors need meals and especially during holidays need to know someone cares about them. Will you be that someone? For many years First Presbyterian members and friends have delivered meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. It makes such a difference to our neighbors--and to those who deliver! It is a great intergenerational activity. Bring your children or grandchildren. The only requirement is that **all wear masks**.

Like many other things, this year will be a bit different. The protocols have changed to keep the volunteers and recipients safe. Please help if you can. To sign up contact contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com or call the church office 706-543-4338.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 11

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play on YouTube (*please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org for link*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (*Zoom ID: 843-3066-1223*)
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (*Zoom ID: 725-346-682*)

Monday, October 12

- 3:00 p.m. Labyrinth open until 6:00 p.m. (*please go to FirstPresAthens.org to make a reservation*)
- 8:00 p.m. Parent Support Circle via Zoom

Tuesday, October 13

- 12:00 p.m. Book Study: *Strength to Love*, by Martin Luther King Jr. (*Zoom ID: 894-7644-7825*)
- 1:00 p.m. Athens Community Council on Aging Food Pickup & Delivery
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7 via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. "Prayer Exercises" led by Dr. John Coble (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: *Love's Labor's Lost* via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Storytime Circle via Zoom

Saturday, October 17

- 9:00 a.m. Labyrinth open until noon (*please go to FirstPresAthens.org to make a reservation*)

Sunday, October 18

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play on YouTube (*please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org for link*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer, (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)



FPC Athens: Fall 2020
September 13 – November 22

**One with God;
One with each other**
... that they may all be one. - John 17:21

Fall@First 2020
For more information about FPC Fall Programs, please go to firstpresathens.org and look for the Fall@First brochure in the home page.



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Nominees for Session Class of 2023



Sarah Bryan and her husband Robbie have lived in the Athens area for 17 years and have been members of First Presbyterian Church for seven years. Sarah is a cradle Presbyterian and has served as an Elder in a previous church. Currently, Sarah is a Confirmation Mentor, a member of the Living on a Prayer SS Class and a Family Promise volunteer. She has served as a volunteer in the Children's Ministry, the Women's Retreat Planning Team, the Pastor Nominating Committee and various church mission work. Sarah and Robbie have twin sons, Pat and Petch, who are

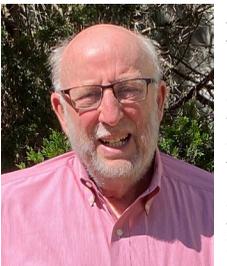
9 years old. Sarah enjoys her school counseling career as well as family time spent playing board games and being outside hiking or paddling.



Judy Burch joined First Presbyterian Church in 2007, relocating from Princeton, New Jersey to Athens. Since joining the church, she has participated in several volunteer activities, including a coordinator for Family Promise, a Stephen Minister, co-coordinator of PTPs, Honduras Mission Trip, Youth Group Advisor and Flower Committee. Judy, now retired, has worked as a public school high school teacher, vice principal and principal, a university admissions counselor and a hospice volunteer coordinator. She has four children and seven grandchildren and her favorite activities include spending time with family and friends, walking, gardening, and traveling.



Kent Burel joined First Presbyterian Church in 2019. He retired from IBM in 2007 and then attended and graduated from the Candler School of Theology of Emory. He served as a United Methodist pastor and now is fully retired. At FPC Kent serves as a Stephen Minister, is a member of The New Voices Sunday School class, a lay reader and an usher. A widower, Kent has two sons and five grandchildren. He enjoys reading, playing golf and anything IT.



Rod Canfield and his wife Betsy joined First Presbyterian Church in 1976. They have two grown daughters and four granddaughters. Rod has previously served as an Elder and has also served on search committees for an Interim Minister and an Associate Minister. He is presently a member of the Christian Issues class and volunteers with the Our Daily Bread program. He is a retired professor of computer science and enjoys hiking, reading, and being with family.



Melinda DeMaria and her husband Don joined First Presbyterian Church in 2012. Melinda has served as a volunteer in our Children's Ministry and served on our Children Ministry Team. She has most recently served on our Pastor Nominating Committee. She works in the Undergraduate Admissions Office at the University of Georgia. Melinda and Don are the parents of Cate, an 8th grader at Clarke Middle and Maggie, a freshman at the University of Georgia.



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Nominees for Session Class of 2023



Jim Dove and his wife Nancy joined First Presbyterian Church in 1989. He served as Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission for 32 years prior to retiring in June 2019. Jim previously served as a member of the 2014 Session Class and was Chair of the Administration Commission. He has been a Sunday School teacher, frequently serves as a greeter and usher, and served as Volunteer Liturgist on numerous occasions. He is an avid golfer, runner, and reader and has been associated with many civic and charitable organizations. Jim and Nancy are proud parents of a daughter, Jamie.



Mark Hopkins and his wife Jill re-joined First Presbyterian Church in 2019. Mark grew up at FPC after originally joining with his parents Stuart and Jean Hopkins at the age of four in 1961. Mark has served as Deacon at FPC and as an Elder at other Presbyterian Churches. He served at the Presbytery level on the Mission Division and as Commissioner to the 2018 PCUSA General Assembly in St Louis, MO. Mark currently works for UGA at the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies doing work in the field of peanut genetics. Mark enjoys gardening, playing golf and watching professional soccer.



Matthew Jones joined First Presbyterian Church in 1973. He attended kindergarten at FPC in 1975, was involved in the Middle and High School Youth Programs, attended several Kentucky Mission Trips, and has volunteered in the Children's Ministry Program. He and his wife Lisa have three children, Matthew, Blain, and Mary Ann. He works in Commercial Insurance for Chastain and Associates in Athens. He enjoys, traveling, people, fishing, and outdoor activities.



Robyn McDonald grew up Presbyterian and after several denominational detours, joined our church in 2006 with her husband Jim. She has previously served as an Elder at FPC, is a member of the Christian Issues Sunday school class and has volunteered in the library and nursery. She also served as a Lay Caller and was trained as a Stephen Minister. She is self employed as a psychotherapist, has two grown children and two grandchildren. She is a reader, knitter and gardener.



Keith Oelke and his wife Lisa returned to Athens in the fall of 1985 and joined First Presbyterian Church shortly afterward. Keith grew up in Athens. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Keith has previously served on the Session. He serves on the Debt Elimination Committee and the Endowment Committee. He also is the Treasurer for the Presbyterian Student Center. He enjoys traveling and playing golf and is a rules official for the Georgia State Golf Association and Georgia PGA.

446 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

John Newton, 1779; alt.

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
Desc. Michael E. Young, 1979

Descant

3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, See the cloud and

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, See the cloud and

fire ap - pear For a glo - ry

of our God; God, whose word can - not be
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply thy sons and
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a

cov - ering, Show - ing that the Lord is near.

bro - ken, Formed thee for a blest a - bode.
daugh - ters And all fear of want re - move.
cov - ering, Show - ing that the Lord is near.

Thus de - riv - ing light by night and

On the rock of a - ges found - ed, What can shake thy
 Who can faint while such a riv - er Ev - er flows their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner Light by night and

shade by day, Safe they feed on

sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst to as - suage? Grace, which like the Lord the
 shade by day, Safe they feed up - on the

man - na Which God gives them when they pray.

round - ed, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na Which God gives them when they pray.

Alternate tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH, 461

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

William Marion Runyan, 1923

1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!



Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

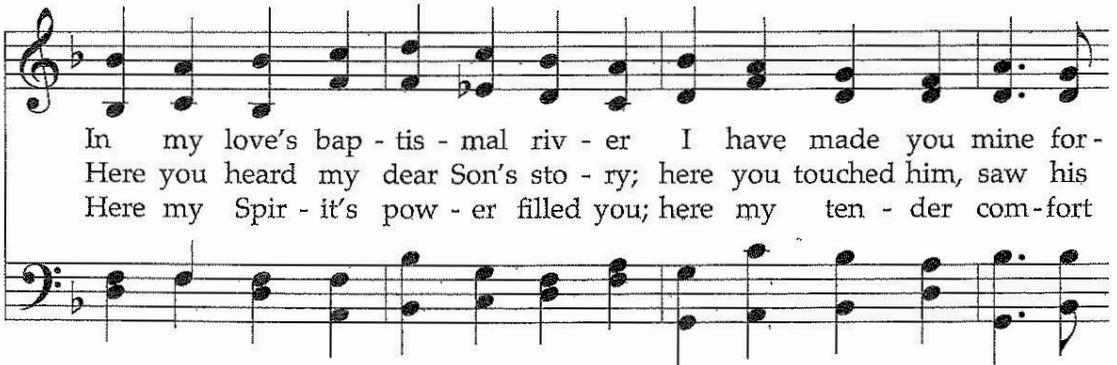
547 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here my ten - der com - fort



ev - er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
glo - ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."