



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!

May 16, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Seventh Sunday of Easter

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. 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

HANOVER

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Montreat Women's Conference

Carol McKay

Song of Gathering

DIX

**Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.**

Call to Worship

We have heard that we are not enough: not good enough, not strong enough, not whole enough.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater.

We have heard that we do not make enough, do not own enough, do not have enough.

Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts.

We gather to worship, for God's Word is enough: hope enough, love enough, life enough.

God gave us eternal life, and this life is in God's Son.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn 477

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O Christ who prayed for us, died for us, and lives for us, you taught us that we belong to you, and your word is our truth. Forgive us, O Lord, when we live as if we belonged only to ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, when we foolishly think that power is the ultimate truth. Speak your words of peace to us this day, and make our lives a testimony to your grace. For you are the source of life itself, and only in you can we truly live.

**Those who are able may stand.*

A special word of

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

The prelude is a setting of the tune of our first hymn. It is part of *Be Glad & Rejoice!*, the collection commissioned in celebration of our bi-centennial and in honor of the calling of Dr. Baer as our Senior Pastor.

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation. The tune has had many names; HANOVER honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714–1901.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



***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

Psalm 1

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

Solo

A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

L.J. White

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly
and follow thee more nearly. Amen.

Second Lesson

Acts 1:15-26

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

Sermon

Sometimes Ministry Chooses You

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 426**

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

***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.**

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak, based on Romans 14 and entitled "A Worker's Prayer," is a fitting commentary on the life of the author, whose health forced her to conserve her energies and restrict her activities. The hymn is a reminder to use the talents God gives us to serve others.

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

Offertory

ORA LABORA

Gerre Hancock

*Doxology

**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.**

Hymn 592

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 415

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

**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.**

Hymn 535

Postlude

ORA LABORA

Gerre Hancock

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



Using Jesus' harvest imagery in the gospels, *Come, Labor On* sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The tune name, ORA LABORA, is the Benedictine motto, "prayer is work."

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. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

John Tsao, *Soloist*

Lay Reader

Jean Martin-Williams

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Rebecca Carlton, Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory her mother Marian Alice Wendler and John Kenley Carr by Carol McKay.

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).

Pentecost Offering, May 23

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. By donating to the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

This year, your Mission and Outreach Commission has selected the YWCO Girls Club in Athens to receive our portion of the Pentecost Offering (40%). Since 1976, the YWCO has provided the Girls Club to the Athens community each summer. However, in 2020, due to COVID the YWCO was unable to hold the summer Girl's Club. Your donation will help ensure that the Girls Club can start back up again for these deserving children. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please mail your check to the church office. Or you may go to our website firstpresathens.org/home/giving, then select "General Fund" under "Select a Fund," and in the optional memo write "Pentecost Offering." Thank you for your generosity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

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

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

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Zoom ID: 558-324-3907 (PW: 6136)

Join Mel Berzack for a Yoga practice via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. You will need a practical chair (preferably no arm rests or side restrictions) and (if you have one) a mat for a small amount of standing poses. The practice will be around one hour long. All are welcome.

A BICENTENNIAL HISTORY • 1820-2020 IS NOW AVAILABLE

If you would like to order a book, each copy is \$55 (price includes sales tax). You may pay online at our website or by check. Please call the church office to schedule an appointment to pick up your copy.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE

Thank you for your donations! One car load was delivered to Books for Keeps recently, and we have a second one ready to go! If you have used books to donate, please bring them to the bins in the Atrium or church office by **Friday, June 4**. Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children’s books. To learn more about the organization, go to booksforkeeps.org.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Volunteers (ages 18-70) needed to prepare lunch for those in need on the 1st Wednesday of the month. We also have a team (ages 18-70) to fix and distribute breakfast on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Safety protocols will be used. Contact Patty Whiten at 678-371-1757 to help with breakfast, and Fran Lane (706-543-1074) to help with lunch.

We need your help with the Good Shepherd Summer Club!

First Pres children and their families are invited to join our new Good Shepherd Summer Club! We will work together this summer as good neighbors sharing God’s light and love around Athens. We have a handful of Mini Mission Projects planned for our Good Shepherd Summer Club and we are going to need a little extra help from our First Pres Family with a few of these projects.

Our first Mini Mission Project begins this month! The Good Shepherd Summer Club is going to put together 100 Summer Surprise Bags for children of the Bethel Neighborhood located right behind our church. A variety of summer goodies have already been ordered to fill the Summer Surprise Bags, but we need your help with collecting 100 Chick-fil-A \$10 Gift Cards.

Please bring Chick-fil-A gifts cards to church and place them in our Chick-fil-A Donation Box located by the front desk (Monday-Friday) and in the Atrium (Sunday mornings). You may also make a monetary donation to the church and we will purchase the cards for you. Please mail your check to the church office, or go to our website firstpresathens.org/home/giving (please select “General Fund” under “Select a Fund,” and in the optional memo write “Chick-fil-A gift cards”). Please bring or mail in donations by **Friday, June 4**.

To learn more about our Good Shepherd Summer Club and upcoming Mini Mission Projects, click on our Good Shepherd Summer Club button located on the front page of the church’s website. Email Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org if you have any questions.

Thank you, First Pres, for being a good neighbor and for helping the Good Shepherd Summer Club share God’s light and love around Athens this summer!

- Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children’s Ministry*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 16

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:00 a.m. Wayne F Middendorf Men's Bible Class, Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube
Limited in-person worship (please go to firstpresathens.org to register)
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Monday, May 17

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 18

- 9:30 a.m. Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting via Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, May 19

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "All's Well That Ends Well" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, May 20

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, May 23 - Pentecost Offering, Wear Red!

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube
Limited in-person worship (please go to firstpresathens.org to register)
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Caring Hands Offering

This month, a special Caring Hands offering will be collected to benefit the Caring Hands Fund of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Presbyterian Homes is a ministry that serves our most vulnerable population - our seniors. This annual offering is the largest source of funds for benevolent care for Presbyterian Homes' six communities in Georgia. Your contribution directly supports the care of residents who have outlived their financial resources. Our congregation joins Presbyterian churches statewide to support this vital ministry.

Please mail your check to the church office, or go to our website firstpresathens.org/home/giving (please select "Presby Homes/Mother's Day"). Alternatively, you can click on the button on our website homepage and visit www.phginc.org/donate/caring-hands-offering/church1/ to make a direct donation.

Become a part of the Caring Hands community - over 2,500 members strong - who have made a positive impact on the quality of life for our senior residents since 1949.

Thank you for your generous support!

Dear friends in Christ,

At the stated meeting on May 13, upon the recommendation of our FPC COVID-19 Task Force, the Session adopted the following changes to our church protocols:

- Just before our meeting was called to order, we received the joyful news that the Centers for Disease Control has declared that fully vaccinated persons can now safely gather indoors without masks. However, the CDC also directs all persons to follow the advice and directions of local officials. On April 30, Governor Kemp issued an executive order in which he recommended that all residents and visitors to Georgia to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing through May 30. On May 4, the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government extended the local declaration of emergency and mask ordinance through June 13. While opinions about masks vary widely, we do not claim a bona fide religious objection to wearing a mask, so we will continue to request that all persons wear masks while inside the building so long as the local mask ordinance remains in effect.
- Capacity for in-person activities in the building has been raised from 100 to 200 (approximately 50% of sanctuary capacity), and the advance reservation requirement for in-person worship is discontinued. The ushers will count as worshipers arrive, and if the 200 limit is reached, ushers will direct latecomers to overflow seating in Atrium and/or Fellowship Hall Breakout Room.
- Post-worship coffee and refreshments will resume on the front porch of the atrium, weather permitting.
- Contactless passing of the peace, offering plates, and communion will continue for now.
- Indoor vocal ensembles and indoor congregational singing will remain suspended for now, pending more information and advice from the Centers for Disease Control and the American Choral Directors' Association. We know that singing is a vital part of our communal worship life, and we hope to resume it again as soon as it is reasonably safe to do so.
- Nursery care will reopen June 6 for infants through age 3, with appropriate safety protocols in place. As always, children of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to be in worship.

The situation remains fluid, and the elders, pastors, and staff continue to give thanks for your prayers and your patience as we draw closer to the end of the pandemic. As the writer of Ephesians exhorts us, let us continue to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:1-3).

Peace be with you and yours,
Dr. Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor.

Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim 477

HANOVER 10.10.11.11

Attr. William Croft, 1708

Charles Wesley, 1744

A Supplement to the New Version of the Psalms, 1708

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne,"
4. Then let us a - dore, and give Him His right,

And pub - lish a - broad His won - der - ful name;
And still He is nigh— His pres - ence we have;
Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son;
All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol;
The great con - gre - ga - tion His tri - umph shall sing,
The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
All hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

His king - dom is glo - rious, He rules o - ver all.
As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
Fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
And thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love.

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak 426

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872

CANONBURY LM

Robert Schumann, 1839

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In liv - ing
2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wan - dering
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The pre - cious
4. O fill me with Thy full - ness, Lord, Un - til my

ech - oes of Thy tone; As Thou hast sought, so
and the wa - vering feet; O feed me, Lord, that
things Thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that
ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let me seek Thine err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed Thy hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

5. O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

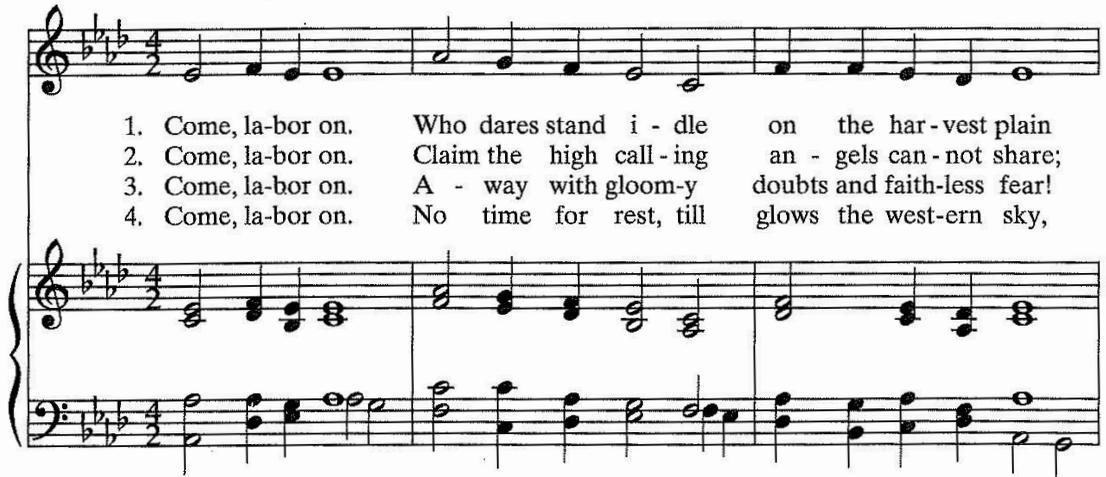
Come, Labor On

415

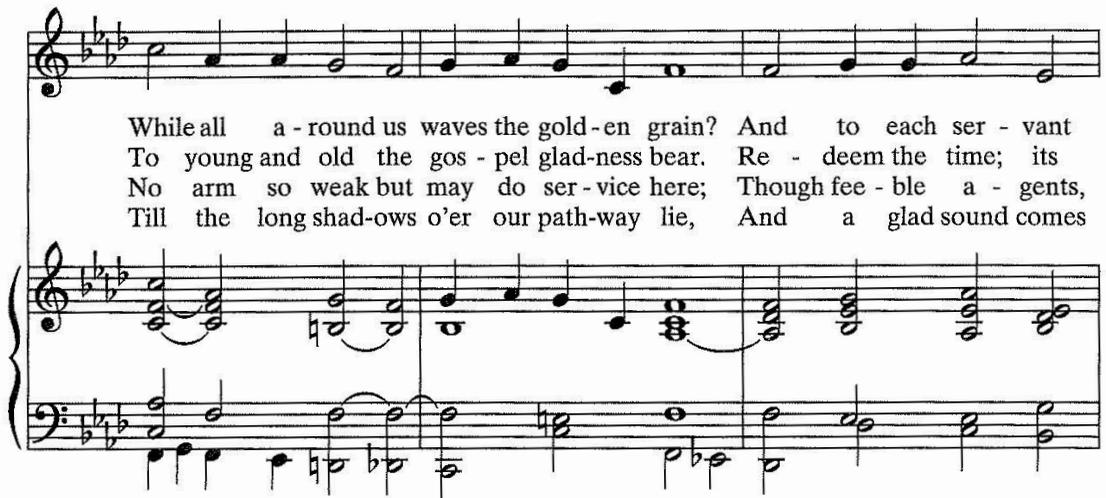
ORA LABORA 4.10.10.4

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; rev. 1863; alt.

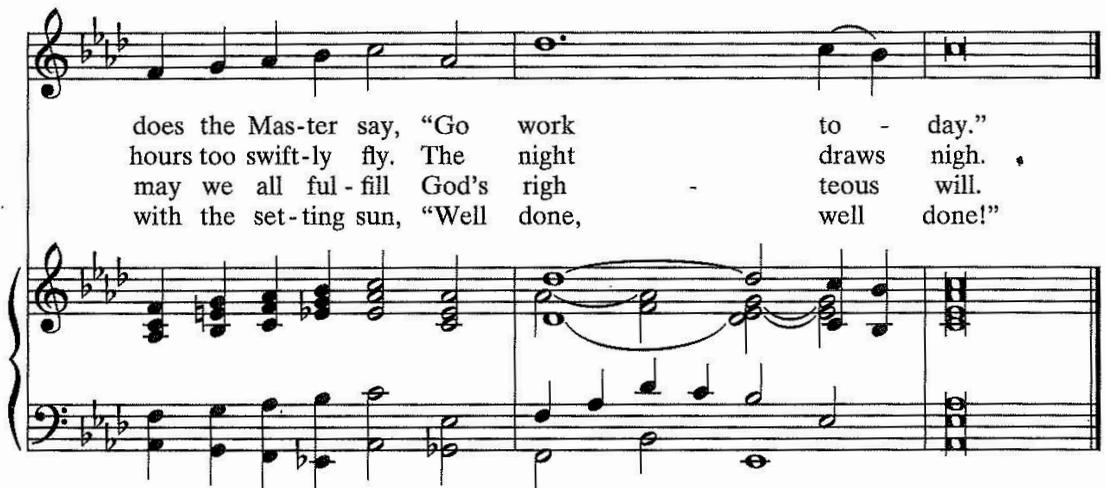
Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918



1. Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
2. Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
3. Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom - y doubts and faith - less fear!
4. Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,



While all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant
To young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the time; its
No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here; Though fee - ble a - gents,
Till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, And a glad sound comes



does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2021

Jennifer Walden Abbott
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Elizabeth Earl
Ed Ferguson
Rob Haire
Grace Lu
Chris Pope
Mixon Robinson
Rosemary Stancil

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Kitty Donnan
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon
Tom Landrum
Beverly Phares
Courtney Pittman
Smith Wilson

CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan
Judy Burch
Kent Burel
Rod Canfield
Melinda DeMaria
Jim Dove
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Robyn McDonald
Keith Oelke

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* (rburbage@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accountant* (angie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*