



# 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!*

August 29, 2021  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## 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

*Out of the Depths I Cry to You*

Max Drischner

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Song of Gathering

MIT FREUDEN ZART

**Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation; with healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!**

### Call to Worship

We gather to worship in the presence of God,  
**as if we stood on God's holy hill.**

We gather to worship as children of God,  
**as if we were standing in the waters of grace.**

We gather to worship the living God,  
**for God is here among us.**

### \*Hymn 420

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**You tell us, O Lord, who may abide in your presence, who may dwell on your holy hill: those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and who speak the truth from their heart. And yet, O Lord, we do not walk blamelessly. So often we stumble on the path of faith. The truth makes us nervous, and we pretend not to know what is right. Have mercy, O God. Convict us by your wisdom, cleanse us by your grace, challenge us by your presence, and, by your forgiveness, free us to try again.**

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*\*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.

Please observe the local indoor mask ordinance. If you need a mask, please see an usher.

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).*

With heavy Rockefeller financial support, Riverside Church in New York was built for Harry Emerson Fosdick, one of America's foremost preachers. Fosdick wrote *God of Grace and God of Glory* for the opening of the church in 1930.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**\*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 130

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

**11:00 Anthem**

*Psalm 130*

Paul Manz

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice:  
let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.  
If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand?  
But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared.  
I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope;  
my soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.  
Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy,  
and with him is redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.  
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.

**Second Lesson**

Acts 25:23-27, 26:24-32

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

**Sermon**

*Paul before Agrippa*

Dr. Ryan Baer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 383**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

**\*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.**

The anthem is a paraphrase of Psalm 130 set to music by the famous American Lutheran organist, composer, and church musician Paul Manz.

Originally a poem of private reflection, the text *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* was given to the composer of the tune, Lowell Mason, for a new collection of hymns.

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.



## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*  
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

### Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Kitty Donnan

### USHERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,  
John Simpson

11:00 a.m. Melinda DeMaria, Kitty Donnan,  
Larry Jones

### GREETERS

11:00 a.m. Melinda Miller & Dan Nadenicek

### AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of John and Elinor Terrell by their family.

### 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 and YouTube.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

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## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, August 29

- 8:30 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 4
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Fall Sneak Peek, Children's Ministry Suite and Courtyard
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group Kick Off
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Kick Off
- 6:00 p.m. Nominations & Elections Committee Meeting via Zoom

### Tuesday, August 31

- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

### Saturday, August 28

- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play Team Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite

### Sunday, September 5 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**September 6** - Labor Day, Church Office Closed

**September 9** - Stated Session Meeting

**September 12** - Sunday School and Godly Play Begins, Welcome Back Party on the Porch

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WAYS TO SERVE FORM

We invite you to fill out the updated “Ways to Serve” form, now online! Use this QR code to complete the google form or pick up a paper copy in the Atrium. From mission and outreach to worship leadership and congregational care to youth and children’s ministry, there are countless ways to get reconnected.



### NAME BADGES

As more members and friends return to in person worship, we are excited to get reacquainted with one another. You can help by wearing a name tag each Sunday. Supplies will be in the Narthex and Atrium.

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to have offering envelopes for 2022, please e-mail Roger Burbage at [rburbage@firstpresathens.org](mailto:rburbage@firstpresathens.org) or call the church office at 706-543-4338 by **September 24**.

### FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

FPC recently joined Instagram. You can follow us @firstpresathensga for more information about upcoming events.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor’s job – it’s something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry helps with Jesus’ call bringing His love and care to those who most need it. Contact our Stephen Leaders for more information:

Margaret Davis: [margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org),  
706-206-9896

Bob Frisch: [rpfrisch@aol.com](mailto:rpfrisch@aol.com),  
914-262-1078

Dawn Frisch: [dawnmfrisch@aol.com](mailto:dawnmfrisch@aol.com),  
914-255-3447

Lisa Oelke: [lisakoelke@gmail.com](mailto:lisakoelke@gmail.com),  
706-540-4251

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### Food Sunday, September 3 and 5

You may bring donations of **fruit juice, sweet snack foods, and salty snack foods** to church 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, September 3**. Please bring food in plastic bags and put them in the open trunk. You can also bring your donations to church on **Sunday, September 5**.

Alternatively, you may take your donations directly to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank 9:00 a.m. – noon, Monday-Friday at 640 Barber Street, Athens, 30601 (don’t confuse this with the Northeast Georgia Food Bank on Newton Bridge Rd). Please put supplies on loading dock at far end of building. Thanks for your donations in August – our neighbors in need are grateful.

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### Welcome Back Party on the Porch September 12 after 11:00 a.m. service

Join us on September 12th after 11:00 a.m. worship service for our Welcome Back Party. We will gather together outside on the front porch of the church to learn about opportunities to reconnect, renew and rejoice this year. We’ll have biscuits, fruits and drinks for all. We can’t wait to see you at the Party on the Porch!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

This fall, children ages Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to "Kids in the Courtyard" and Godly Play on Sunday mornings while our little ones, infants – 4 years old are invited to the nursery.

*\*For the safety of our children, we will continue Covid precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

**Kids in the Courtyard**, 9:45 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Children will learn and experience new ways of connecting with God outside in our lovely church courtyard. This special time together will be filled with different types of morning prayer, beautiful children's literature and Bible stories, and will conclude with a fun fellowship time and feast as we get ready for Godly Play.

**Godly Play**, 10:40 a.m.-12 noon

Children are invited to Godly Play during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour this fall. After safely worshipping from home this past year, we would like to take time this fall to help our children reacclimate to being back in church. The Godly Play method and routine does a wonderful job of supporting children in this way! Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children "discover" who God is rather than being "told" who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

**Nursery**, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

**Dell Dunn Christian Issues** • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum ([slandrum@uga.edu](mailto:slandrum@uga.edu))

**Inquirers** • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann ([cberg@ccrc.uga.edu](mailto:cberg@ccrc.uga.edu)), Carla Buss ([cbuss@uga.edu](mailto:cbuss@uga.edu)), Larry Jones ([lfjones@uga.edu](mailto:lfjones@uga.edu))

**New Voices** • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles. Led by: Lewis Hudgins ([lewisahudgins@gmail.com](mailto:lewisahudgins@gmail.com))

**Parents in the PIT** • The Pit

This new class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support.

Coordinator: Kim Ness ([kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org))

**W. D. Hooper** • Room 309

The "oldest" Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format.

Led by: Jerris Hayes ([jhayefirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:jhayefirstpres@gmail.com)), Richard Lane ([rlane@uga.edu](mailto:rlane@uga.edu))

**Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class**

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin ([ianhardin1@gmail.com](mailto:ianhardin1@gmail.com)), Jim Scanlon ([jjscanlon@yahoo.com](mailto:jjscanlon@yahoo.com))

**Women's Bible Class** • Room 301

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of John.

Contact: Wanda Wilcox ([wwilcox@uga.edu](mailto:wwilcox@uga.edu))

## SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

We are excited to welcome our 6th-12th graders back to the PIT, located on the basement level. For more information, please visit [www.fpcathenspit.com](http://www.fpcathenspit.com).

**SUNDAY MORNINGS** 9:45 - 10:40 a.m.

This fall, youth will serve as leaders in Children's Ministry for Kids in the Courtyard. They will help with storytelling, feasting, and sharing love with our younger church members.

### Confirmation

Open to current 9th graders, confirmation classes will be held during Sunday School starting late Fall. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for March 27, 2022. Please contact Kim Ness ([kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org)) to sign up.

### SUNDAY EVENINGS

Taking advantage of the space outside the PIT and the lower parking garage, youth group will meet outside this Fall. Evenings will be filled with opportunities for fellowship and fun as we build our youth community. Using the Narrative Lectionary, we'll explore what it means to be an active, Christian teen in today's changing world.

Middle School Youth Group, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (dinner provided)

## God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple  
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -  
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to  
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.  
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation  
 To the evils we deplore;  
 Let the gift of Thy salvation  
 Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
 Serving Thee whom we adore,  
 Serving Thee whom we adore.

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

Ray Palmer, 1830

Lowell Mason, 1831

1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2. May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,  
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my  
 My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my  
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark-ness turn to day, Wipe sor-row's  
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
 trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

# Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand 265

WAREHAM LM

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Orton's *Hymns Founded on Various Texts*, 1755; alt.

William Knapp, 1738

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1. Great God, we sing that might - y hand By which sup -  
2. With grate - ful hearts the past we own; The fu - ture,  
3. In scenes ex - alt - ed or de - pressed, You are our

port - ed still we stand; The o - - pening year Your  
all to us un - known, We to Your guard - ian  
joy, and You our rest; Your good - ness all our

mer - cy shows; That mer - cy crowns it till it close.  
care com - mit, And peace - ful leave be - fore Your feet.  
hopes shall raise, A - dored through all our chang - ing days.

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