



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!

September 19, 2021

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. **Please observe the local indoor mask ordinance.** As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone. Consult an usher if you need a mask, 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

O God, Our Faithful God

Johannes Brahms

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

AZMON

**This is the day the Lord hath made,
the hours are all God's own.**

**Let heaven rejoice; let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne.**

Call to Worship

When the world around us seems to be shaking,

God's love is our foothold, which shall not be moved.

When the life within us is dry and parched,

God's word is our wellspring, our fount of living water.

Let us worship the One who offers us wisdom

and teaches us how to serve.

*Hymn 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You told us, Lord, that whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all. Oh, how we long to be first: to climb every ladder, frame every achievement, get every promotion, and obtain every glory. Oh, how we long to be first, how we dread being last. Forgive us, humble Christ, and by your forgiveness, teach us. Teach us to reframe our priorities. Teach us to be servants first, and to let our lives flow from a heart of faith.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* is one of the few hymns among the 1200 written by the author that has gained much currency. The tune was composed for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

***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.

***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.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Marshall Wade Manning, 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 Marshall by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him 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.**

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.

Hymn

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN



Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the
pro - mise, faith-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.

The text of the anthem offers a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The tune was composed by American organist and composer of sacred music Calvin Hampton (1938-1984).

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

John 1:29

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

11:00 Anthem *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good; (cont.)

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Meghan Bawcum, *Cellist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Kent Burel

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Betsy Canfield, Rod Canfield

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGERS

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of their parents by Sharon Price and David Coker.

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) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

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 are 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 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,
706-206-9896

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 19

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Fellowship
- 1:30 p.m. First Things for Newcomers Class, Moses Waddel Room
- 7:00 p.m. Family Game Night: Zoom Olympics (*Zoom ID: 898-9957-1002*)

Tuesday, September 21

- 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

Wednesday, September 22

- 4:30 p.m. “Shakespeare and Company”: *The Waste Land*, by T. S. Elliot, via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, September 23

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom (*ID: 706-543-4338*)
- 4:00 p.m. Flower Committee “Meet and Greet” and Flower Arranging Class

Sunday, September 26

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 12:05 p.m. Called Congregational Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Home of Elizabeth and Michael Earl
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Weekday Bible Study

Join Dr. Carol Strickland for the Josephine Paine Bible Study on 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The group will study the scripture which will be the preacher’s text for the upcoming Sunday. Class will be conducted on Zoom for now. Go to zoom.com, click “Join a Meeting,” follow prompts and enter 706 543 4338 for meeting ID. Scripture for 9/23 meeting will be Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 29:10-17. Everyone welcome!

Called Congregational Meeting

September 26, after 11:00 a.m. worship service

The Session calls the congregation to meet next Sunday, September 26, after 11:00 a.m. worship service, in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee and electing officers to their respective terms. Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers.



Nominees for Session Class of 2024



Shannon Brooks and her son Declan joined FPC four years ago. She and her husband Steven were married here on September 18, 2019. Shannon is a member of the Chancel Choir and Director of the University of Georgia Office of Service-Learning.



Phyllis Crowell and her husband Allen have been members of FPC for 16 years. Phyllis is an ordained elder and has served as Clerk of Session, Chair of Education Commission, and Circle Coordinator and treasurer of Presbyterian Women. She is retired and was formerly the Church Administrator of FPC and Controller for Rider University. She and Allen have two adult daughters.



Kemp Gaskill and his wife Debbie joined FPC seven years ago. Kemp is Vice President and Trust Officer at First American Bank & Trust. They have two young adult daughters, Elizabeth and Emily.



Paul Lee and his wife Vera Lee-Schoenfeld joined FPC three years ago. Paul is a member of the Godly Play Team, a volunteer in Children's Ministry and a member of the New Voices Sunday School class. Paul is a mentor to students at Foothills Charter High School, Jackson County, and to student-athletes at UGA. He has over 15 years' experience in the Training & Development field as a Sr. Instructional Designer. Paul and Vera have three sons Niko, Dominick and Bennett.



Nominees for Session Class of 2024



Sharon Logan joined FPC 17 years ago. Sharon has served as a meal coordinator for Family Promise of Athens, a lay reader and delivers Meals on Wheels during the holidays. She is an Associate CIO for Finance and Administrative Systems at UGA. She and her husband Jack have two young adult sons, Charlie and Henry.



Bruce Middendorf and his wife Mimi joined FPC 17 years ago. Bruce is an active member of the Chancel Choir and the Wayne F. Middendorf Sunday School class. Bruce is retired from serving as Chief Medical Officer at St. Mary's Health Care System and from practicing medicine. He and Mimi have two adult children and three grandchildren.



Randy Riner and his wife Susan joined FPC in 2019. He is an ordained elder in his previous church where he served on the Finance and Stewardship Committee. He also taught Sunday School and served as a youth leader. Randy is a Physician's Assistant with Reddy Medical Group Family Practice. He and Susan have three adult sons and three grandchildren.



Chuck Toney and his wife Laura joined FPC almost 20 years ago. Chuck has served as an Elder, on the Nominations and Elections Committee, a Stephen Minister and on the Debt Elimination Committee. Chuck and Laura have three adult sons.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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)*

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), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles. **The beginning date for New Voices has been postponed until further notice.**

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (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)

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), Richard Lane (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), Jim Scanlon (jitscanlon@yahoo.com)

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Contact: Wanda Wilcox (wwilcox@uga.edu)

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

We are excited to welcome our 6th-12th graders back. For more information, please visit 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) 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)

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!

399 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK CM

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In

gra - cious words we hear From Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on You when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You

none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - jice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found:
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee 357

Washington Gladden, 1879

MARYTON LM

Henry Percy Smith, 1874

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee In low - ly
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
 3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee In clos - er,
 4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of ser - vice free; Tell me Thy se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way; In peace that on - ly

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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)
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*