



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!

January 2, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Christmas

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 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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Bruce Neswick

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Song of Gathering

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;
thou light of life, light's living spring, true day, all days illumining.**

*Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, O you people.

We joyfully proclaim Christ is here!

The God of all creation animates our bodies with the breath of the Spirit.

The Lord, the giver of life, has come to dwell among us.

*Hymn 10

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**Gather us, your children who run and hide, ashamed, afraid,
apathetic. We trade your goodness for ashes. We trade your peace
for control. We trade your promise for certainty. Gather us to you
and return us to your abundant mercy; may it flow over us,
renewing our weary souls.**

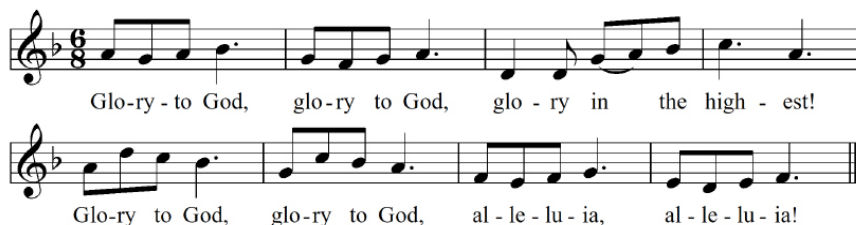
*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier



**Those who are able may stand.*

In observance of the Athens-Clarke County indoor mask ordinance, please wear a mask. If you need a mask, please consult 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).

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The about John the Baptist was originally in Latin in the 18th century, then translated into English in the 19th century. The 17th-century tune was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem was created by a noted Presbyterian hymnal editor. It employs place names and sensory images (light, fragrance, wind) to sketch the events of Christ's life. The tune commemorates the village in Sussex where the arranger, Ralph Vaughan Williams, first heard it.



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.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the hymn tune PICARDY (*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*), arranged by Kimberly Bracken Long.

*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 66:1-5

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

Second Lesson

John 1:35-51

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

Sermon

Zoe: A Disciple's Life

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 308

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.
*Refrain: Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go. *Refrain*
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in. *Refrain*

*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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

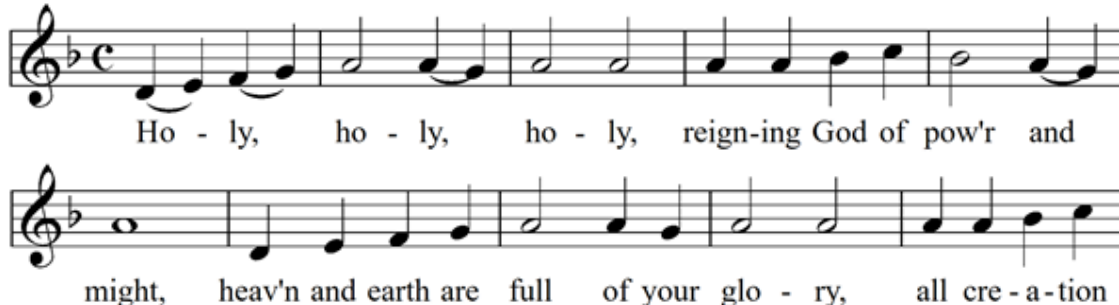
Lift up your hearts.

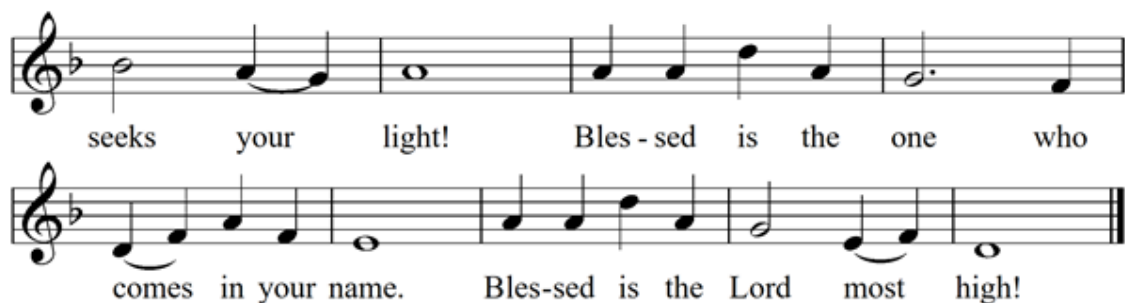
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

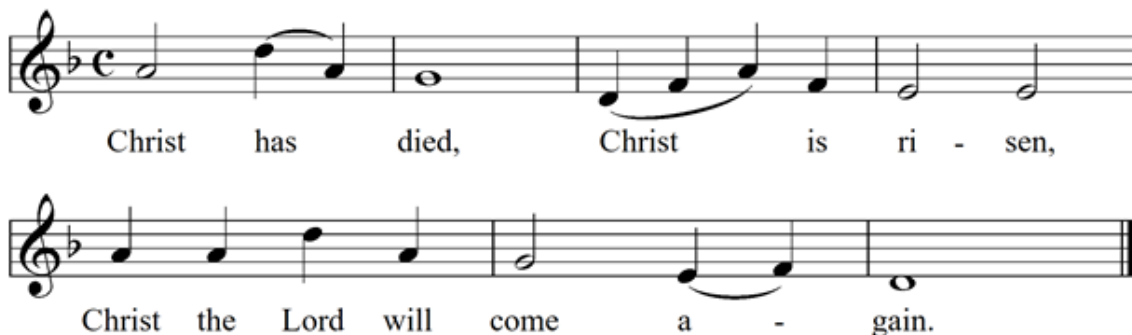
It is right to give our thanks and praise....

Sanctus





Memorial Acclamation



Great Amen



The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 327

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one,
may every tongue and nation raise
an endless song of thankful praise.

Postlude

Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

The opening lines of *O Word of God Incarnate* celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through the scripture, which serve as a lantern, chart, and compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better.

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 children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 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. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
The Reverend Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

Mark Hopkins

USHERS

Jim Dove, Mary Peace, John Simpson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Roger Burbage, Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

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 10:00 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.

Interested in Membership?

Join us for “First Things,” an informative class about First Presbyterian Church, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., **Sunday, January 9, 2022**. Please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org to make a reservation.

Food Sunday
January 9

You may bring donations of **snacks (please no candy)** to church next **Sunday, January 9**. You may also bring food to church office until **Friday, January 7**.

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. Please put supplies on loading dock at far end of building. Thanks for your donations in December – our neighbors in need are grateful!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 2 - Communion Sunday

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching

Monday, January 3 - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 4

2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4

7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Sunday, January 9 - Food Sunday, Ordination and Installation of Elders

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

1:30 p.m. "First Things" New Member Class

3:00 p.m. Faith Formation Task Force, Staff Conference Room

5:00 p.m. Combined Middle School/High School Groups, Fellowship Hall Breakout Room

LOOKING AHEAD

January 18 - Weekday School Registration for Fall 2022 Begins

January 30 - Annual Congregational Meeting

Project Safe Work Day January 17

Join our team on MLK Day from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. to help straighten and sort clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions, please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

2022-23 Weekday School

First Pres Weekday School registration for Fall 2022 begins for in-house students on Tuesday, January 18. On Friday, January 21 at noon, community registration begins. Our Weekday School is a half-day church preschool serving 3 months through 5 years. Questions? Call our director, Elaine Johnson, at (706) 206-8180 or e-mail elaine@firstpresathens.org.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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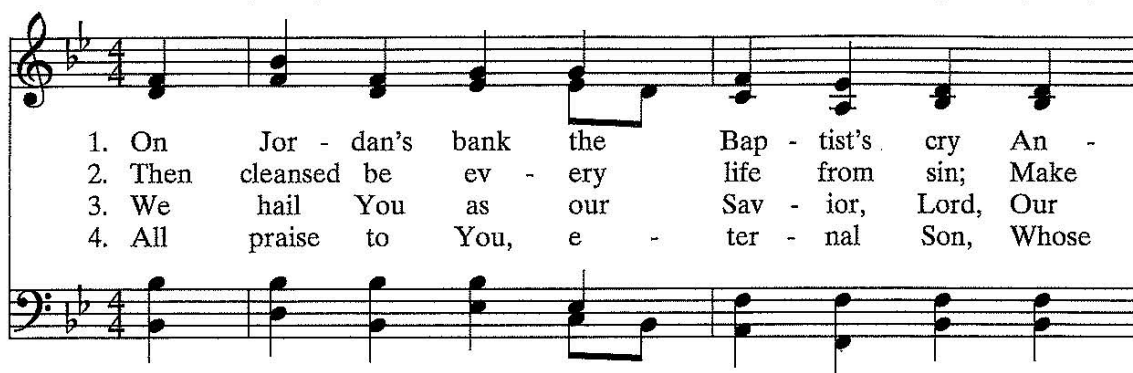
Charles Coffin, 1736

Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.

WINCHESTER NEW LM

Musikalisches Handbuch, 1690

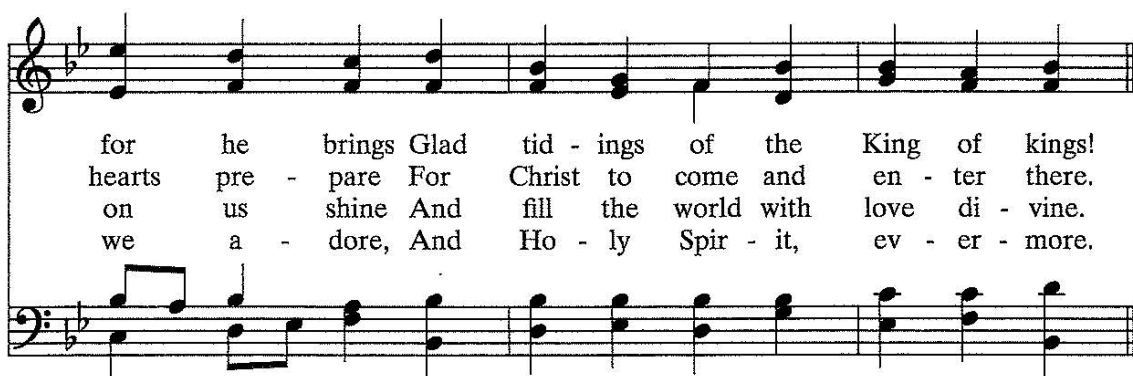
Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
 2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; Make
 3. We hail You as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our
 4. All praise to You, e - ter - nal Son, Whose



noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, And let us all our
 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; O let Your face up -
 ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

308

KINGSFOLD CMD

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1899

English Country Songs, 1893
Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



1. O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, Of shep-herds watch-ing there,
2. O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, Of sun-ny days of joy,
3. O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, Of lake and woods and hill,
4. O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, Its glo-ry and dis-may;

And of the news that came to them From an-gels in the air:
O sing of fra-grant flow-ers' breath, And of the sin-less Boy:
Of Him who walked up-on the sea And bade its waves be still:
Of Him who hung up-on the tree, And took our sins a-way:

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem Fills all the world to-day;
For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth In ev-ery heart may grow;
For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, Dark seas of trou-ble roll,
For He who died on Cal-va-ry Is ris-en from the grave,

Of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth The an-gels sing al-way.
Now spreads the fame of His dear name On all the winds that blow.
When faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, Falls peace up-on the soul.
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven a-dored, Is might-y now to save.

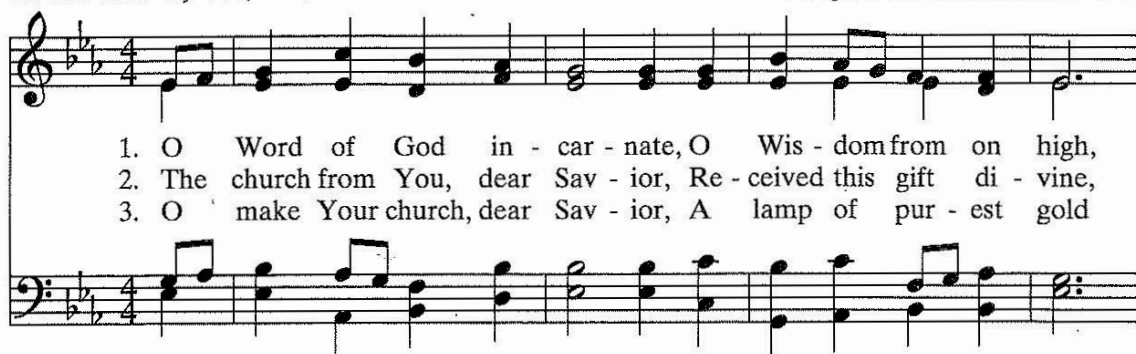
O Word of God Incarnate

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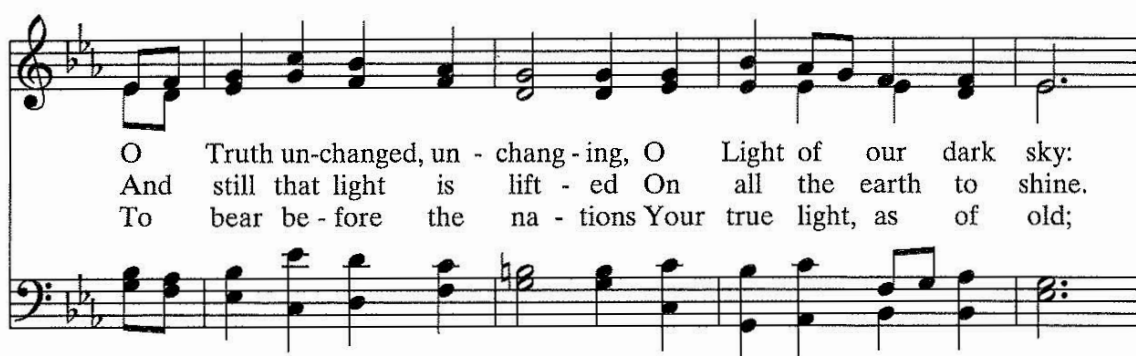
MUNICH 7.6.7.6 D

William Walsham How, 1867
As in *Psalter Hymnal*, 1987

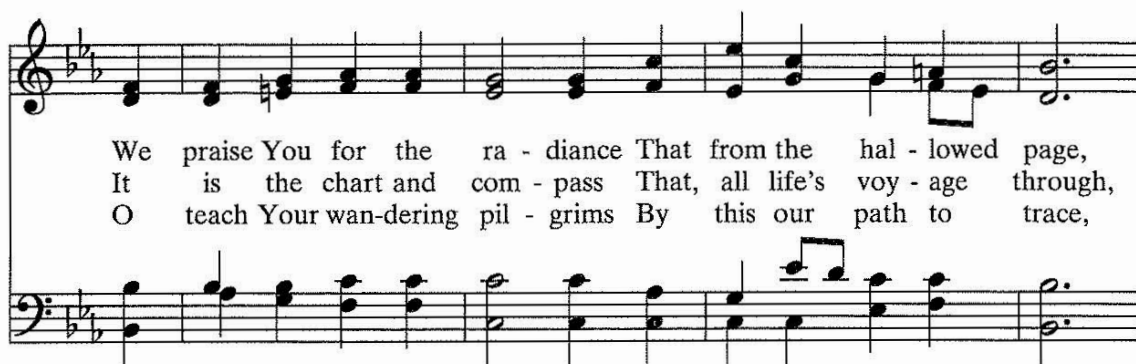
Neuvermehrtes Meiningisches Gesangbuch, 1693
Adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847



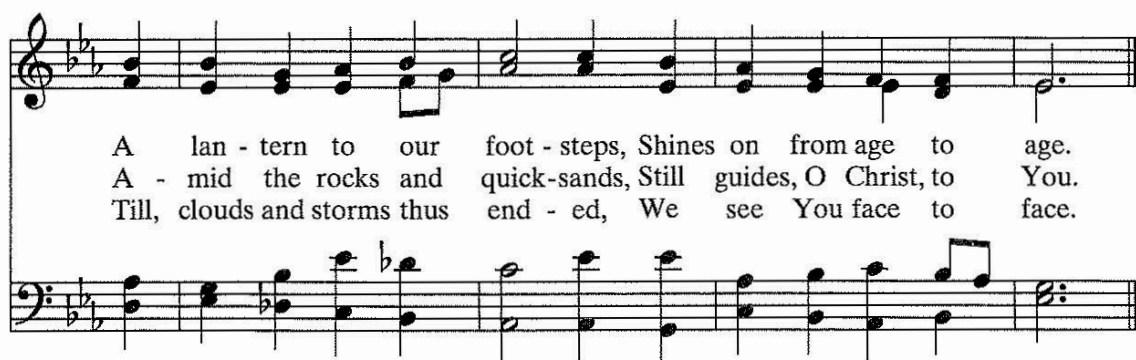
1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2. The church from You, dear Sav - ior, Re - ceived this gift di - vine,
3. O make Your church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of pur - est gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed On all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light, as of old;



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - dering pil - grims By this our path to trace,



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
A - mid the rocks and quick - sands, Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, We see You face to face.

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*