



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 8, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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.

Greeting

Psalms 118:24

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

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Jeffrey Bleresch

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Presbyterian Homes of Georgia* Diane DeBarry

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

Lift your hearts, raise your voices, and join the heavenly host who forever sing:

**Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!
Amen.**

*Hymn 483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in the presence of our enemies, we divide and demonize. When you face our enemies, you choose neither contempt nor punishment, but set a table and make provision for us all. Our ways are not your ways, O Creator, and they are an affront to the work of your hands. Have mercy on us, O God, and heal us. Send our risen Lord among us again to repair relationships and restore humanity. Set us free to share the love of Christ Jesus just as he does at his table.

*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).

The regal divine imagery in *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* may not be new to most, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. The Bohemian Brethren tune resembles Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

At “The Peace,” worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and responding, “And also with you.”

After the Passing of the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - 5th grade, are invited to Children’s Church with Natalie Bishop, held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

Graduation Sunday 2022:

Julian Attaway
Athens Academy
Sewanee: University of the South

Reid Bangle
Athens Academy
University of Georgia

Annie Blanks
Athens Academy
Clemson University

Cullen Bruner
Clarke Central High School
University of California, San Diego
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Ellen Corry
North Oconee High School
New York University’s Tisch School of Performing Arts

Eliza Downs
Ben Franklin Academy
Gap Year: Internship at Sweet Olive Farm

Pratt Ferguson
Athens Academy
University of Georgia

Addie Middleton
Athens Academy
University of Mississippi

Henry Smith
Athens Academy
South Georgia State College

***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.

11:00 a.m. Recognition and Blessing of our High School Graduates

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Luke 6:18-19, 22-23, page 941
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 Anthem *How Can I Keep from Singing?* arr. Mark Schweizer
My life slows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentations.
I hear the real, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
Above the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knell ringing;
when friends rejoice, both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile, our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?
What though the tempest ’round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness ’round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I’m clinging.
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Second Lesson Acts 16:16–34, page 1011
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Paul and Silas* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 280** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

***Affirmation of Faith** *Philippians 2:5-11*
Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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.

Offertory

Antonio Vivaldi
trans. J.S. Bach

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.**

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.



When in Our Music God Is Glorified was written to fit the tune *Engelberg* with words suitable for occasions celebrating music. It explores how human song gives voice to creation, keeps the church authentic, and how sound can be praise.

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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***Hymn 264**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Hymn 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
though this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Postlude

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

David Cherwien

Following 11:00 a.m. worship, all are invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall in honor of our high school graduates.

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 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 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.

To pick up your child from Children's Church after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go to the Children's Ministry Suite, which is on the first floor.

Blessing of the 5th Graders
Sunday, May 15, 9:45 a.m.

Parents and children are invited to the Blessing of the 5th Graders! We will begin our time together at 9:45 a.m. in the Children's Ministry Suite with a special Godly Play blessing, and then enjoy a donut feast in the Courtyard. Then 5th Graders and parents will be invited to join Kim Ness in the PIT to learn more about Youth Group! We look forward to celebrating this big milestone for all of these sweet children!

Daniel Baer
Nathan Baer
Bruno Betzel
Thomas Blount
Pat Bryan

Petch Bryan
William Carey
Benjamin Crim
Sidney Doornbos
Harris Earl

Jennings Holloway
Henry Johnson
Mary Ann Jones
Lachlan Morris
Ellie Pope

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

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

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Beverly Phares

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Benjamin Crim, Eli Sapp

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Josephine Crim

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson, Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield, Mike Morris

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Jack Palmer, Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary 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 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

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join Dr. Carol Strickland for the last Josephine Paine Bible Study of the semester on Thursday, 5/12, at 10:00 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. The group will study Acts 17:16-31, which will be the preacher's text for the upcoming Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE

Since 2009, Books for Keeps has given more than half a million books to children from low-income families in grades Pre-K through 12. FPC has become a large supporter of Books for Keeps with our annual book drive.

You can help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office **through May 29**. 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. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEKS MAY 15-29

First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise families May 15 - 29. We need your help to fill the volunteer slots. The families will be at the Milledge Avenue Baptist Church static site. If you are able to help, please sign up in the church Atrium or by using the link here: tinyurl.com/FPChostweek2022. Training required for new volunteers is very simple: you just have to watch an online video. For more information or questions, please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com or Jean Bock at jbock@bellsouth.net.

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

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

Join Mel Berzack for a Yoga practice via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9:00 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.

Project Safe Thrift Store Work Day, May 15, 2:00 -5:00 p.m. 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (Bell's Shopping Center)

Join other First Presbyterians as we sort clothes, clean shelves, and tidy up the retail space which supports the work of Project Safe. Project Safe seeks to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, ongoing supportive services, systems change advocacy, and prevention and education. Contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com for more info or to sign up.

Recommendations for Elders

The Nominations and Elections Committee encourages your participation in the process for nominating Elders. Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel, both within the church and in the world at large.

Please e-mail your suggestions to Beverly Phares, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, at beverlypphares@gmail.com, by May 31. You can also fill out the form in the website (www.firstpresathens.org).

Current Elders:
(Not eligible for recommendation)

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Kitty Donnan
Rob Haire
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

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Kemp Gaskill
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

I prayerfully recommend the following for Elder:

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are Beverly Phares (Chair), Keith Oelke, Kathy Bangle, Angela Hunt, Richard Lane.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 8 – Graduation Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Children’s Church, Children’s Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for Graduates, Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 9

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Room

Tuesday, May 10

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Potluck Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, May 11

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bridge Group, Room 301
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room

Thursday, May 12

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. WDS Pre-K Graduation, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom (*ID: 706-543-4338*)
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Saturday, May 14

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting, Unicoi Lodge, Helen GA

Sunday, May 15 – Blessing of the 5th Graders, Family Promise Host Weeks Begin

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Children’s Church, Children’s Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day, 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (Bell’s Shopping Center)
- 5:00 p.m. End of Year Youth Celebration, The Pit and Courtyard

LOOKING AHEAD

May 22 – Last Sunday School, Farewell Reception for Dr. Carol Strickland

May 29 – One Service at 10:00 a.m., Mrs. Courtney Pittman preaching

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 visit www.phgainc.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!

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

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.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. 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 offer children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children are invited to Children's Church during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Children will begin worship with their families in the sanctuary and then will leave for the Children's Ministry Suite for Children's Church after the passing of The Peace during the 11:00 a.m. service. During Children's Church, children will worship together and experience the many ways we worship God with our families in the sanctuary – listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God, and giving to God. ***Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.***

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School (9:45 a.m.)

There is currently no organized Youth Sunday School, but we have set up a classroom in the PIT with games, crafts and comfy couches if you'd like to come enjoy some peace and quiet on Sunday mornings.

Youth Group (6:00 p.m.)

There is no youth group tonight.

For more information, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON ONLY

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)

Parents in the PIT • The Pit

This 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)

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Del 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. Zoom and in-person.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles, with emphasis on women in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 870 1906 3194, PW: 305215

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 (jjscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Women's Bible Class • Staff Conference Room

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Zoom ID: 861 8893 3837, PW: 981458

ON HOLD (stay tuned...)

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

The “oldest” Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. ***The class will resume on a date to be announced.***

Led by: Jeris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)

Summer Schedule

May 22 will be our last Sunday with two services. Over the Memorial Day weekend, May 29, we will go to our summer schedule of one service at 10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday School classes will not meet over the summer. An adult class will be held starting June 5 at 11:15 a.m.

483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675

Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

*
1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -
4. Thus all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of
keep - eth; By morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade God's watch - ful
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and
prais - es That all may hear the grate-ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal-ing balm my soul is filled, And
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king-dom of God's might, Lo!
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth-er's ten - der hand, God
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith-less mur-mur stilled:
all is just and all is right:
gent-ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!
soul and bod - y take your part:

*May be sung in unison.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1779

Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831

Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand
 years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

Choctaw
 Shilombish holitopa mal
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 Hatak ilbusha pia ha
 Is pi yukpalashke

Kiowa

Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy he tsow'haw
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy hee.
 Bay dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah t'aw,
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy h'ee.

Cherokee

Ooh nay thla nah, hee oo way gee'.
 E gah gwoo yah hay ee.
 Naw gwoo joe sah, we you low say,
 E gah gwoo yah ho nah.

Creek

Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 Ah non ah cha pa kas
 Cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 Um e ha ta la yus.

Navaho

Nizhónígo jooba' diits' a'
 Yisdáshítinígí,
 Lah yóóiiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
 Doo eesh'íí da ní't'éé.

Text: Phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
 Navaho: phonetic transcription by Albert Tsosie.

264 When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, And a - do -
 2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found A new di -
 3. So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, In faith and
 4. Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as
 men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness
 joice who have a voice to raise! And may God

though the whole cre - a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
 moved us to a more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
 to the truth in ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 give us faith to sing al - ways:

Final ending
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.