



Photograph by Rick Simpson

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!

April 9, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

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

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

Grand Chœur Dialogue

Eugène Gigout

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Mark Hopkins

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God has answered us!

God has come to earth to become our salvation!

This is the day the Lord has made:

let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!

*Hymn 123

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love, there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame, in our delight and awe. Meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in you.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today probably began in Latin and was translated into German before reaching English, when it was combined with the present tune. The style of the tune is a reaction to the more restrained psalm tunes that preceded it.

**Those who are able may stand.*

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.”

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

11:00 Lay Reader:
Matt Crim

The verbal and musical elements of *This Joyful Eastertide* fit well because the text was written for this Dutch carol. The news of Christ’s resurrection is joyfully conveyed by the ever higher phrases and final cascade of notes at the end of the refrain.

In 1968, Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Christ Is Alive!* was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event.

Scholars debate whether this powerfully poetic text is an early Christian hymn which Paul is quoting or his own composition. It is one of the best-known and most influential passages in the Pauline corpus.

*Congregational Response

Hymn 104, stanza 1

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

*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 118:19–24, page 554

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

Anthem

This Joyful Eastertide

William H. Harris

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne’er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.
My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne’er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.
Death’s flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne’er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.

Second Lesson

Matthew 28:1–10, page 911

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

Sermon

The Rolling Stone

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 108

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

*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.**

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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Lift Your Voice Rejoicing, Mary

Peter Lafford

Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary, Christ has risen from the tomb;
on the cross a suffering victim, now as victor he is come.

Whom your tears in death were mourning,
welcome with your smiles returning.

Let your alleluias rise!

Raise your weary eyelids, Mary, see him living evermore;

see his countenance how gracious, see the wounds for you he bore.

All the glory of the morning

pales before those wounds redeeming.

Let your alleluias rise!

Life is yours forever, Mary, for your light is come once more

and the strength of death is broken; now your songs of joy outpour.

Ended now the night of sorrow,

love has brought the blessed morrow.

Let your alleluias rise!

*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

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 119**

The Strife Is O'er

VICTORY

*Charge and Benediction

***Congregational Response** *Hallelujah from Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

Postlude

Toccata from Symphony V

Charles Marie Widor

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The congregation is encouraged to join the choir in singing. Please leave copies of Hallelujah in pews for future use.

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.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Children's Church will resume after Easter.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Easter Special Offering

Today we will receive the OGHS special offering. The three programs it supports are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, these programs provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. PDA funds are currently providing assistance to Ukrainians for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc. You may donate by check to FPC with “OGHS” noted on the memo line, or by scanning the QR code above (please select “General Fund” under “Select a Fund,” and in the optional memo write “One Great Hour of Sharing.”)

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Matt Crim

Instrumentalists

Brandon Craswell, Trumpet
Geoff Wood, Trumpet
Jean Martin-Williams, Horn
James Naigus, Horn
Matt Shipes, Tuba

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Jim Dove, Mary Peace
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Steve Covington, Randy Dudley,
Chuck Toney, John Turner

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

Easter lilies are given to the glory of God.

APRIL & EASTER FLOWER TEAM

Greta Covington (chair),
Tootsie Adams, Susan Banister, Lauren Cook,
Andrea Doornbos, Susan Ferguson,
Sydney Jackson, Eve Morris, Terry Nestor,
Page Pate, Jennifer Poole, Jennifer Trapnell

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.

Biscuit Brunch
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

There is no Sunday School this morning. Everyone is invited to gather as a church family for fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

Montreat Women’s Connection Conference

Make plans now to join us for the 2023 Women’s Connections Conference August 11-13 in the beautiful mountains of Montreat, North Carolina. This year’s keynote speaker is Kate Bowler, three-time New York Times bestselling author, podcast host, and an associate professor of American religious history at Duke University.

You can sign up to stay at the Georgia Lodge **by April 15** at tinyurl.com/FPCWomenMontreat2023. Registration and information about the conference can be found at montreat.org/events/wc-2023. Please contact Carol McKay (carol_mckay@att.net or 706-354-8604) or Beverly Phares (bpphares@aol.com or 706-255-6990) if you have any questions. If you need scholarship assistance, contact the Rev. Leigh Bonner at lbonner@firstpresathens.org.

**Easter Lilies are placed in the sanctuary
to the glory of God and in honor of:**

Jennifer Abbott	FPC Choirs
Rev. Leigh Bonner	FPC Flower Committee
Katherine S. Camp	FPC Ministers & Staff
Charlotte, John & Greta Chromiak	FPC Volunteers
Kate & Aiden Coble	Kitty Kellogg
Bryan Downs	Carlton N. Mell
Nancy Downs	Peg Phares
Family Promise Guests & Volunteers	Laura Toney

**Easter Lilies are placed in the sanctuary
to the glory of God and in memory of:**

Bill & Margie Arrington	Dr. John L. Kipp
Kay Avery	Jack & Judy Koetzle
Fran & Harold Baer	Carol Komsthoef
Dr. & Mrs. Winfield M. Baldwin, Jr.	Loretta Page Krunig
Conrad & Barbara Bergmann	Sue Law
Olin & Eula Brooks	Chris Lewis
Loree & Hickman Brown	Dick Lewis
Della Brownell	Jim Lindsay
Boyd & Nanette Burgess	Andrew & Arthur McKay
Ken & Marian Carr	Mary G. Mell
Eve Carson	Dorothy Matson Merry
John & Inez Chittom	Wayne F. Middendorf
Joyce & Russ Coble	Merritt & Be Oelke
Davidson Bryan Cole	James T. O'Brien
Allen & Nan Jo Crowell	Lee Padgett
MAJ Glenn David Crowell	Bob Phares
Dr. John Marshall Crowell	Nancy Pittman
David Hibbs Donnan	John Wesley Reed
Elise Donohue	Michael Warren Reed
Ann B. Downs	Merideth Sheskey
B.E. Downs III	Ely Simpson
Bolling & Mary Neil DuBose	Garey Simpson
Delmer Delano Dunn	John & Sissie Simpson
Reese & Margaret Ellison	Nancy Crowell Thames
Edwina Ferguson	Fred & Helen Wallace
Joanne & Carmine Fischetti	Charles & Evelyn Ward
Beverly Gragg	Max & Marian Wendler
Faithful Grandparents	Lance J. Wilder
Mr. & Mrs. Buck Griffin	Carolyn & Sid Wilfong
Ann & Everett Jones	Joe & Kathleen Wilfong
Kate Jones	Reca Williams
Rev. J. Renwick Kennedy, Jr.	Carl & Nancy Wilson
Rev. Dorothy Kipp	Uly S. Gunn & Margaret Gunn Wilson

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 9 – Easter, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

- 6:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, Oconee Hill Cemetery
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, Courtyard
- 9:30 a.m. Biscuit Brunch, Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 10 – Church Office Closed

Tuesday, April 11

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, April 12

- 9:30 p.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village of Athens
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Thursday, April 13

- 9:10 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, TerraBella
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, April 16

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 12:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Youth Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. Egg Olympics (Middle School vs High School Youth Groups), The PIT

Volunteers Needed for Family Promise Host Weeks May 7-May 21

First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise families May 7 - 21 and 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/FPChostweek2023. 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 boatwright.susan@gmail.com.

Week of Wonder (VBS) 2023

Week of Wonder (VBS) 2023 Registration is now open! Children going into Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade are invited to join us for this super fun week at First Presbyterian Church of Athens **Monday, June 5 – Thursday, June 8, 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.**

During this summer's Week of Wonder, we will explore the many wonders found in God's creation. We truly live in a world FULL OF WONDER. Thanks be to God!

Week of Wonder 2023 Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCWoW2023>

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministry, at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

Lyra Davidica, 1708

Stanzas 1-3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708Adapted from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749

Stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740

Desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1955

Descant

1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as God's love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ Is Alive!

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TRURO LM

Thomas Williams, 1789

Brian Wren, 1968; rev.

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, But sav - ing, heal - ing,
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, And touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, where ev - en hope has died.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring Till earth and sky and ocean ring
 Good news to this and every age, With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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The Strife Is O'er

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VICTORY 8.8.8 with alleluias

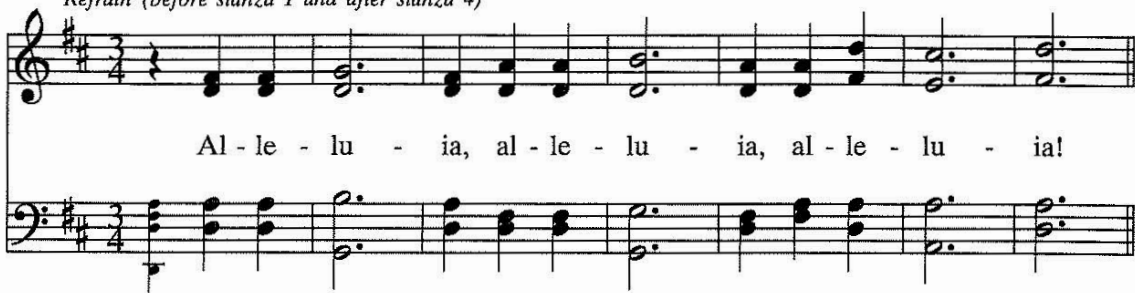
Latin, c. 1695

Trans. Francis Pott, 1861

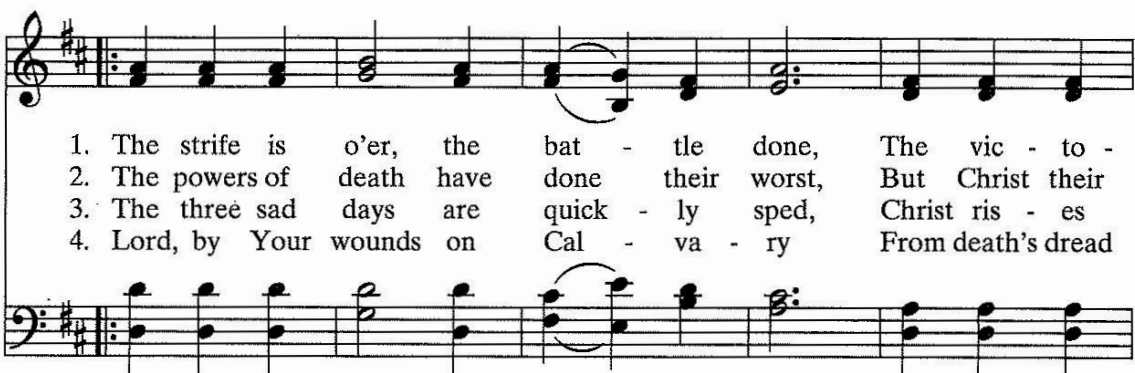
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1591

Adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

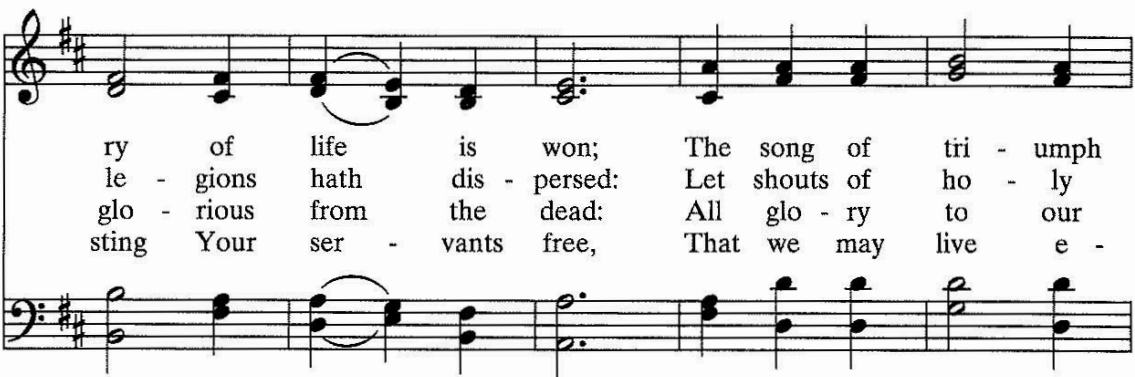
Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)



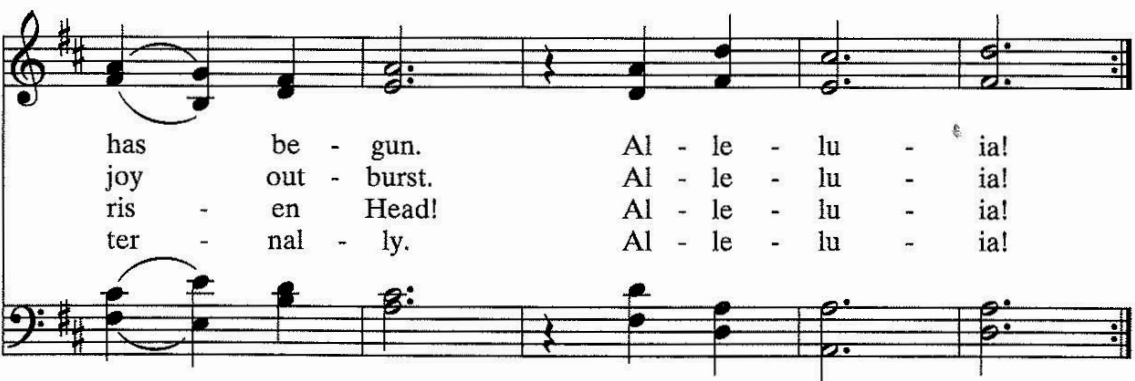
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, The vic - to -
 2. The powers of death have done their worst, But Christ their
 3. The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4. Lord, by Your wounds on Cal - va - ry From death's dread



ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
 le - gions hath dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
 sting Your ser - vants free, That we may live e -



has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

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

CLASS OF 2025

Lindsay Griffeth
Angela Hunt
Dan Nadenicek
Karen Phillips
Ethelyn Simpson
Jeffrey Trapnell
Pat Tritt
John Turner
Pat Waldrip

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor* (lbonner@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)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Director of Communications* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Accounting Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@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*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*