



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!

June 11, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Second 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.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ

C.P.E Bach

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship by Cindy Holtrop, *Pathways to Promise* (used with permission)

God our Creator, you give breath to each person you made. You treasure the gifts of each unique person. But when life becomes a burden rather than a gift,

God of life, hold us.

When darkness strangles the will to live, when days become endless nights,

God of light, shine on us.

When no one seems to understand, when we walk and wait alone,

God of love, embrace us with your presence.

Where there is despair, bring hope; where there is shame, give value and worth; where there is emptiness, bring fulfillment; where there is suffering in mind and body, bring healing.

*Hymn 253

I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113TH

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts and minds and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have not done. Forgive us for what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be to the glory of your name.

*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).

I'll Praise My Maker, a paraphrase of Psalm 146, was a great favorite of John Wesley. It first appeared in one of Wesley's first hymn collections in 1737 (published in Charleston, SC) and was said to have been on his lips when he died. Isaac Watts had this 16th-century tune in mind for the text.

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."

Lay Reader:
Jim Dove

The anthem is a text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674), set to music by 20th-century English composer and organist Peter Hurford.

Be Still, My Soul seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17, "we will be with the Lord forever." The tune is named for the tone poem on which it is based.

*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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Choral Prayer for Illumination *Eternal Light* Mark Schweizer

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. Eternal Power, be our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us. That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may seek your face. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson Psalm 13, page 484

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

Anthem *Litany to the Holy Spirit* Peter Hurford

In the hour of my distress when temptations me oppress,
and when I my sins confess, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!
When I lie within my bed, sick in heart and sick in head,
and with doubts discomfited, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!
When the house doth sigh and weep, and the world is drowned in sleep,
yet mine eyes the watch do keep, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

Second Lesson 1 Kings 19:4-8, page 322; Romans 8:31-39, page 1032

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

Sermon *Everybody Hurts Sometimes: Suicide* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert *Be Still, My Soul* FINLANDIA

*Affirmation of Faith adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Finlandia

Robert J. Powell

*Doxology

**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.**

Hymn 592

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 275

God of Our Life

SANDON

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

Postlude

Old 113th

Gerald Near



You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your estimate of giving through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/giving. Thank you for your generosity.

God of our Life was written for the 50th anniversary of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, by its pastor.

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.

Nursery Play for children 4 years old and younger is available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. during our summer worship schedule. Please note that due to renovation of our Children's Playroom area, Nursery Play will be moved to the Children's Ministry Suite in Room 126 for the summer. You can access this room by using the Atrium stairs and walking through the courtyard to the CM Suite OR you can use the back stairwell located to the left of the sanctuary down to the church lobby and into the CM Suite.

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

Jim Dove

USHERS

John Simpson (head),

Jim Dove, Jimbo LaBoon III

GREETER

Faye Marshall

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

JUNE FLOWER TEAM

Rosemary Stancil (chair), Tootsie Adams,

Susan Banister, Page Pate

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Know someone who has suffered a loss or is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them – tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Contact:

Susan Boatwright, boatwrightsusan@gmail.com
706-255-2250

Margaret Davis: margaret@firstpresathens.org,
706-206-9896

Becky Hartman, hartmanbecky494@gmail.com
706-254-4504

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

OUR DAILY BREAD

Volunteers from FPC provide and serve meals to our neighbors in need monthly at First Baptist Church: lunch on the first Wednesday, and breakfast on the second and fourth Tuesdays. For details and to help, please contact Ann Dunn at anndunn8@gmail.com or Fran Lane at fjlane@uga.edu.

ACCA DELIVERY DRIVER NEEDS

Our friends from ACCA (Athens Community Council on Aging) need drivers for their summer programs. For details and to volunteer, please contact Ezra Schley at eschley@accaging.org or call (706) 549-4850.

Godly Play Training Opportunity

We are excited to announce that First Pres Children's Ministry will be hosting our third Godly Play Core Training Friday-Sunday, June 23-25. Our Children's Ministry continues to grow, which means we need to expand our team. If you are interested in learning more about Godly Play and this wonderful training opportunity, please contact Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministry, at natalie@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338. We would love to have you join our team and our sweet Children's Ministry Circle of Wonder!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 11

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Refreshments, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. Everybody Hurts (Sometimes): Suicide, Moses Waddel Room
- 2:00 p.m. Middle School Pool Party, Ness Home

Monday, June 12

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, June 13

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, Athens First Baptist Church
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 7:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, June 14

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Wonderful Wednesday

Thursday, June 15

- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, June 18

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Refreshments, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. Everybody Hurts (Sometimes): Addiction, Moses Waddel Room

“Everybody Hurts (Sometimes)”

Sundays in June: Worship at 10:00 a.m., Sunday School at 11:30 a.m.

In June, you are invited to join us for “Everybody Hurts (Sometimes),” a series of sermons and Sunday school classes around four topics: divorce (June 4), suicide (June 11), addiction (June 18), and domestic abuse (June 25). People may be wondering what the church has to say about these difficult topics. To that end, worship in June will focus on the theological and spiritual aspects of the pastoral care topics covered in the Sunday school sessions.

The Sunday school class will be a safe and confidential space. A Stephen Minister or Elder will facilitate conversation with selected congregation members and guest speakers who have been affected by these topics. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the speakers. Come to gain more knowledge about these issues and awareness of how you can care for yourself and others. Light lunch and childcare will be provided while you are at Sunday school; RSVP (tinyurl.com/FPCEverybodyHurts) for both will be needed by Wednesdays prior.

Today, June 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Moses Waddel Room Suicide

Romans 8 reminds us that nothing – nothing – in all of creation can separate us from God’s love in Christ. In the spirit of fostering healing and hope in our congregation, we hope you will join us today to learn more about the difficult subject of suicide. FPC’s Suicide Prevention Task Force will lead a conversation with several congregation members whose lives have been affected by suicide, either personally or through family and friends. We hope that you will join us to learn more about how you can care for yourself and others.

Sunday, June 18, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Moses Waddel Room Addiction

Next Sunday, we will discuss addiction from the perspective of addicts, counselors, and family members who love and live with addicts. You likely have someone in your life – a friend, family member, coworker, or even yourself – who struggles with addiction. FPC elder Robyn McDonald will facilitate a conversation with our panelists that will shed light on what addiction really looks like, beyond what we see in popular culture. Our panelists will help us understand how we can care for ourselves and each other in a culture of addiction, sharing how they have found hope and healing.

Speakers:

Shannon O. Brooks has served as the founding director of the University of Georgia Office of Service-Learning since 2005. In this role, she is responsible for leading a diverse portfolio of programs designed to create partnerships between the university and community. She has a Ph.D. in Art Education from the University of Georgia and also serves as editor of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*. She has been married to Steven Brooks since 2019. They reside in Athens with their son Declan (13), and their two pugs, Minnie Pearl and Ruby Ray. She has been a member of First Presbyterian Church of Athens since 2016 and sings in the Chancel Choir.

Robert Simmons, a long-time FPC member, is married to Paige Simmons and is the proud father of three children. He works in the forestry industry and holds a PhD in Forestry and Wildlife Management from the University of Georgia. He has been in recovery for 38 years.

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 Keith Oelke, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, at keithmoelke@gmail.com. You can also fill out the form in the website (www.firstpresathens.org).

Current Elders: (Not eligible for recommendation)

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

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 Keith Oelke (Chair), Denise Horton (Vice Chair), Jayne Bailey, Matt Bishop, Tommy Jackson, Leslie Trier.

I'll Praise My Maker

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OLD 113TH 8.8.8.8.8.8

Isaac Watts

Adapt. John Wesley, 1736; alt. 1988

Attr. Matthäus Greiter (c. 1500–1552)

Harm. V. Earle Copes, 1964

1. I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; And when my voice
2. How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly On Is - rael's God,
3. The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; The Lord sup - ports
4. I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; And when my voice

is lost in death, Praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
who made the sky And earth and seas with all their train;
the faint - ing mind And sends the la - boring con - science peace.
is lost in death, Praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought
Whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, Who saves the op - pressed
God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, The wid - owed and
My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought

and be - ing last, Or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
and feeds the poor, And none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
the par - ent - less, And grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
and be - ing last, Or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side. Bear pa-tient-ly the
2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un-der-take to guide the fu-ture
3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on when we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide,
sure-ly as the past. Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
ev-er with the Lord; when dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang-es faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: thy
all now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the
sor-ow for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heaven-ly Friend through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be-low.
change and tears are past all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

God of Our Life

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SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

Charles Henry Purday, 1860
Harm. John Weaver, 1986

Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928

1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known We fol - low Thee;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be Thou our guide.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
With Thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
Be Thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

We own Thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
And faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

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
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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*