



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!

October 8, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Nineteenth 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

Voluntary on The Old 100th

Henry Purcell

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

Hymn 220, stanza 1

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

Call to Worship

Come hear and learn the words of God.

We will keep God's words in our hearts.

Teach them to your children.

We will recite them at home and away, when we lie down and when we rise.

*Hymn 264

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of the law and the prophets, we do not want to admit all the commandments we have broken. We worship idols of money, success, and power. We use your name to justify whatever we do. We do not honor each other; we covet, we lie, we wish evil upon others. Our sins are too many to name. Forgive us. Speak to us and we will listen, remembering that you are our freedom and deliverer.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

**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).

When in Our Music God Is Glorified was written to supply this particular tune with words suitable for occasions celebrating music. It explores how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how singing has kept the church authentic, and how sound can be praise.

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 Dedication of Choirs and Anthem at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 5, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite on the first floor.

The anthem, sung by the combined St. Andrews Choir, Celebration Singers, and Chancel Choir, is a setting of Psalm 100, paraphrased by contemporary Georgia church musician William A. Pasch. It is set to a tune by contemporary American (and Presbyterian) composer Robert J. Weaver. Pasch and Weaver together arranged the anthem setting.

11:00 a.m. Lay Reader:
Chuck Toney

The Lord Is God paraphrases the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), an ancient and central affirmation of Jewish faith that observant Jews still recite twice a day. Jesus knew it well and called it the first and great commandment.

*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. Dedication of Choirs

11:00 a.m. Anthem *From All the Earth Send Up the Song!*

Robert J. Weaver and William A. Pasch

From all the earth send up the song! Shout glad hosannas loud and long!
Serve joyfully! Our God adore. Acclaim God's honor ever more!
Great God, Creator, Source of all, both keeps and guards us when we fall.
One flock in our Good Shepherd's fold, we feast on bounties yet untold.
The gates of glory beckon here. Come, bless the God's name.
Give thanks! Draw near.
God's mercies last through all our days.
New psalms spring forth in grateful praise!
Our God is true from age to age. Our God is good beyond our gauge.
Our God is faithful, ever sure. God's kindness, love, and grace endure!

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 454, stanza 1
**Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy, draw from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson Mark 12:28-31, page 926

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

Second Lesson Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9, page 161

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

Sermon *The Short Version*

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

The Lord Is God

AZMON

*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.**

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 *Variations on Engelberg* Austin C. Lovelace

**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



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.

***Hymn 430** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* DARWALL'S 148TH

***Congregational Response** SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!” Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude	<i>Postlude on Engelberg</i>	Craig Phillips
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*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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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., are located in our Children's Playroom area next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

Children, Pre K – 5th Grade, are invited to Children’s Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Children’s Church will be held downstairs in the Children’s Ministry Suite. We will depart for Children’s Church following the Passing of the Peace. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children’s Ministry Suite.

Faith Formation Leader Gathering
Sunday, October 15, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

The Education and Discipleship Commission has rescheduled our fall Faith Formation Leader gathering! Join us **Sunday, October 15**, after 11:00 a.m. worship, in Fellowship Hall breakout area of for a light lunch and a mid-semester check-in. We will share news from the commission, equip leaders with facilitation tips, and hear from you about how things are going in your groups so far this fall. Please RSVP by **Thursday, October 12** at tinyurl.com/FPCFaithLeaderGathering or email Leigh Bonner at lbonner@firstpresathens.org.

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*
Dr. Jerry Shannon, *Trumpet*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Terry Nestor
11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney (head),
Keith Oelke, Laura Toney

ATRIUM FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Fellowship and Evangelism Commission

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Robinson McKay, Jr. and Max Louis Wendler by Carol McKay.

OCTOBER FLOWER TEAM

Betsy Canfield (chair), Judy Burch,
Sydney Jackson, Susan Landrum,
Wanda Neislar, Leslye Queen, Judy Scanlon

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AthHalf Pre-Race Service October 22

Invite your racing friends and supporters to our informal worship at 6:30 a.m. on the Atrium.
Due to the race there will be no 8:45 a.m. service on October 22.

M25 Movie and Conversation

The Matthew 25 Commission will be hosting a documentary viewing about water poisoning in Flint, MI, discussing race and the church's involvement in advocating for those affected on the following Sunday nights: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12. Stay tuned for details and sign-up information. For more information, please contact Dan Nadenicek at dnadeni@uga.edu.

Volunteers Needed for Family Promise Host Weeks October 29 - November 12

First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise families October 29 - November 12 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 volunteer, please see a Family Promise Team member in the church atrium on Sunday morning, scan the QR code, or go to this webpage: 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.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 8 - Choir Dedication Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. *God's Mission Today* Small Group, Room 309
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Fellowship Refreshments
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, October 9

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, October 10

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, October 11

- 9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village of Athens
- 4:00 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Homer's *Odyssey*, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper - Gusto, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. "Bumper Sticker Theology" with Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 12

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Talmadge Terrace

Saturday, October 14

- 8:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women of Northeast Georgia Justice and Peace Symposium, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 9:45 a.m. *God's Mission Today* Small Group, Room 309
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Fellowship Refreshments
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

LOOKING AHEAD

October 22 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service, One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.,
M25 Movie and Conversation

October 29 - Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Offering, Confirmation Kick-off



Fall Programs 2023

September 20 - November 15

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Homer's
Odyssey, Room 308**

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (Gusto), Fellowship Hall
Dinner menu: Grilled chicken, mixed greens*, brown rice*,
sweet potato chips*, cookies*, brownies (* = gluten free)*

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. “Bumper Sticker Theology” with
Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room**

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 202

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$12/person, \$45 family max (complimentary for children 5 and under). Please RSVP in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst, using the QR code, or by contacting the church office e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338 by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Nursery Play, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children's Playroom • Infants – 4 Year Olds

Little ones are invited to Nursery Play during worship and Sunday school. Children will enjoy playtime, Bible stories, and a light snack with church friends.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Children's Ministry Suite • Pre-K – 5th Grade

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 and nurturing space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Children and Worship, 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

All children are welcome to remain in worship with their families every Sunday. Children's bulletins, Bibles, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

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

Children, Pre K – 5th Grade are invited to Children's Church after the passing of The Peace. We will continue worshipping together in the Children's Ministry Suite by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God and giving to God.

**No Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday. All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on this special Sunday to take part in worship and Communion with family.*

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.)

Middle School class is using the Sparkhouse curriculum called Echo: The Story. Each class begins with a video, then we delve into the Bible. In just 36 weeks, we'll travel from Genesis to Revelation, through stories, games and activities!

Youth Group

Sunday night youth group is a fast hour of games, get-to-know you activities, devotionals and discussion. This year our theme is Pieces of Faith. Youth will gather in the PIT to talk about different aspects of faith and the spiritual practices we need to help our faith grow stronger.

Middle School meets 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

High School meets 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Combined Youth Dinner (6:00 p.m.)

Between MS and HS youth groups, everyone will gather in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal. If you'd like to help provide a meal for our youth, please email Kim at kness@firstpresathens.org.

For more information about youth ministry at FPC, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45-10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Builders • Moses Waddel Room

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support. This fall, the Builders will study the Hebrew Bible – commonly called the Old Testament – by engaging with the *DISCIPLE Fast Track* Bible study.

Coordinator: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

College Connections • Room 302

How does your life intersect with the stories we call Holy Scripture? We will take a deep dive into the writings of the New Testament with the goal of journeying from Matthew to Revelation. Grad and undergrad students are welcome to join at any time.

Coordinator: The Rev. Will Norman (will@pscuga.org)

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Del Dunn Sunday School Class • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture, offering a collegial environment and welcoming all who seek to enrich their understanding of the Bible and its application to our daily lives. This fall, we will continue a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of the Gospel of Matthew.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

New Voices • Room 310

This class explores theological and church issues. Class leaders engage participants by inviting them to share their stories and perspectives on the topics being discussed. This fall, we will get to know some similar Biblical women (and some evangelically maligned men) through the discussion of the book *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr.

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

Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

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. This fall, we will be watching and discussing the series *From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity* by UNC-Chapel Hill professor Bart D. Ehrman.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jfscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

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
 joyce 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:

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

The Lord Is God

AZMON CM

David Gambrell, 2011

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

arr. Lowell Mason, 1839



1. The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise to
2. With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might, O
3. At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part, O
4. The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise to



God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
child - ren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

430

Brian Dill, 1988

DARWALL'S 148TH 6.6.6.6.8.8

John Darwall, 1770

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2. Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns su - preme,
 3. Let cour-age be our friend, Let wis - dom be our guide,
 4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 Em - power-ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 As we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri-umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e-brate the jour-ney now and praise the Lord!

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
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Kemp Gaskill
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan Neff
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*