



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 14, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Aria

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome

*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

Jesus is here with us.

He forgives our sins.

Jesus is here with us.

He heals us with his love.

Jesus is here with us.

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn 416** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Great God, today we meet your mystery in the form of Jesus Christ. We believe you, God, and we believe Jesus to be the Messiah; but even when we do not believe, when we are distracted and unaware, we know that Christ calls us still. Help us to recognize your voice among us and give us the strength to go where we are called, that we may learn, O God, what it means to follow with open hearts. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*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).

This morning's prelude was written by Charles Callahan, contemporary American composer, who died on Christmas Day (2023). Callahan was the consultant for the design of our organ, and he composed a number of commissioned work for our church, including a collection of organ pieces written for our bicentennial celebration.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation is often used at church dedications, but the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God, and the second to the place where they meet. The tune is named for the place where the composer, Henry Purcell, served as organist and is buried.

**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.”

After the Passing of the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 1, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

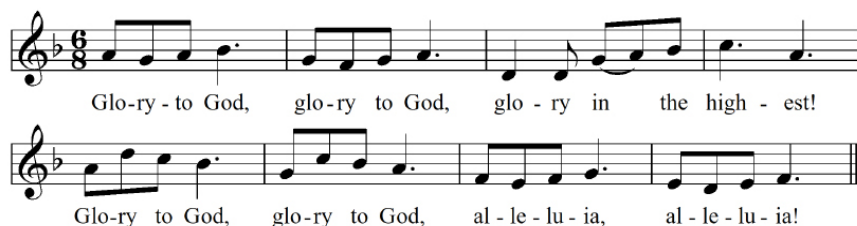
11:00 a.m. Lay Reader:
Kent Burel

The anthem, by American composer Jane Marshall, sets a portion of a text by Albert Schweitzer called “The Quest of the Historical Jesus.”

The pairing of *In Christ There Is No East or West* with the tune McKee in 1940 marked the first use of African American music in a mainline North American hymnal.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles’ Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

*Congregational Response *Alleluia* Jacques Berthier



*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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 327, Stanza 1
**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson Psalm 103:6-14, page 543

11:00 Anthem *He Comes to Us* Jane Marshall
He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside he came to all those who knew him not. He speaks to us, he speaks the same word: “Follow thou me!” and sets us to the task which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.
O Morning Star, how fair and bright thou beamest forth in truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly. Thou Root of Jesse, David’s son, my Lord and Master, thou hast won my heart to serve thee solely! Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o’er all possessing.

Second Lesson Mark 2:1-22, page 913
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Everybody Loves Change* The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 440** *In Christ There Is No East or West* MC KEE

***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.**

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 Improvisation on *McKee* John Coble

***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 563** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* LIFT EVERY VOICE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 68, stanza 4
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 *We Christian Folk* Johann Sebastian Bach



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/giving. Thank you for your generosity.

Lift Every Voice and Sing was written for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900. It has gained national recognition with the African American community and all who seek liberation from oppression.

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 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, Pre K – 1st 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.

Welcome Reception for Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard
Today, 12:10 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us today following the 11:00 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall as we welcome Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, her husband Mark, and their daughter Josie to First Presbyterian Church.

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, the congregation unanimously approved the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to name Reverend Whitney Booth Lockard as our next Associate Pastor. The church thanks the APNC for its outstanding job!

More information about Rev. Booth Lockard and her family is available in brochures in the Narthex, Atrium, church office, and on the church website.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Kent Burel

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Diane Hartzell
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Matt Jones, Lisa Oelke

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in recognition of Ryan Baer’s 15 years of ordained ministry by Larry and Jamie Baer.

JANUARY FLOWER TEAM

Denise LaBoon (chair), Carolyn Hally, Susan Landrum, Ethelyn Simpson, Isabelle Wallace

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, 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

Be a part of the 2024 MLK Day of Service in Athens!
Monday, January 15

What a great way to start off 2024 by joining other members of First Presbyterian and the Athens Community by honoring Martin Luther King and helping to make Athens a more beautiful and welcoming place to live! You can see more information about volunteer opportunities and register at tinyurl.com/FPCMLKDay.

The Athens MLK Day of Service is an annual celebration in support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday and commitment to service. In 1994, Congress made the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday an official day of service. Athens, Georgia is one of the thousands of cities across the United States that decided to make this “A Day On and Not a Day Off.”

2024-25 Weekday School

First Pres Weekday School registration for Fall 2024 begins for in-house students on Tuesday, January 16. On Friday, January 19 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 14

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:10 p.m. Welcome Reception for Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, Fellowship Hall
- 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

Monday, January 15 - MLK Day, MLK Day of Service, Church Office Closed

- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth return from Winter Retreat

Tuesday, January 16 - Weekday School in-house Registration Begins

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Calendar Planning Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room

Wednesday, January 17

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 18

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Friday, January 19 - Weekday School Community Registration Begins

Sunday, January 21

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship in the Atrium
- 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

Youth Sunday and Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 4

This weekend, our high school youth will be going on a winter retreat to begin planning for Youth Sunday. Each year, our youth lead worship for the congregation, which includes selecting a theme, writing liturgy, giving the message, and sharing their musical talents. We have an amazing group of high schoolers who are looking forward to worship with you. Afterwards, our middle schoolers will be preparing and serving lunch for the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall. In support of the Souper Bowl of Caring, we invite you to join us for a lovingly prepared meal of soup and sandwiches. Save the date for this very special day.

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 • Room 301

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support.
Coordinator: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.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.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

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.

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.

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

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

416 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7

7th century, Latin

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

Henry Purcell (1659–1695), adapt.

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of Hosts, to - day;
 3. Here be-stow on all Your ser-vants What they ask of You to gain,
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa-ther, Laud and hon - or to the Son,

Cho - sen of the Lord and pre-cious, Bind-ing all the church in one;
 With Your wont-ed lov-ing-kind-ness Hear Your peo - ple as they pray,
 What they gain from You for-ev - er With the bless-ed to re - tain,
 Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it, Ev - er three and ev - er one;

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 And Your full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with-in its walls al - way.
 And here - af - ter in Your glo - ry Ev - er-more with You to reign.
 One in might and one in glo - ry While un-end - ing a - ges run.

In Christ There Is No East or West

MC KEE CM

African-American spiritual

Jubilee Songs, 1884

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

Adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

C G C F B $\flat$ F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F C

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu - nion find;
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;

Am C Am C G7 C G7 C F C Am C G7. C °

But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 His ser - vice is the gold - en cord Close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 All chil - dren of the liv - ing God Are sure - ly kin to me.
 All Christ - ly souls are one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE Irregular

James Weldon Johnson, 1921

J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

Introduction

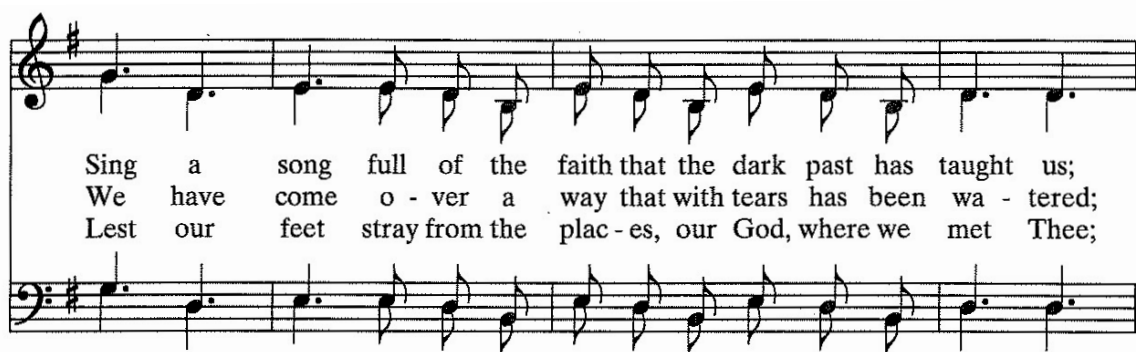
1. Lift ev-ery
2. Ston-y the
3. God of our

voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -
road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod, Felt in the days when
wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us

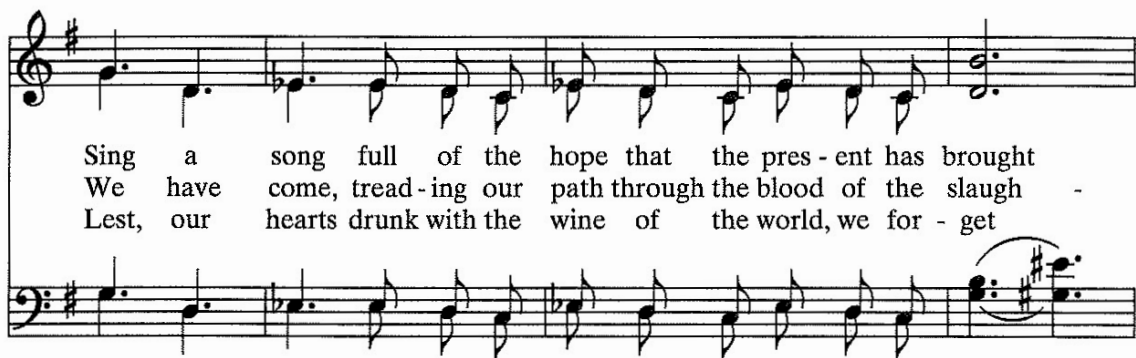
nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the
hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our
thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -

lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our *fa - thers sighed?
to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

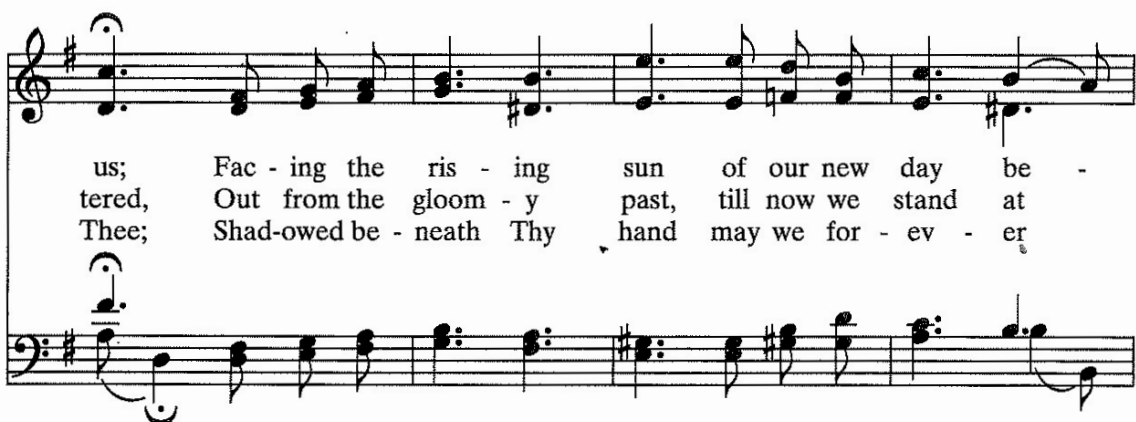
*Or "parents."



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee;



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er



gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrup, 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 Waldrup

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor* (whitney@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)
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*