



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 21, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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

Air

Gerre Hancock

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

Let anyone with ears listen!

We listen to the wisdom of Christ.

Jesus proclaims the reign of God

In everyday things, so that we can clearly see it.

Let anyone with ears listen!

We listen to the wisdom of Christ.

*Hymn 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Great God, Jesus awakened the disciples to a new life-changing purpose that caused them to drop it all and follow him. You call us here from our everyday work in this very busy world. Have we dropped it all to follow you? Awaken us, we pray. Show us how to leave everything behind and with our lives to proclaim the good news—your kingdom is drawing near. Make us into vessels that carry your message of love, that we might, with others, turn around, see, and believe. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*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).

Gerre Hancock, composer of the prelude, was one of the most prominent organists and church musicians of our time. He died on this day in 2004.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness is a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23 by a Methodist writer and pastor. The tune was composed especially for these words.

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 5, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

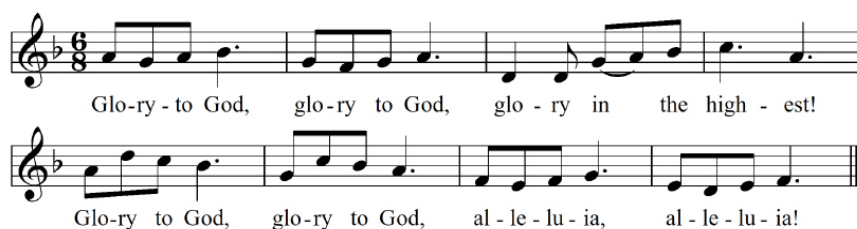
11:00 a.m. Lay Reader:
Dan Nadenicek

The anthem is a text by Samuel Longfellow, set to a traditional English tune, arranged by Fred Gramann, Director of Music at the American Church in Paris.

O Christ, the Healer, a prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ’s healing work in the world.

*Assurance of Pardon

*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 89:1–4, page 534

11:00 Anthem *A Winter Carol* Fred Gramann

’Tis winter now; the fallen snow
has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
and all the earth lies dead and drear.
And yet God’s love is not withdrawn;
his life within the keen air breathes;
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,
and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.
And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now,
and warmer glows her light within.
O God! who gives the winter’s cold,
as well as summer’s joyous rays,
us warmly in thy love enfold,
and keep us through life’s wintry days. Amen.

Second Lesson Mark 5:1–20, page 916

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

Sermon *Good Trouble* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert *O Christ, the Healer* O WALY WALY

*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; (cont.)**

**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 *I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ* Johann Sebastian Bach

***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 261** *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* O QUANTA QUALIA

***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 *Festival Voluntary* Flor Peeters

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.



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.

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 – 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.

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. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Chuck Toney, Laura Toney

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wayne F. Middendorf by the Middendorf family.

JANUARY FLOWER TEAM

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

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

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.

Hymn

O Christ, the Healer

O WALY WALY



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
2 From ev - ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be re -
clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we would con -
knowl - edge of our-selves! Re-lease in us those heal - ing
nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de - clares our
mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing



stored, when reached by love that nev - er ends?
fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
truths un - con-scious pride re - sists or shelves.
ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, January 22

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, January 23

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite

Sunday, January 28

- 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

Last weekend, our high school youth went 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 worshipping with you.

On Youth Sunday, our middle schoolers will be preparing and serving lunch for the Annual Congregational 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

William Marion Runyan, 1923

1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is Thy faith - ful-ness! Great is Thy faith - ful-ness!

The first line of the refrain consists of two staves. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, and a half note C3. The lyrics "Great is Thy faith - ful-ness!" are written below the staves.



Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy

The second line of the refrain continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note G4. The bass staff has a half note D2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note F#2, and a half note G2. The lyrics "Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy" are written below the staves.



hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

The third line of the refrain concludes the phrase. The treble staff has a half note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a half note B4. The bass staff has a half note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, and a half note B2. The lyrics "hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!" are written below the staves.

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us 261

O QUANTA QUALIA 11.11.11.11

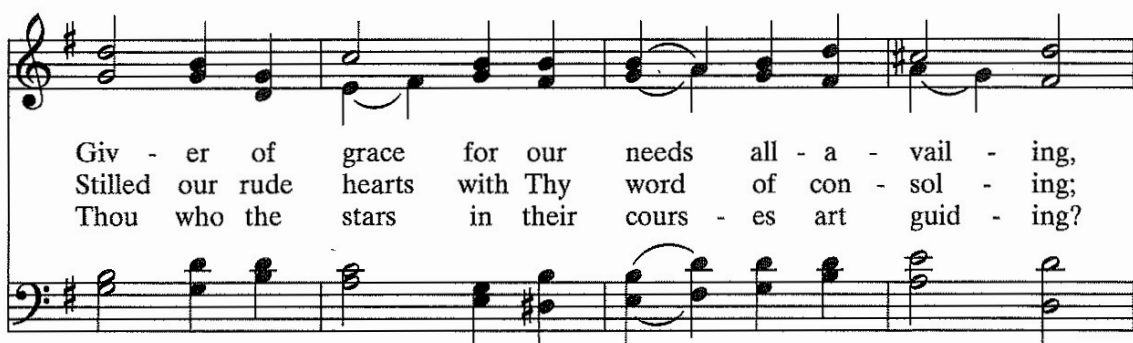
Paris Antiphoner, 1681

John J. Moment, 1933

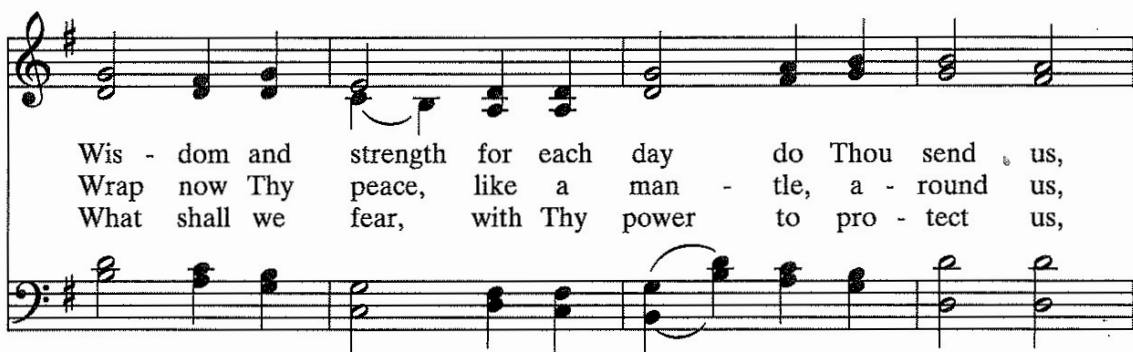
As in La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808



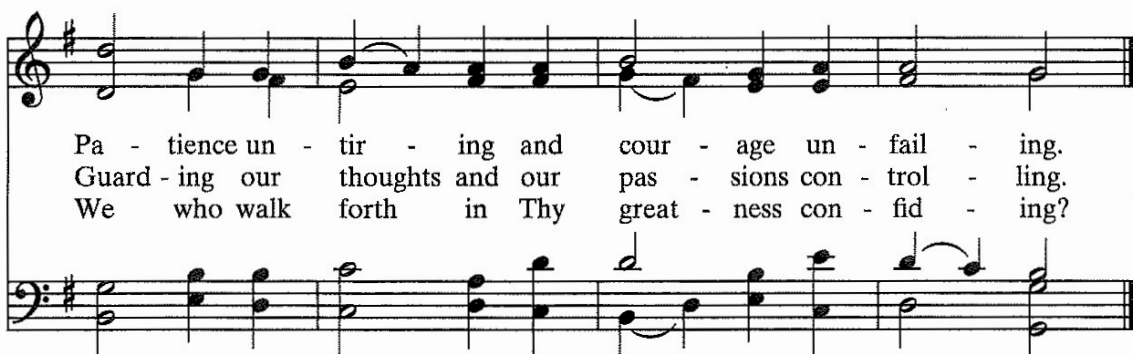
1. God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us;
2. Wan - dering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
3. How shall we stray, with Thy hand to di - rect us,



Giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy word of con - sol - ing;
Thou who the stars in their cours - es art guid - ing?



Wis - dom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Wrap now Thy peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
What shall we fear, with Thy power to pro - tect us,



Pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
Guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
We who walk forth in Thy great - ness con - fid - ing?

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
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)
Ms. Gabrielle Mason, *Receptionist* (frontdesk@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*