

Pieces of Light



 First Presbyterian Church of Athens
YOUTH SUNDAY
February 4, 2024

Welcome to Youth Sunday!
Please sign and pass the Fellowship
Pad, check in on Facebook, and
follow us on Instagram.
We are so glad you are here.

Petch Bryan, organ
Clarke Middle School, 7th

Lorenzo Fischetti,
Clarke Central High School, 11th

Luke Shannon
Clarke Central High School, 10th

Emma Clarke
Clarke Central High School, 11th

Sadie Miller
Clarke Central High School, 10th

Niles Flath
Clarke Central High School, 10th

Sloane Turner
Athens Academy, 10th

Jimmy Bishop
Clarke Central High School, 9th

Cheyton Hernandez-Gambill
Clarke Central High School, 11th

**Those who are able please stand.*

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Greeting

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

Prelude

Trio on "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Tallis' Canon

Wayne Leupold
Thomas Tallis

Words of Welcome

Minute for Mission

Souper Bowl of Caring

Song of Gathering

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Call to Worship

Come one and all to see God's light.

We will bask in all its glory.

Come, follow Jesus and experience His radiance,

Then go, and share this light with all your neighbors.

Come, let us worship God,

For He will never lead us into the dark.

*Hymn insert #749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned
against you and ourselves. Our envy, anger and pride distance us
from you. Instead of shining your light, your spirit has been
diminished from our thoughts, words and deeds. We pray that you
can restore us to the joy of your salvation.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response



*Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. And also with you.

749

Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Lane Holloway

Clarke Central High School, 11th

Katherine Queen

Clarke Central High School, 12th

Kate Ness

Clarke Central High School, 10th

Ben Ness

Clarke Central High School, 12th

Daly Pruitt

Clarke Central High School, 9th

Thadd Pruitt

Clarke Central High School, 12th

Jimmy Bishop

Clarke Central High School, 9th

Abigale Bishop

Clarke Central High School, 12th

Sam Seward

North Oconee High School, 10th

Isabelle Seward

North Oconee High School, 12th

*What a gift it is to have Bob Burton
accompany his granddaughter,
Isabelle on the anthem.*

Lucy Attaway

Athens Academy, 9th

Ruby Topple

Athens Academy, 9th

Celeste Fischetti

Clarke Central High School, 9th

Joanne Fischetti

Clarke Central High School, 9th

Molly Suggs

Clarke Central High School, 11th

*The Affirmation of Faith was written
by members of the Confirmation
Class of 2024.*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD



Prayer for Illumination

Mini Messages - *Pieces of Light*

First Reading - Psalm 119

Follow the Light

Second Reading - John 8:12

Welcome the Light

Third Reading - Matthew 5: 14-16

Be the Light

Fourth Reading - John 1:5

Live in the Light

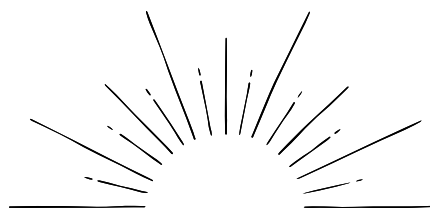
Fifth Reading - Mark 4:21

Spread the Light

Anthem

Here Comes the Sun

George Harrison



RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe...God is forgiving, loving, kind and caring. He gives us strength to do hard things and navigate the world. God is a healer, guide, and miracle worker. He offers us forgiveness and hope.

We believe...Jesus is God's son. He is a light in the darkness, someone you can always talk to and trust in. He teaches us to love one another, to be forgiving, not to judge and to treat others how you want to be treated. His life was sacrificed for me and for you.

We believe...the Holy Spirit is a divine force that comes from God. She is a guiding presence that lives within each one of us, encouraging and empowering us on our spiritual journeys.

We believe...The church is a place to worship and learn about God. It is a place where everyone is welcome. Its mission is to spread the word of God and help others grow in their faith. The church is not just a building, it is the people who go out into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live our lives through him. We are not alone, we are part of a community of believers. Together, we must work to spread the love and light of God to all the world.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Morning Has Broken

Don Michale Dicie

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer over the Elements

Prayers of the People and 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Prayer after Communion



SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

African American Spiritual

verse 1 - youth only

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

verse 2 - children join

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine...

verse 3 - congregation joins

All around the neighborhood, I'm going to let it shine...

verse 4 - everyone

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine....

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God. x4

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Ben Carey

North Oconee High School, 10th

Troy Aldrich

North Oconee High School, 10th

Declan Brooks, *violin*

Athens Academy, 8th

Claire Bruner

Clarke Central High School, 10th

Dominik Lee

Clarke Central High School, 9th

Eli Stone

Cedar Shoals High School, 9th

Alex Suggs

Clarke Central High School, 9th

Jacob Page

Clarke Central High School, 10th

Charlie Williams, *piano*

Oconee County High School, 9th

USHERS

Grier Martin-Williams, *head usher*

Athens Academy, 12th

Lucy Attaway

Ben Carey

Thomas Bowden

Celeste Fischetti

Joanne Fischetti

Dominik Lee

Jacob Page

Eli Stone

Alex Suggs

Molly Suggs

Ruby Topple

During the congregational response, the youth will "march" out of the Sanctuary. We invite you to follow after us - let us go be the light!

WELCOME

REV. ISAAC TONEY-SCHMITT

We are thrilled to welcome a child of the church back to administer the sacrament of communion today! Isaac grew up in Watkinsville, with his parents Chuck and Laura, and younger twin brothers John and Will. A confirmed member, he was very active in the youth group at FPC. After graduation from North Oconee High School, he attended Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, where he received a Bachelor's in History and Religion. In 2016 Isaac moved to Atlanta to attend the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he received his Master of Divinity in 2019.

Isaac currently serves as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Sandy Springs, GA. He is married to Christina, and they spend a lot of time rock climbing and hiking.

We are incredibly grateful that Isaac was able to join us today to serve alongside our youth in his childhood church home. What a gift it is to see God's light shining through both the youth of today and those now adults who have been loved and cared for by this congregation over the years.

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

We have an incredible group of interns who help bring their energy, enthusiasm, heart, and soul to our youth ministry program.

Erin Osborne, MS Coordinator
Athens, GA

Cade Johnson
Little Rock, AR

Emma-Stewart Kohler
Little Rock, AR

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

Today's worship service is led by our amazing middle and high school youth. We have a wonderful, active youth ministry at FPC who have been working for weeks to choose today's theme, write liturgy, reflect on the scripture and find courage to share their messages with you. Thank you for loving them and providing this space to explore their faith. We invite you to join them, pray for them and celebrate the joy these young people bring to our church family.

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 look forward to seeing you again!

If you need to leave the Sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium. Please see an usher for personal hearing receivers, large-print hymnals, Bibles, and bulletins or sermons from the previous six weeks.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bob and Sue Marion by Jack and Sally Vandiver.

There is no Children's Church today. Families are encouraged to sit up close so you can see and hear everything - one day your little one will be up here sharing their faith story too!

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite, accessible down the stairs in the Atrium through the glass door. Today is a great service if you'd like to keep your children with you. **Wiggles and giggles are welcome!**

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.

Offerings can be made by mail, through bank automatic payment, online at firstpresathens.org/giving or by using this QR code.



Thank you Dr. John Coble for your support of our musicians. We invite everyone to join us again next week when the St. Andrews Choir and Celebration Singers will sing with the Chancel Choir during Sunday morning worship.

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP

Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch Fundraiser

Our middle school youth have been hard at work in the kitchen preparing lunch for the congregation. On the menu is choice of tomato or bean soup and flour or corn cheese quesadillas. We also have an assortment of desserts, tea and lemonade. We are accepting donations to cover the cost of lunch, with additional proceeds going to support the Souper Bowl of Caring. We have chosen four local agencies to receive our Souper Bowl offering: Athens Community Council on Aging Meals on Wheels, Northeast Georgia Food Bank Food 2 Kids, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank and Bigger Vision of Athens (Athens Emergency Homeless Shelter).



We owe a huge **thank you to Chef Darryl Magrino** for leading this energetic bunch in the kitchen. Thank you for sharing your light!

Annual Congregational Meeting

After lunch, please plan to stay for the Annual Congregational Meeting, where we'll receive the 2023 annual report, hear from the session about ministry plans for 2024, and elect a new class of elders. We'll have a "kid zone" set up in the Breakout area with arts and crafts to keep your little ones occupied. Come learn about all the great things that our church is doing, and plans to do!

A LITTLE ABOUT OUR YOUTH PROGRAM

The mission of the youth ministry program at FPC is to draw youth into a journey of faith, prepare them for lifelong discipleship, and inspire them to carry the love of Christ to Athens and the world.

Our youth are fortunate to have their own special space, lovingly called "The PIT", located on the basement level of the church. The PIT features small group break-out rooms, a kitchen, pool tables, and comfortable couches to just hang out. During the school year, we offer middle school Sunday School in the morning and youth group in the evening. Youth group is a time of fellowship, reflection and discussion about how our faith shapes our lives. Our Middle School youth group meets at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday nights, followed by combined dinner then high school youth group at 6:30 p.m. In the summer, we take a break from our Sunday programming to go to Montreat Youth Conference, Middle School Montreat, and Mission Trips.

We have over sixty youth in our youth ministry, representing fourteen different schools. If you know of a middle school or high school student looking for a place to belong, please invite them to visit.

All are welcome!

For more information, visit our youth website: fpcathenspitt.com.

SUPERB SOUPER BOWL CREW

Paige Aldrich

Malcom Bridge Middle School, 6th

Daniel Baer

Clarke Middle School, 7th

Nathan Baer

Clarke Middle School, 7th

Evie Bawcum

East Jackson Middle School, 6th

Declan Brooks

Athens Academy, 8th

Pat Bryan

Clarke Middle School, 7th

Petch Bryan

Clarke Middle School, 7th

Kyah Campbell

Clarke Middle School, 6th

Zoe Campbell

Clarke Middle School, 8th

Will Carey

Malcom Bridge Middle School, 7th

Wright Cook

Clarke Middle School, 8th

Benjamin Crim

Clarke Middle School, 7th

Harris Earl

Clarke Middle School, 7th

Jennings Holloway

Athens Academy, 7th

Andrew Miller

Athens Academy, 8th

Tenny Ness

Clarke Middle School, 8th

Danielle Owens

Burney Harris Middle School, 8th

Joshua Owens

Burney Harris Middle School, 8th

William Owens

Burney Harris Middle School, 6th

Charlie Phillips

Dove Creek Middle School, 8th

Art Ryder

Madison County Middle School, 6th

Eli Sapp

Oconee Middle School, 6th

Tate Sheats

Art & Innovation Magnet Program, 8th

Zia Topple

Athens Academy, 6th

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS @ FPC

Campus Ministry Sunday

February 11

Join us next Sunday, February 11 at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. as the students and staff of the Presbyterian Student Center at UGA will lead us in worship with the theme “Widen The Welcome.” For more information about the PSC, please visit their website at pscuga.org.

Ash Wednesday Service and Dinner

February 14

Join us for a traditional service including the imposition of ashes at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. We will have dinner from Taziki's at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP for dinner in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/FPCAshWedRSVP, or by contacting the church office (call 706-543-4338 or email frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) by Monday, February 12, at noon. The 7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

New Member First Things Class

Join us for our next First Things gathering on Sunday, February 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will be a time to get better acquainted, meet the church staff, and talk about what makes First Presbyterian Church unique. To RSVP, please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org by Tuesday, February 13.

February 18, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

“First Things” Informational class – Moses Waddel Room

February 25, 10:00 a.m.

New Member Coffee/Called Session Meeting to meet and be received into membership by Session (our governing board) – Church Parlor

Following the Called Session meeting, new members will be presented and introduced to the congregation during the 11:00 a.m. service. A reception in your honor will follow in Fellowship Hall, so everyone can be welcomed by our members.

Wed@First

Begins February 21

Please make plans to join us Wednesday, February 21, for our first Wed@First of Spring 2024. Each week, there will be opportunities for all ages for fellowship, food, learning, and spiritual growth. The full schedule will be posted on our website. Don't forget to RSVP for dinner by Mondays at 12:00 noon.

Red Cross Blood Drive

February 25, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office. If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of ATHENS

185 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens GA 30601 (706)543-4338 www.firstpresathens.org [@firstpresathensga](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresathensga)