



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!

February 25, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent

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

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing Martha Lynn Thompson
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Frances L. Callahan

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

WINCHESTER NEW

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

Call to Worship

Every time we gather in God's name, we learn something new.

What will be God's gift of revelation to us today?

We enter this time of worship joyfully, assured of God's new mercies.

Celebrating these blessings to come, we bring our love to God.

*Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**Savior God, the public spectacle of the cross calls us to account.
We hesitate and hedge when opportunities arise to speak of you.
We are shy in faith and not bold to proclaim. Your story saves,
yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our reticence of faith. Forgive
the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your
candlelight, held high to set the world aglow. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn Charles Wesley wrote for the first anniversary of his conversion experience. The tune, adapted from a German composition, is the usual North American setting.

**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 Introduction of New Members 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.

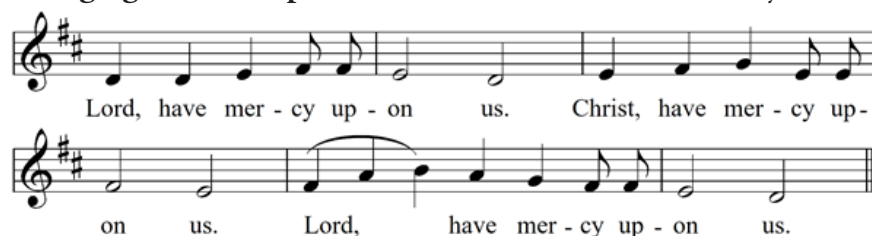
11:00 Lay Reader:
Nathan Baer

Be Thou My Vision comes from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dated to at least the 10th century. The text is set to an Irish folk melody that has remained popular despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Scholars debate whether this powerfully poetic text is an early Christian hymn which Paul is quoting or his own composition. It is one of the best-known and most influential passages in the Pauline corpus.

*Congregational Response

Healey Willan



*Assurance of Pardon

*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. Introduction of New Members

Ann & David Dantzler, Jr.	Holly, Reed and Tate Sheats
Courtney & James Dantzler III	Donna & John Varn
Dorothy (DJ) Hall	Anne Webster
Mark Lockard	Julie & John Webster

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power be my support; eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

First Lesson

Psalm 34:11-14, page 498

11:00 Anthem *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake* Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin, and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in a perfect heart,
before thee now, and evermore. Amen.

Second Lesson

Mark 10:32-52, page 923

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

Sermon

Called to Serve

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and (cont.)**

under the earth, and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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 *Be Thou My Vision* Dale Wood

*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 371 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

*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 *Postlude on Crucifer* David Cherwien



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

Lift High the Cross
celebrates the paradox
that for Christians a
means of painful death
has been transformed
into a symbol of
renewed life; a sign of
defeat has become an
emblem of victory.

*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.

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 Introduction of New Members. To pick up your
child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children's Ministry Suite.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
TODAY UNTIL 1:00 P.M.

Please join us today in the Fellowship Hall
and help save a life! Walk-in appointments are
available. If you can't donate blood today, but
would like to donate in the future, please go to
redcrossblood.org and make an appointment.

FOOD SUNDAY, MARCH 3

You may bring donations of **canned tuna
(or pouch), pork & beans, and sweet peas**
to church **Sunday, March 3**. You may also
bring items to the church office until **Friday,
March 1**. Our neighbors in need are very
grateful for your donations! Many thanks for
your thoughtfulness and generosity!

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. Nathan Baer

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Terry Nestor
11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Ethelyn Simpson, Marcia Talmadge

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Diane Hartzell
11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Lisa Oelke

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

FEBRUARY FLOWER TEAM

Susan Baldwin, Melanie Epting, Karen
Gilmore, Terry Nestor, Gail Wilfong

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.

Wednesday@First Spring Programs 2024
February 21 - April 24

- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends Homer’s Odyssey
Book 14, Room 308
- 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (Barberitos), Fellowship Hall
Dinner menu: Taco Bar, Cookies* (* = gluten free options available)*
- *6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Meeting Jesus at the Table, Lenten Conversations
with Whitney and Ryan, Fellowship Hall Breakout Room
- *6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 202
**Childcare Provided*

Wednesday Night Dinner
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$12 adults, \$45 max per family (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.

Resources for Lent 2024 at FPC

This Lent, we have several opportunities and resources that you may use to guide your 40 days. We come to Christ's table hungry for many different things and there is always a seat for us there. However you choose to observe this season—in community or in solitude, with reflection or action – we pray that it is a time of intentionality and attentiveness to yourself and to your relationship with God.

Observing Lent with others:

Wed@First: *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, Lenten Conversations with Whitney and Ryan 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Breakout Area

Jesus spent much of his life and ministry breaking bread and sharing meals both ordinary and extraordinary with all types of people. Join us as we look at the journey toward Easter through the lens of these many holy encounters that happen when Jesus gathers at the table. We will be drawing from the Lenten study book *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, but there's no required reading. After Lent, plan to join us on April 10, 17, and 24 for continued learning together about the intersections of food and faith and how our congregation can respond to the needs of our neighbors. Come as you are and join the conversation!

Lenten Lunch (via Zoom, ID: 706-543-4338) – using *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!* by Kate Bowler – Thursdays at 12:30

Grab your lunch and sign on from your home or office to join us for a weekly group study written by Kate Bowler. Our time together will consist of reading scripture, discussion based on the week's Lenten theme, prayer, and a blessing for the week. This will coincide with Kate's daily Lenten email prompts, but you won't be lost without them – come as you are! This will be a meaningful time for us to grow closer together in community as we name and share the highs and lows in this mixed bag of Lent and of life.

Lenten devotionals to use on your own:

Local Pilgrim: a Wandering, Wondering Daily Devotional by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott and others. This daily Lent devotional from the Presbyterian Outlook invites you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. What will God reveal to you when you pause, ponder, and reflect? Click the link on FPC website to access a pdf of this devotional. If you would like a printed version mailed to you, please contact the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338).

***Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!* by Kate Bowler.** Click the link on FPC website to sign up for Daily Lenten Prompts delivered straight to your e-mail inbox for the 40 days of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 14).

Tread Lightly for Lent – a daily reflection-action calendar from Presbyterian Hunger Program, offering a lens of creation care to your Lenten practice. Click the link on FPC website to access a pdf of this resource. If you would like a printed version mailed to you, please contact the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338).

Children's Ministry plans for Lent: Click the link on FPC website to read *Making Room for Jesus*, *Making Room for Wonder*, Children's Ministry Newsletter with plans for Lent 2024.

Youth Ministry plans for Lent:

Middle School Sunday School – For Lent, we'll be learning more about Jesus and his relationship with outsiders, outcasts and outlaws, using the Adam Hamilton curriculum, *Luke*. How can stories of his interactions with the wealthy and powerful and with the poor, sick, and vulnerable help us to become more faithful Christians?

Youth Group – On Sunday nights, we'll focus on Holy Week. Delving into each day, we'll seek to understand how Jesus was feeling, what his disciples might have been thinking and the importance of each day in the journey to the cross. Based on these conversations, youth will design and create prayer stations in the PIT that will be open during Holy Week for the congregation.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 25 – Red Cross Blood Drive, New Member Introduction and Reception

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 10:00 p.m. New Member Coffee with Session, Parlor
- 12:00 p.m. New Member Reception, Atrium
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers 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, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

- 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
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls I, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Room 309

Wednesday, February 28

- 4:00 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Homer's *Odyssey*, Book 14, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper – Barberitos, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, Lenten Conversations with Whitney and Ryan, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, February 29

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch via Zoom, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!* (ID: 706-543-4338)

Sunday, March 3 – Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 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. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers 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

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

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

466

AZMON CM

Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.

The second system of musical notation for the hymn. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad

Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827-1912)
 Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.
Refrain and Descant

CRUCIFER 10.10 with refrain

Sidney Hugo Nicholson, 1916
 Desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Musical notation for the second system, continuing the vocal and piano parts.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name. *Fine*

Musical notation for the third system, including a four-part vocal setting.

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Repeat Refrain

The Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
 Your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

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
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
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. 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*