



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!

July 21, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Ninth 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

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

Max Drischner

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

AZMON

**This is the day the Lord hath made;
the hours are all God's own.
Let heaven rejoice; let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne.**

Call to Worship

Christ calls to us: "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest awhile."

**O God, you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in God's house my whole life long.**

***Hymn 457** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Christ our peace, you promise to make us one new humanity, reconciling us to God and building us into a dwelling place for the Most High, firm atop the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Like the prophets before us, you have called us to be shepherds who both guide and comfort. Model for us how to be good shepherds, not those who scatter the sheep with errant advice and wayward words, but those who lead them beside still waters, in right paths, for the sake of your Holy Name. Amen.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art, a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, was originally a French text attributed to John Calvin. The text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

**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."

All children are invited to remain in worship on Sunday mornings with family during the summer months.

*Lay Reader:
David Dantzler*

The anthem is a text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674), set to music by English organist and composer Peter Hurford.

How Long, O God, Will My Prayer Be in Vain? is a paraphrase of Psalm 13, which captures the psalm's self-centered desperation. Then the mood is dispelled by an awareness of God's mercy and love. It is set to the familiar Irish tune SLANE.

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.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

***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

Mark 13:33-37, page 928

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

Anthem

Litany to the Holy Spirit

Peter Hurford

In the hour of my distress when temptations me oppress,
and when I my sins confess, Sweet Spirit comfort me!
When I lie within my bed, sick in heart and sick in head,
and with doubts discomfited, Sweet Spirit, comfort me!
When the house doth sigh and weep, and the world is drowned in sleep,
yet mine eyes the watch do keep, Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

Second Lesson

Psalms 88, page 533

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

Sermon

Praying As an Act of Defiance

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn insert** *How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?* SLANE

***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

Slane

Dale Wood

***Doxology**

**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 210**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 540, stanza 3

**God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Fugue in E-flat

Johann Sebastian Bach

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*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.*

Many are unaware that
*Our God, Our Help in
Ages Past* is a paraphrase
of Psalm 90, written by
Isaac Watts. Since the
middle of the 19th cen-
tury it has been joined
with this tune named
for the London parish
where the composer
was organist.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

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.

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

David Dantzler

USHERS

Keith Oelke (head),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw, Lisa Oelke

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Jeffrey Trapnell

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Narthex are in memory of Elizabeth Nicholson Porterfield and Joan and Ray Nicholson by Leslye Queen and Carolyn Hally. The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Justice Walker and Liam Smith.

JULY FLOWER TEAM

Jennifer Poole (chair),
Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Ethelyn Simpson

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

Generosity Team Focus Group Sessions

The Generosity Team invites you to participate in focus group sessions of 10-12 people during the month of July:

- **July 25:** 9:00-10:30 a.m., Moses Waddel Room
- **July 28:** 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moses Waddel Room

Chuck Toney, elder and chair of the Generosity Team, will facilitate a discussion to share experiences, expectations, and goals about First Presbyterian Church, stewardship, service, and the many other ways that we live our mission. The results of these conversations will inform the creation of a year-round communications plan. A survey will also be made available by email for those who wish to participate but cannot attend any of the focus groups. Please contact Chuck at chuckgt63@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Summer Fellowship Outings

Summer is here! We hope you'll plan to join us for our last planned fun fellowship outing. This is open to anyone who would like to attend – all ages and stages of our church family! Please RSVP to Whitney (whitney@firstpresathens.org) so we can keep a headcount and feel free to reach out with questions.

Tuesday, July 23 at 5:30 p.m., Downtown Dinner, Ted's Most Best (254 W. Washington St.)
Bring the whole family and head downtown for food, drink, and fun!

Women's Connection Conference at Montreat

Save the date and plan to join us for the Women's Connection the weekend of **August 9-11, 2024** in the beautiful mountains of Montreat, North Carolina. This year's keynote speaker is Becca Stevens, a nonprofit leader, entrepreneur, priest, survivor, and founder and President of Thistle Farms.

Sign up today to stay at the Georgia Lodge as space is limited! Cost per person is \$85 for both nights: tinyurl.com/FPCWCC2024. Registration and information about the conference can be found at montreat.org/events/wc-2024. Conference registration costs \$272. If you plan to stay at the Georgia Lodge, please make sure to select the "Commuter Package."

Please contact Beverly Phares (beverlypphares@gmail.com or 706-255-6990) or Julie Jagmin (julieb Jagmin@bellsouth.net or 678-852-7310) if you have any questions. If you need scholarship assistance, contact Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org).

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 21

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Refreshments

Monday, July 22

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp
- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting hybrid
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, July 23

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 1, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. CYM Strategic Planning Meeting via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Summer Fellowship Outings: Downtown Dinner at Ted's Most Best
- 6:00 p.m. Athens Area Homeless Shelter Board Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, July 24

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp
- 5:30 p.m. FARMRx Food Classes, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 25

- 9:00 a.m. Generosity Team Focus Group Session, Moses Waddel Room
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp

Saturday, July 27

- 9:00 a.m. Kate's Club Clubhouse Day, The PIT

Sunday, July 28

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Refreshments
- 11:15 a.m. Generosity Team Focus Group Session, Moses Waddel Room

Summer Choir

If you've ever wondered what it's like to sing in the choir, but have never done so, this may be a chance to give choir a "test drive." If you would like to sing but can't make the commitment to Wednesday night rehearsals during the regular season, this is the time to join the choir. **Through August 18**, we will meet in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service. Singers may join for any single Sunday or for as many as they wish, even for the whole summer. There is no obligation, but we do hope some will decide they enjoy singing in the choir enough to continue in the fall. Although this choir is made up mostly of adults, youth and children are also welcome. For more information, contact John Coble at jcoble@firstpresathens.org.

Volunteers Needed, ESP Summer Camp

Thursday, August 1, 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch at ESP summer camp on Thursday, August 1 from 11:45 a.m. -1:30 p.m. We need 5-6 people total (ages 12 and up). No cooking required, just serving and possibly some light clean-up. Please e-mail Whitney at whitney@firstpresathens.org to if you can make it! Camp location is 210 S Broad St #5, Winder, GA 30680.

457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON 10.10.10

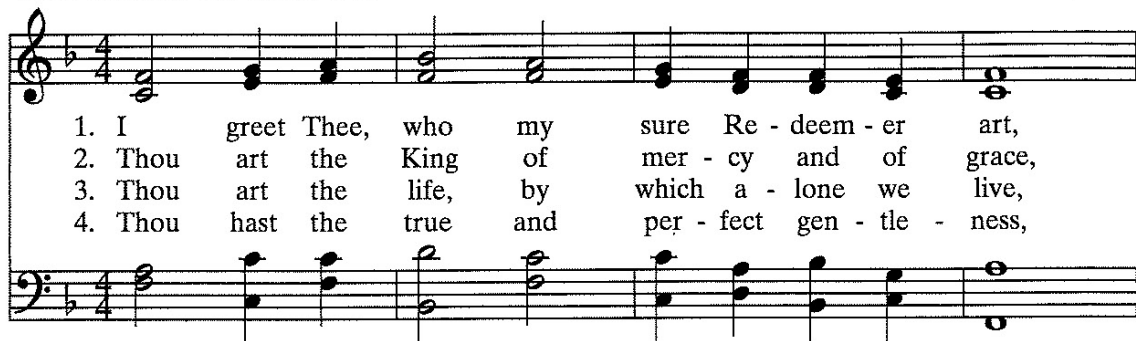
Attr. John Calvin

French Psalter, Strassburg, 1545

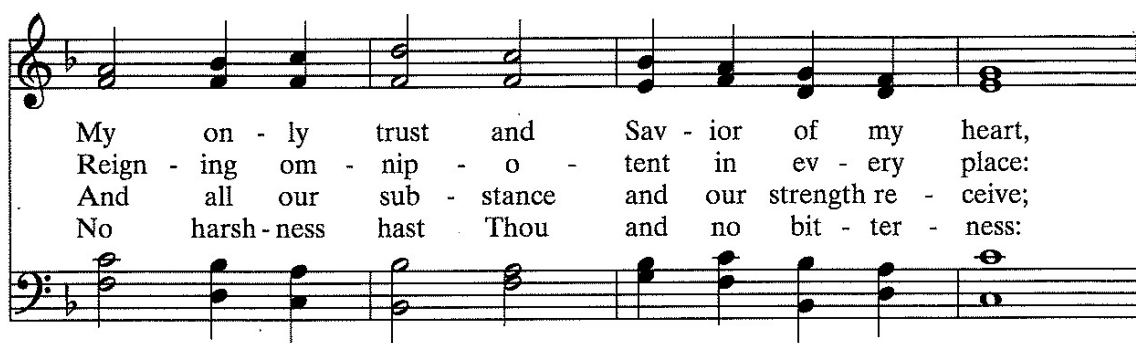
Trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868

Adapt. from Genevan 124

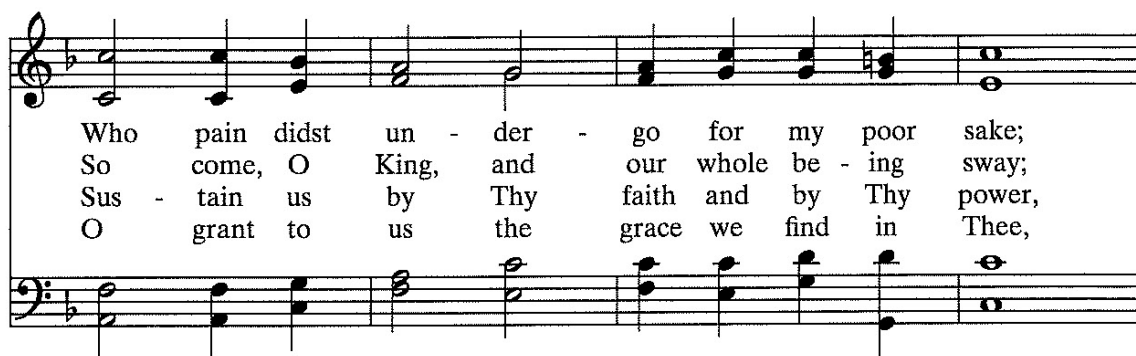
Genevan Psalter, 1551



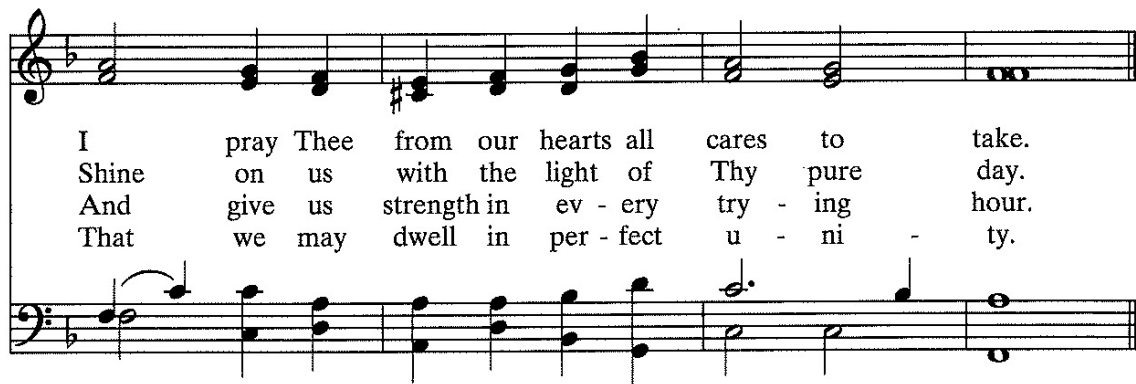
1. I greet Thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
 2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
 3. Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,



My on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,
 Reign - ing om - nip - o - tent in ev - ery place;
 And all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
 No harsh - ness hast Thou and no bit - ter - ness:



Who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
 So come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
 Sus - tain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,



I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.
 And give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
 That we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.

5. Our hope is in no other save in Thee;
 Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
 That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?

SLANE



1. How long, O God, will my prayers be in vain? Why must I lan-guish in
2. When e - vil pros-pers and all hope is gone, do not for - sake me, your
3. Ear - ly and late will my tongue sing yourpraise; you will up - hold me the



sor - row and pain? Do not a - ban - don a child you have
pres-ence with - drawn. Shield and pro - tect those who call on your
length of my days. Your are a strong-hold for all the op -



made; you are my shel - ter, my so - lace and shade.
name; you are my God, and your bless - ing I claim.
pressed; hear us, O God! Let your peo - ple be blessed.

Text: Barbara Hamm, 2009, alt.

Music: Irish ballad

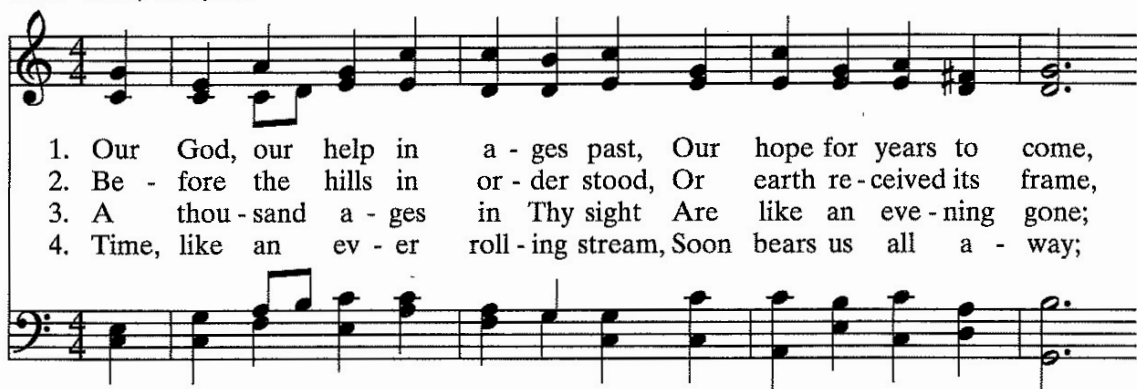
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

210

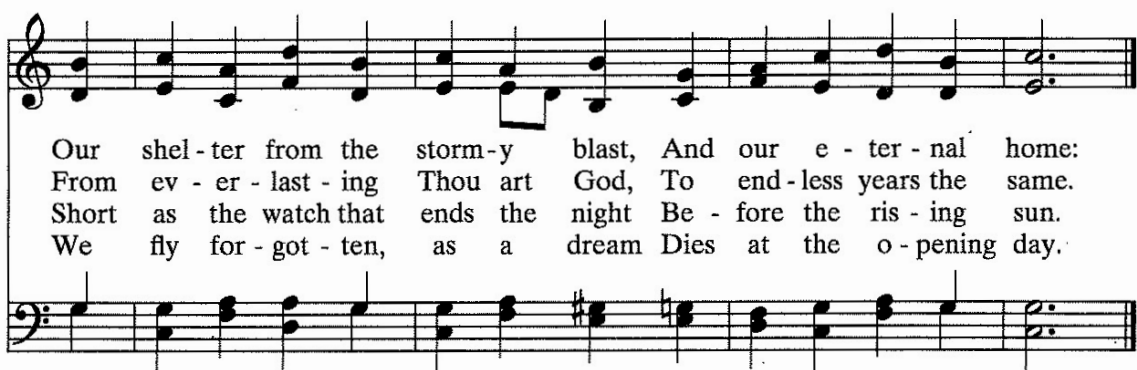
ST. ANNE CM

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. William Croft, 1708



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Shannon Brooks	Lindsay Griffeth	Susan Baldwin
Phyllis Crowell	Angela Hunt	Bill Bushnell
Denise Horton	Dan Nadenicek	Amy Cowsert
Paul Lee	Karen Phillips	Matt Crim
Sharon Logan Neff	Ethelyn Simpson	Jay Holloway
Bruce Middendorf	Jeffrey Trapnell	Tom Lane
Randy Riner	Pat Tritt	Joan Pinson
Chuck Toney	John Turner	Paige Simmons
	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. 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. Joli Winstanley, *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*