



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!

September 8, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sixteenth 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

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

Psalm 118:24

Prelude

Detroit

Wilbur Held

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Hymn 220, stanza 1

Call to Worship

Trust in the Lord,
who made heaven and earth;
trust in the Lord,
who loves every part of it.
Trust in the Lord,
who cares for those in need;
trust in the Lord,
who leads us to do the same.
Let us worship God,
who shows us the way.

***Hymn 229** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy, in a hurting world, your love shows us another way to live. Help us to join in your work, mending what is broken. May our trust in you be our guide, leading us to care for our neighbors nearby and the ones we do not yet know. 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).

From All that Dwell Below the Skies is a paraphrase of Psalm 117. Because the psalm contains only two stanzas, Isaac Watts’ paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most hymnals have added additional stanzas, such as our stanza two.

**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.

Lay Readers:
8:45: Andrea Cook
11:00: Dan Nadenicek

The anthem is a text by Robert Bridges, adapted from Isaac Watts, set to music by contemporary American composer K. Lee Scott.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult as the one addressed in *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*. The shape note tune sets the words with appropriate sparseness.

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

David Ogden



*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

TALLIS' CANON

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

First Lesson

Luke 11:4, page 949

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Christ Hath a Garden

K. Lee Scott

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground,
chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.
Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand;
by Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.
Awake O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air:
stir up O south the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come:
that he may come and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;
that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the spring green.

Second Lesson

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17, 3:1-8, page 2

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

Sermon

Our Sin Problem The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 347

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

*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 Ash Grove* John Coble

***Doxology** LASST UNS ERFREUEN



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.

Musical notation for the Doxology (Lasst uns erfreuen) in G major, 3/2 time. The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 554** *Let All Things Now Living* ASH GROVE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Let All Things Now Living is at 20th-century North American text that resembles Psalm 148 and the canticle “Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.” It is set to a folk melody familiar in England and Wales.

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

Postlude *Fantasy on Lasst uns erfreuen* Flor Peeters

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:10 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.

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.

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.

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

8:45 a.m. Andrea Cook
11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Carl Bergmann
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Dick Ferguson, Ed Ferguson

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 62nd wedding anniversary of Linda and Fred Wallace.

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.

Come Volunteer with Children and Youth Ministries

Children and Youth Ministries at FPC are at the beginning of a new and exciting season and we need your help! All members of the congregation are invited to sign up to help support these ministries by serving occasionally as a teacher or volunteer, by bringing a meal, or chaperoning an outing.

- Children’s Sunday School & Children’s Church: tinyurl.com/FPCCM2024
- Sunday School Teachers (Middle & High School): tinyurl.com/FPCYouthSS
- Youth Group Meals & Volunteers: tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinner2024

Atrium Fellowship Hosts

Hosting Atrium Fellowship is a minimal commitment with maximum impact on our church community. The church provides the drinks, snacks, and serving pieces. You can arrive a half-hour before worship and set everything up according to the instructions you will receive the week of your commitment. A few minutes before worship ends, slip out and set up in the Atrium on the table that will be set for you. After 30 minutes or so, you can begin to break down and return the supplies to the kitchen (there will be more detailed instructions you receive).

Please sign up to volunteer at tinyurl.com/FPCAtriumFall. For more information and questions, contact Chuck Toney at chuckgt63@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive
September 22, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment online at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office (call 706-543-4338 or e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org).

If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 8

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:50 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, September 9

- 2:00 p.m. Circle Two
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, September 10

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 1, Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. CYM Strategic Planning Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, September 11

- 9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village of Athens
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 12

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Legacy Village
- 5:30 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, September 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:50 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Wed@First Begins September 25

Wed@First provides an opportunity to experience Christian fellowship and growth in a relaxed atmosphere. It includes dinner, children's' choirs, and Shakespeare and Friends, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. Dinner opens at 5:30 p.m. This fall, you are invited to join us on a new program, LIFT (Living in Faith Together).

LIFT - Living in Faith Together

On 9/25, 10/16, and 11/6, join us for a new offering called LIFT (Living in Faith Together). In the 5:30-6:30 hour, participants of all ages will gather at tables to play together, break bread together, study God's word together, and pray together. The program coincides with the meal and we will close in time for choir members to attend rehearsal. This is a great way for us to get to know people outside our regular circles and grow together as followers of Christ. All are invited to participate!

On the remaining Wednesday nights (10/2, 10/9, 10/23, 10/30, 11/13, 11/20), we'll have dinner and fellowship from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and then gather for conversation about the call to discipleship and what that looks like for us as individuals and as a congregation in a changing world.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries:

Hannah Knight

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–2nd 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, praying to God, and responding through art and worship.

****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

Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries:

Hannah Knight

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) – offered for both middle and high school

Both middle and high school groups will be using the Living the Word curriculum, that closely follows the narrative lectionary that guides our worship each week. Middle and high schoolers will be split into separate rooms in the PIT for a time of study, discussion, and response.

Youth Group (5:30–7 p.m.)

Sunday night youth group is a safe space for youth to come as they are! We will begin with dinner together in the fellowship hall (please volunteer to provide a meal at tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinner2024). At 6:00, both middle and high school groups will move down to the PIT where there will be games, Bible study, creative response time, and lots of laughs as we spend an intentional hour together. The theme for this year is “In Every Season,” rooted in Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. We will spend time diving into what it looks like to trust & see God in every season, and learning to be okay with asking questions about our faith.

For any questions, please contact Hannah at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Bible Basics • Moses Waddel Room

Bible Basics is a new intergenerational adult class designed to improve basic Bible knowledge and familiarity. This year, we are “walking through the Bible” – Genesis to Revelation – in an effort to lay a solid foundation for future Bible study. The class is appropriate for all experience levels from “Biblical neophytes” to those looking for a refresher.

Contacts: David Dantzler (jdaviddantzler@gmail.com)

and Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org)

Builders • Room 301

This class is a space for all parents of children and youth gather and share in the complexity of family life. Our time together will offer a blend of fellowship, parenting support, Bible study, and service.

Contacts: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org) or Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org)

Young Adults Small Group • Room 302

Join the conversation among other young adults at FPC as this new group takes shape! We will start by gathering during Sunday School for no-prep discussion and getting to know one another over coffee and donuts.

Contact: Tina Wu-Gomez (tinawu2468@gmail.com)

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

Our goal is to create joy through art, food, music, prayer, scripture, class-led discussion, community, purple open-mindedness, and inclusion. Books to be read and discussed this year include *Falling Upward*, by Richard Rohr, and more!

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

The class features open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity. This year, the class will continue with their study and discussion of *Understanding the Old Testament*, led by Robert Miller, professor at Catholic University.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com),

Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

229 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN LM with alleluias

Isaac Watts, 1719

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Unison



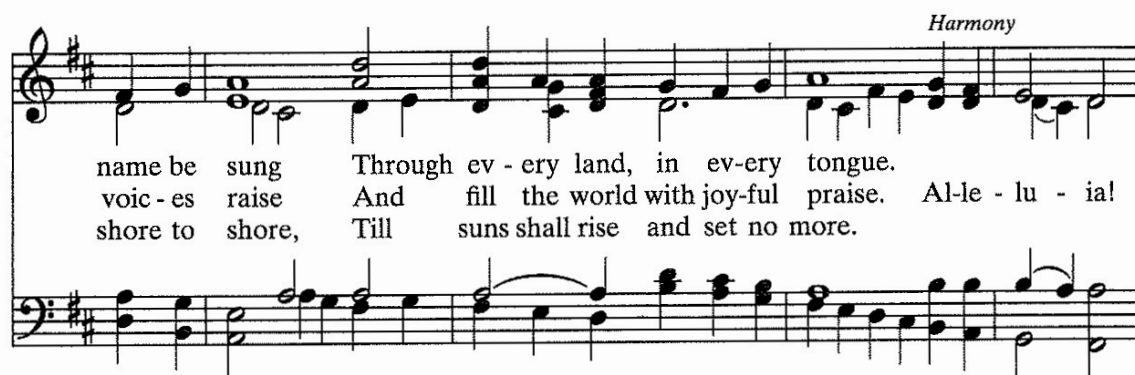
1. From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song, To ev - ery land the strains be -
3. E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at - tends Thy

Harmony *Unison*



rise: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's
long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
word: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thy praise shall sound from

Harmony



name be sung Through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
voic - es raise And fill the world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

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DETROIT CM

Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983

Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820
Harm. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922)

Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm

1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You taught us, Lord, to pray,
 2. How can Your par - don reach and bless The un - for - giv - ing heart
 3. In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals The truth we dim - ly knew:
 4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And bid re - sent - ment cease.

Bb Am F Gm Am Dm

But You a - lone can grant us grace To live the words we say.
 That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 What triv - ial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!
 Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D

Welsh folk melody

Katherine K. Davis, 1939; alt.

Harm. Gerald H. Knight (1908-1979)

Unison

1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
 2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es,

To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,

By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
 The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony

God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing

A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:

Unison

Till shad-ows have van-ished, All fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,

As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2025

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan Neff
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

CLASS OF 2026

Lindsay Griffeth
Dan Nadenicek
Karen Phillips
Ethelyn Simpson
Jeffrey Trapnell
Pat Tritt
John Turner
Pat Waldrip

CLASS OF 2027

Susan Baldwin
Bill Bushnell
Amy Cowser
Matt Crim
Jay Holloway
Tom Lane
Joan Pinson
Paige Simmons

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)
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries* (hannah@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*