



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!

March 16, 2025
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

Shalom

Dan Locklair

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

Let us go to the house of God!

We are glad to gather in God's holy house.

Peace be within these walls,

And may we carry that peace out beyond them.

*Hymn 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the journey, we do not want to follow where you lead.
Instead, we turn inward, focusing on satisfying our own wants,
even at the expense of our neighbors. We do not see their suffering;
we do not act for their justice. We are motivated by the fear of
not getting what we want, or of losing what we have. We ignore
the example of your sacrificial love, which has the power to heal
and make whole. Forgive us for refusing to heed your call. Change
our hearts, our minds, and our actions, so that we might return
to following you, no matter where your journey leads.

Silent Prayer

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

God of Grace and God of Glory was written for the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 by the pastor, Harry Emerson Fosdick. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

One of our Lenten worship practices is observing silence, and as the season of Lent progresses, our time of silence will grow longer by about 30 seconds each week.

**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 - 2nd Grade, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite on the first floor.

Lay Reader:
11:00: Anne Marie Miller

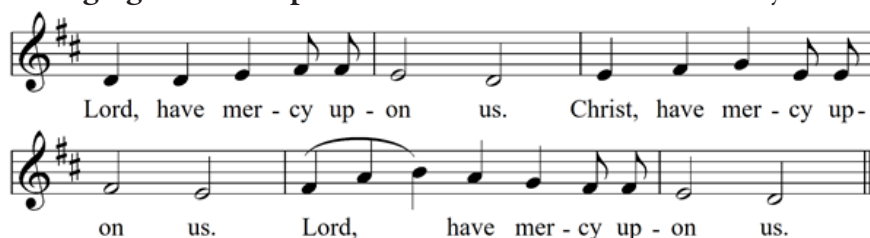
The anthem is a setting of Psalm 122 by American composer Moonyeen Albrecht who taught at Central Michigan University for thirty-eight years.

Be Thou My Vision originated as an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. It 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.

Giving Thanks for Shared Ministry

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

PROSPECT

**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 122, page 560

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem* Moonyeen Albrecht

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness be in thy palaces.

Second Lesson

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 page 952

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

Sermon

Turn

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
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, (cont.)**

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 *Prayer of St. Patrick* Mark Schweizer
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.

***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.**

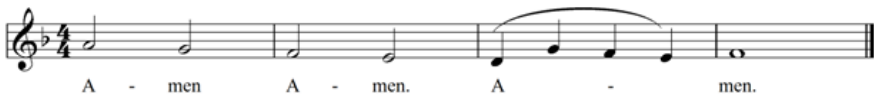
***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 450** *O Day of Peace* JERUSALEM

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 586



Postlude *Improvisation on St. Patrick's Breastplate* John Coble



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.

O Day of Peace is a non-nationalistic text on peace. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual goodwill.

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

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 – 2nd 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.

Red Cross Blood Drive Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in our blood drive on March 9. We collected 24 units of blood (higher than our goal of 22!). We appreciate the donors and volunteers who made our event a big success!

Stephen Ministry to host Athens Community Council on Aging
March 18, 6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Stephen Ministry is hosting Jenna Moon, Care Coordinator for Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA) on Tuesday, March 18, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Moses Waddel Room. Jenna will share information on ACCA programs and services. All are welcome to attend. For additional information, please contact Becky Hartman at hartmanbecky494@gmail.com.

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. Anne Marie Miller

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head), Diane Hartzell
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Matt Jones, Emily LaBoon

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marian Alice Wendler and Andrew Scott Carr by Carol McKay.
We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Brooks William Phares on March 4, 2025. His parents are Rob and Alex Phares. Grandparents are Beverly and Ned Phares.

MARCH FLOWER TEAM

Rosemary Stancil (Chair), Karen Cobb,
Susan Ferguson, Elaine Johnson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and online 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.

Resources for Lent 2025 at FPC

This year, we are excited to offer a Lenten resource called *Everything in Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes*, which will follow the same texts from Luke’s gospel that we will be reading and exploring in worship. This study invites us to navigate the polarities of life with faith, intention, and openness – each week explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “grief & hope.” In and through these stories of scripture, we will seek God’s presence in the in-between spaces.

We are offering a daily Lenten devotional prompt via email and social media, as well as an opportunity gather mid-week for a Lenten Lunch study (using a weekly devotional booklet that will be available to you electronically). Bring your lunch to the Staff Conference Room at 12:30 on **Thursdays** or join us via Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820) as we journey through Lent together.

Upcoming First Pres Family Promise Host Weeks
March 24 – April 6



First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise from March 24 – April 6. Volunteers directly impact and assist the families by providing a meal on Tuesday or Thursday nights, giving a \$25 donation (to First Pres with Family Promise in memo) to purchase groceries or rideshare gift cards, spending time with the families on Saturday at the Day Center (located at Athens First Baptist Church), or hosting a Saturday Children’s activity for the kids. To volunteer, please scan the QR code or sign up at tinyurl.com/FPAVolunteer. If you have questions, please contact the Family Promise Coordinators, Susan Boatwright at boatwright.susan@gmail.com or Jean Bock at jbock@bellsouth.net.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 16 - Second Sunday in Lent, Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

- 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
- 12:15 p.m. Young Adult Sunday Brunch
- 4:45 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:45 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, March 17

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, March 18

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry to host Athens Community Council on Aging, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, March 19

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 20

- 8:30 a.m. WDS Grandparents Day, Fellowship Hall
- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch Study, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 7:00 p.m. Athens Flute Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 21

- 8:30 a.m. WDS Grandparents Day, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 23 - Third Sunday in Lent, Family Promise of Athens Host Weeks Begin

- 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
- 4:45 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:45 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Farewell Reception for Lucy Bell Johnson **Sunday, March 30**

Join us in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, March 30**, after the 11:00 a.m. service for a reception in honor of Lucy Bell Johnson on the occasion of her retirement. Expressions of congratulations and thanksgiving may be mailed to her home address, 1073 Friendship Cir., Athens, 30606.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

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

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 to 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)

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

The New Voices class is a discussion based class that is currently studying the parables of Jesus. This study is based on the book *Parables from the Backside*, by J. Ellsworth Kallas. All are invited to come study God's holy word with us!

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 have a study and discussion of the course *Jesus and His Jewish Influences*, by Dr. Jodi Magness, professor at UNC Chapel Hill.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com),
Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

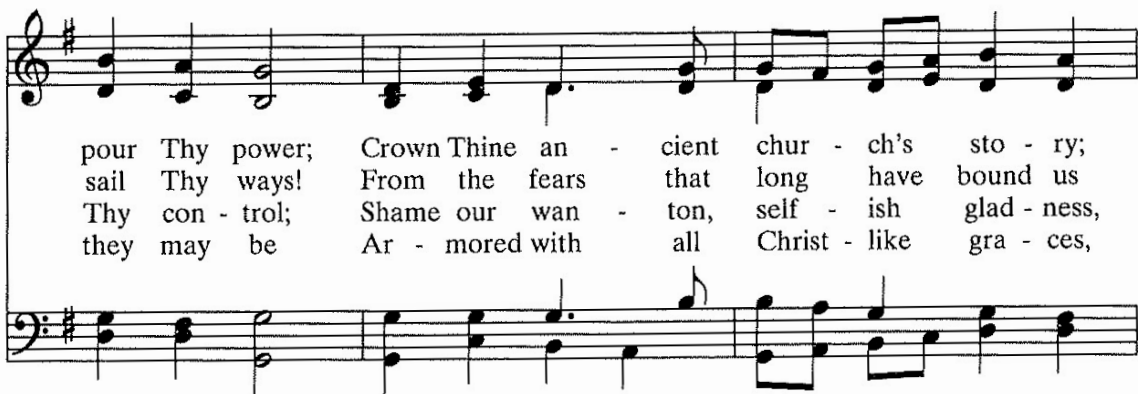
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Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907



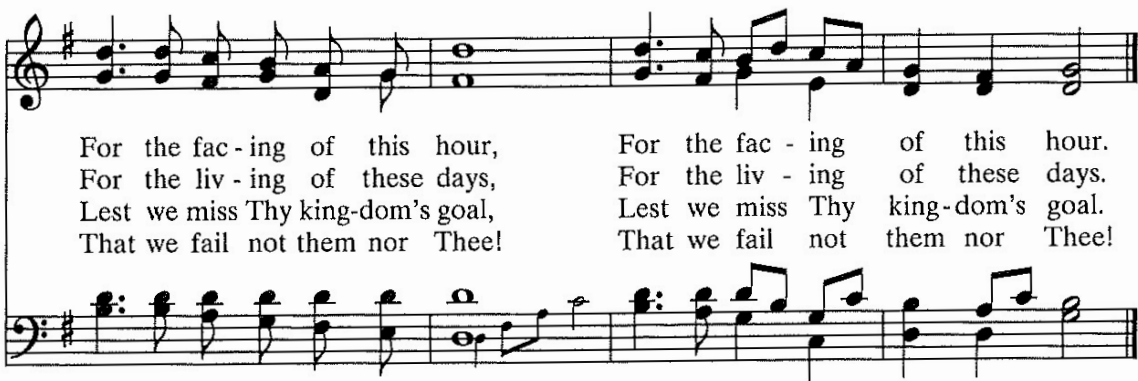
1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that



pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,



Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation
 To the evils we deplore;
 Let the gift of Thy salvation
 Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Serving Thee whom we adore,
 Serving Thee whom we adore.

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.

O Day of Peace

450

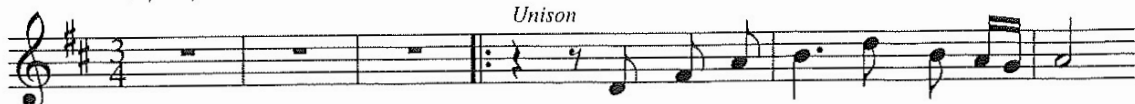
JERUSALEM LMD

C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916

Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Unison



1. O day of peace that dim-ly shines
2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,



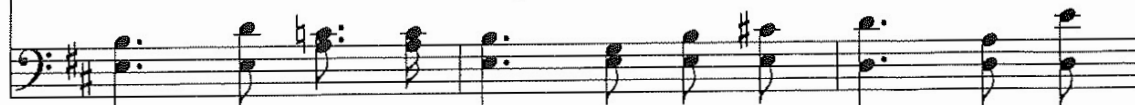
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, Guide us to jus - tice,
Nor shall the fierce de - vour the small; As beasts and cat - tle



truth, and love, De - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
calm - ly graze, A lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands, Our hearts from en - vy find
mies shall learn to love, All crea - tures find their true



re - lease, Till by God's grace our war - ring
ac - cord; The hope of peace shall be ful -



world Shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
filled, For all the earth shall know the Lord.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrup, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2025

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon 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 Waldrup

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, *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*
Mr. Justin Winstanley, *Sunday Morning Manager*