



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 23, 2025
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third 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

Loben den Herren

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

We all, like sheep, have wandered off.

Yet our God pursues us, and brings us home.

Our God cherishes and protects us, and will not rest until we are back among the fold.

Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERRREN

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

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

March 21 was the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach, one of the greatest composers of all time, especially of sacred music. Today's organ and choral music were composed by Bach.

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty is a 17th-century German hymn draws phrases from many psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103. It received an effective English translation in the mid 19th-century, and has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its tune.

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.

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 Readers:
8:45: Karen Burg
11:00: Lane Holloway

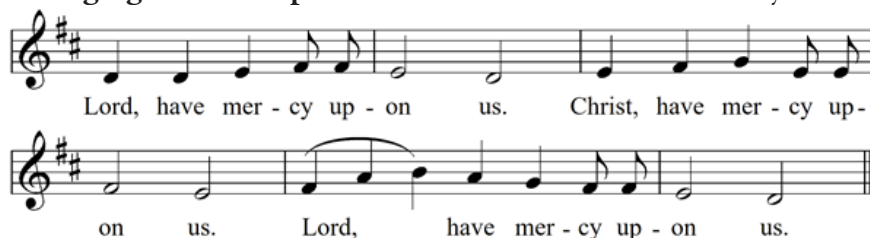
The anthem is an arrangement of a movement from Bach's Cantata 208.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, thought to be written for children, is meaningful to adults. It develops the shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10. The tune is an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

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.

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

Psalms 119:167-176, page 559

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Loving Shepherd

J. S. Bach

Loving shepherd, comfort and guide us, keep us in thy tender care.
And in thy mercy stay beside us, safely thy lambs now gather,
bring us in faith together, and thy pastures now prepare.
And when I walk with darkness around me, thou art near and I will fear no ill.
So with thy love and kindness surround me, goodness and mercy bringing,
from living water springing, Lord of Love grant me thy comfort still.

Second Lesson

Luke 15:1-32, page 954

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

Sermon

Lost and Found The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BEACH SPRING

*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, (cont.)**

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 *When We Are in Deepest Need* J. S. Bach

*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 172 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response Hymn 583



A - men. A - men. A - men.

Postlude *Fugue in G minor* J. S. Bach



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.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need is a paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Isaac Watts, set to an American folk hymn from the southern Appalachian mountains. Watts' inspired conclusion is not found in the psalm itself: "No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home."

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.

Farewell Reception for Lucy Bell Johnson
Sunday, March 30

Join us in Fellowship Hall next 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.

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 Readers

8:45 a.m. Karen Burg
11:00 a.m. Lane Holloway

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace
11:00 a.m. Keith Oelke (head),
Larry Baer, Lisa Oelke

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Del Dunn by his family.

MARCH FLOWER TEAM

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

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 bockjean@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, March 24

- 10:00 a.m. Lay Caller Meeting, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, March 25

- 10:00 a.m. Called Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery via Zoom
- 12:15 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Athens Area Homelss Shelter Board Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Southern Sustainability Group Study, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, March 26

- 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 27

- 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)
- 7:00 p.m. Athens Flute Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 30 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Farewell Reception for Lucy Bell Johnson, Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Officer Training Workshop 3, Staff Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Volunteering, Athens Diaper Bank
- 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. High School Youth Group Dinner, Off-site

Wednesday@First Spring 2025

If you haven't joined us for LIFT yet this spring, we hope you'll make plans to attend before we break for summer! LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a joyful and formative time for us to study scripture and grow in faith with friends of different ages and stages—all around the dinner table. We'll finish our series on "God and the Israelites" by exploring the Ten Commandments on **Wednesday, April 2**, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We hope you can make it!

Please RSVP for dinner in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst, or by contacting the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338) by Mondays at 12:00 p.m. Price is \$12/person and a \$45/family max (complimentary for children 5 and under).

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 (ijtsanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Joachim Neander, 1680

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665Harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

Desc. Craig Sellar Lang, 1953

Descant

3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1. Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
 reign - eth, Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so
 dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, Now to His
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

tem - ple draw near; Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7. D

Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836

The Sacred Harp, 1844

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der
2. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we
3. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy

care; in thy pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-
be; thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to
will; bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bo-soms

pare: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we
free: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to
fill: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us

are; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
thee; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
still; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed

Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

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RESIGNATION CMD

Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

Para. Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. 1972

C C G C G Am Am G C Am Em F C G C

1. My Shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je-ho-vah is His name:
 2. When I walk through the shades of death Your pres-ence is my stay;
 3. The sure pro-vi-sions of my God At-tend me all my days;

F C G C Em Am F G C F C F C G C

In pas-tures fresh He makes me feed, Be-side the liv-ing stream.
 One word of Your sup-port-ing breath Drives all my fears a-way.
 O may Your House be my a-bode, And all my work be praise.

G C F C Dm G C Am Em F Dm Am

He brings my wan-dering spir-it back, When I for-sake His ways;
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, Does still my ta-ble spread;
 There would I find a set-tled rest, While oth-ers go and come;

F C G C Em Am F G C F C F C G C

And leads me, for His mer-cy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, Your oil a-noints my head.
 No more a strang-er, or a guest, But like a child at home.

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 Cowsert
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*