



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 27, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Seventh 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

Our Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth

Georg Böhm

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

DIX

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!

**Great your wonders here displayed,
unexcelled throughout our days.**

Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Call to Worship

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; God's glory will dwell in our land.

Let us hear what God will speak!

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other; faithfulness will spring up from the ground.

Let us hear what God will speak!

God will speak peace to God's people, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Let us hear what God will speak!

***Hymn 483** *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, minds, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as we have loved ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, to the glory of your holy name.

*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).

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above contains regal, divine imagery. The third stanza includes imagery of God as mother, as found in Isaiah 66:13. The Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

**Those who are able please 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.

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.

Lay Reader:
Dan Nadenicek

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier



*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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Charlie and Eliza Seabolt, into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

*Question to the Congregation

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Charlie and Eliza, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

*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.**

Hymn 492

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

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

Luke 4:1-2, page 938

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

Anthem

The Lord's Prayer

David M. McKay

Our Father in heaven, holy is your name; your Kingdom come,
your will be done, in earth and heaven the same.

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us for our sin; as we forgive each other for all we've done and been. Keep us from temptation, ever in your care deliver us from evil, every day and everywhere. For yours is the Kingdom on earth and in heaven, the power and the glory, forever.

Second Lesson Luke 11:1-4, page 949
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Teach Us to Pray* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn insert** *Lord's Prayer* ST. ANNE

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 *Our Father in Heaven* Johann Sebastian 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 265** *Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand* WAREHAM

***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.

Postlude *Improvisation on St. Anne* John Coble

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This paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer was written by American church musicians, teacher, and scholar Michael Morgan, who served Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. It is set here to the familiar tune *St. Anne*.



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

The author of *Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand* wrote the hymn to be sung after his New Year's Day sermon on Acts 26:22. The tune is named for the composer's birthplace in Dorset, England.

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*
Mr. Declan Brooks, *Violin*

Lay Reader

Dan Nadenicek

Baptism Elder

Lindsay Griffith

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon (head),
Emily LaBoon, John Simpson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Father Jean Monique Bruno on his 80th birthday by members and former members of the Bethlehem Ministry Board to recognize his lifetime of service to the people of Haiti.

JULY FLOWER TEAM

Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Rebekah Seabolt,
Ethelyn Simpson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

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.

Food Sunday, August 3

You may bring donations of **saltine crackers, kid friendly snack food, and white rice (1 or 2 lb bags)** to church on **Sunday, August 3**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, August 1**. Our neighbors in need are very grateful for your donations! Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

New Member FirstThings Class

Join us for our next FirstThings gathering on **Sunday, August 10** from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This will be a time to get better acquainted, to meet the church staff, and to talk about what makes First Presbyterian Church unique. To RSVP, please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Joli Winstanley at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org by **Tuesday, August 5**.

The schedule for the upcoming class is:

Sunday, August 10, 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Moses Waddel Room
“First Things” Informational class, *lunch provided*

Sunday, August 17, 9:00 a.m. – Church Parlor

New Member Coffee/Called Session Meeting to meet and be received into membership by Session (our governing board).

Sunday, August 17, 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

New members will be introduced to the congregation.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 27

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

Monday, July 28

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, July 29

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, July 30

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp

Thursday, July 31

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp
- 5:00 p.m. Kate's Club Thursday Family Night, The PIT and Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, August 3 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching

FPC Women's Retreat

Plans are coming together for the 2025 FPC Women's Retreat this September 12-14 at Lake Cherokee, SC. Join us for a weekend of rest, study, reflection, and fellowship! Cost is \$100 per person and space is limited!

Email Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) to reserve your spot or if you have any questions.

Summer Fellowship Outings

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

Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. Trivia at Mellow Mushroom (320 E. Clayton St)

Bring your knowledge and competitive spirit for team trivia!

Our Daily Bread Volunteers Needed

Volunteers from FPC provide and serve meals to our neighbors in need monthly at First Baptist Church: lunch on the first Wednesday, and breakfast on the second and fourth Tuesdays. For details and to help, please contact Joan Pinson at joanpinson@aol.com to help with breakfast or Leslie Desimone at ldesimon@uga.edu to help with lunch.

483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675

Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

*
1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -
4. Thus all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of
keep - eth; By morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade God's watch - ful
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and
prais - es That all may hear the grate-ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal-ing balm my soul is filled, And
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king-dom of God's might, Lo!
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth-er's ten - der hand, God
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith-less mur-mur stilled:
all is just and all is right:
gent-ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!
soul and bod - y take your part:

*May be sung in unison.

Lord's Prayer

ST. ANNE CM

Para. Michael Morgan

Attr. William Croft, 1708

1. Our Fa-ther, God in high-est heav'n, most ho-ly is your name. Your
 2. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, for-give as we for-give. Spare
 3. For ev-'ry realm of age and space con-tends to be your home; all

king-dom come, your will be done on earth, in heav'n, the same.
 us the test; from death and sin en-a-ble us to live.
 glo-ry, laud, and pow'r are yours now and all time to come.

Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand 265

WAREHAM LM

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Orton's *Hymns Founded on Various Texts*, 1755; alt.

William Knapp, 1738

1. Great God, we sing that might - y hand By which sup -
 2. With grate - ful hearts the past we own; The fu - ture,
 3. In scenes ex - alt - ed or de - pressed, You are our

port - ed still we stand; The o - pening year Your
 all to us un - known, We to Your guard - ian
 joy, and You our rest; Your good - ness all our

mer - cy shows; That mer - cy crowns it till it close.
 care com - mit, And peace - ful leave be - fore Your feet.
 hopes shall raise, A - dored through all our chang - ing days.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session
Whitney Booth Lockard, Associate Pastor

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 Cowsert
Matt Crim
Jay Holloway
Tom Lane
Joan Pinson
Paige Simmons

CLASS OF 2028

Steven Brooks
Courtney Dantzler
Shannon Ferguson
Edward W. (Ned) Phares
Holly Sheats
Lawton Stephens
Madeline Van Dyck
John Webster

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)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Office Administrator* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *Administrative & Communications Assistant* (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*