



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!

August 10, 2025
10:00 a.m.

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

Slane

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

O QUANTA QUALIA

**Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.**

Call to Worship

The Mighty One has delivered our souls from death.

In God our hearts are glad!

The Mighty One has fashioned all our hearts.

In God our hearts are glad!

The Mighty One is our help and shield.

In God our hearts are glad!

Let us worship the one in whom we trust.

Let us worship the one in whom we hope!

*Hymn 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of fire and wind, holy and powerful, mighty and mysterious, we are drawn by your Spirit to this place. As we gather and behold your glory, we become aware of our sin. We confess that we have ignored your word. We have rejected your gifts. We have failed in your work. Ignoring the truth of Pentecost, we exclude those different from us. We divide our loyalties, and we divide our hearts. Let your Spirit burn away our sins and fill us with faith and courage, so that we might live into the promise of this day and receive the fullness of all that you have prepared for us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

O Day of Radiant Gladness is a text in which the first day of the week represents a three-fold commemoration of Creation, Resurrection, and Pentecost, with Trinitarian emphasis. The tune was adapted from a German song.

**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:
Karen Burg

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*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 Madeline Jane Marsh 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 Madeline, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her 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

Philippians 2:9-11, page 1071

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

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art. (*cont.*)

Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Second Lesson Exodus 20:1-2, 7-10, page 65
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Ten Best Ways* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 306** *Fairest Lord Jesus* CRUSADERS' HYMN

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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* Charles Ore

***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 423** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** *Amen* Marty Haugen



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

***Postlude** *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* att. J.S. Bach

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

Franz Liszt used the tune of *Fairest Lord Jesus* for a “Crusaders’ March” in an oratorio, but the hymn has nothing to do with the Crusades. The original German text first appeared in the 17th century and was translated in the 19th century.



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.

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun is an example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72, by turning messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune is named for the address of the composer.

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

Karen Burg

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon (head),

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and In memory of Annie D. Lawson, Preston E. Terrell and Nancy Pittman by Beverly and Ned Phares.

AUGUST FLOWER TEAM

Karen Gilmore, Karen Cobb, Rosemary Stancil, Susan Baldwin, Lucy Bell

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.

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.

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 17**, 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.

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 10

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. New Member First Things Class, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, August 11

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting (Hybrid), Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, August 12

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

Wednesday, August 13

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp

Thursday, August 14

- 5:30 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Saturday, August 16

- 9:00 a.m. GILP Green Team Summit Circle, Oconee St. United Methodist Church

Sunday, August 17 - Fall Kickoff Potluck, New Member Introduction

- 9:00 a.m. New Member Coffee/Called Session Meeting, Parlor
- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fall Kickoff Potluck, Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Expo, Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Save These Dates!

Sunday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m.: Fall Kickoff Potluck (following our last 10:00 a.m. service of the summer) in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide fried chicken and beverages. Please bring a side dish to share (crockpots welcome) and join us for a time of fellowship as we begin a new season together and welcome our new members! Sunday School classes, Children and Youth Ministries, and Presbyterian Women Circles will be in the Atrium providing information about their Fall plans.

Potluck instructions: in hopes of covering our tables with a nice variety of dishes, we ask that you bring something in the category that corresponds with the first letter of your last name:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| A-G: starchy sides (pasta, potatoes, etc...) | N-R: salad |
| H-M: vegetable sides | S-Z: desserts |

Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m., Room 202: Chancel Choir Rehearsal begins. The Chancel Choir sings in worship services and special services, including Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday, and occasionally presents major choral works with orchestra. Contact Dr. John Coble (jcoble@firstpresathens.org) for more information and to join.

Sunday, August 24, 9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School for all ages resumes! Children's Choir Rehearsals begin in the afternoon.

- **Children's Ministry Parents Meeting (12:05 p.m. in the Children's Ministry Suite):** Children and their families are invited to meet after worship to enjoy a treat and get some information for the upcoming year.

- **Youth Kickoff with Parents (5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall):** Youth and their parents are invited to gather and learn about plans for the year, and enjoy a meal together.

Sunday, September 7 (5:30-7:00 p.m.): First Youth Group of the School Year

Donations for the Church History Display

The Education Commission is creating a permanent church history display in our library. It will include framed historical photos and artifacts from our church's 200+ year history. We are collecting donations of the following items during the month of August in the office:

- black or dark brown picture frames in great condition (wall or tabletop, with or without mats) for photos sized 3x5, 4x6, 5x7, 8x10, 11x14, 16x20, 20x24 in.
- a picture of our youth group before the 1990s
- a picture of a baptism or wedding in our sanctuary from long ago
- Vintage Presbyterian pins
- Christening gown from decades past
- Church gloves, hat, or other accessory that would have been worn to church in decades past

Questions? Email Karen Phillips at shutterstitch@gmail.com.

Second Quarter Finance Update

Dear Friends,

Please see below an update from the Administration Commission of the Session about the second quarter finance numbers:

- At the annual congregational meeting on February 2, the session presented a 2025 operating budget that projected a year-end deficit. However, we noted that if 200 households would give an additional \$20 per week to the general fund, the deficit would be eliminated.
- We are delighted to report that by the end of June, 113 households have answered that call, giving more than they did during the same period a year ago. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! You are demonstrating that stewardship is an act of joyful worship! As of June 30, budgeted operating income was \$633,117, while actual income was \$685,203. Budgeted operating expenses were \$790,465, while actual operating expenses were \$693,274.
- The large variance between budgeted and actual expenses was driven primarily by two factors. When the former Church Administrator retired in March, rather than replacing the position (and its salary and benefits), we promoted from within and reshuffled responsibilities among staff and volunteers. While second quarter benevolences have been paid in full, those expenses were not booked until after quarter ended on June 30.
- In August, work will begin to replace the roof on the sanctuary, with the intent for project work to be completed in time for the beginning of the Weekday School term. The present sanctuary roof is more than 70 years old, and while it has been patched and sealed many times over the years, it needs full replacement. The total cost of the roof project will be just under \$200,000.
- The session has set aside funds from endowment earnings, an undesignated estate gift, and lead gifts from a handful of households. While funds are still being tallied, it's possible that there may be a small gap between what the session was able to earmark from those sources and the final total cost. If you would like to contribute a special gift to help close any potential gap with the roof project, please contact Administration Commission Chair Jeffrey Trapnell (jeffrey.trapnell@gmail.com) or Treasurer Michelle Clendenen-Shaw (michelle.shaw@usan.com). We give thanks to our own Smith Wilson for his guidance and leadership on this project!
- We give thanks for those households who give over and above their gifts to the operating budget to help eliminate our construction debt. As of June 30, the outstanding loan balance was \$636,689, down from \$725,482 on January 1. As of this month, we have now paid off over 90% of the original \$6.4M note!
- Historically, the summer months have been seasons of slightly lower income and slightly higher costs. We are most grateful for those households who have been able to "smooth" their giving over the course of the year, rather than giving one lump sum, as this helps the church meet our monthly expenses and keep our quarterly commitments to our mission partners without challenging cash flow.

Thank you so much your faithful financial support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church! For more information or with questions, please contact Administration Commission Chair Jeffrey Trapnell (jeffrey.trapnell@gmail.com) or Treasurer Michelle Clendenen-Shaw (michelle.shaw@usan.com).

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D

Stanzas 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; alt.

Stanza 3, Charles P. Price, 1980

Stanza 4, *The Hymnal* 1982

Memmingen ms., 17th century

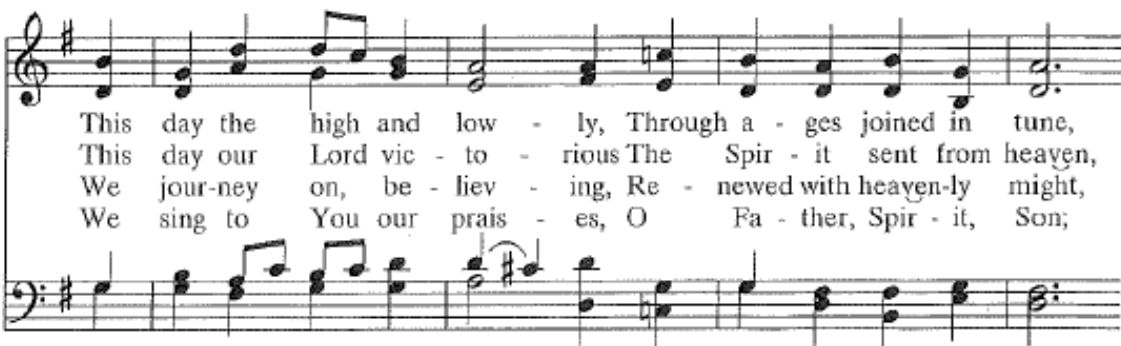
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904



1. O day of ra-diant glad-ness, O day of joy and light,
 2. This day at the cre-a-tion The light first had its birth;
 3. This day God's peo-ple, meet-ing, The Ho-ly Scrip-ture hear;
 4. That light our hope sus-tain-ing, We walk the pil-grim way,



O balm of care and sad-ness, Most beau-ti-ful, most bright;
 This day for our sal-va-tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 Christ's liv-ing pres-ence greet-ing, Through bread and wine made near.
 At length our rest at-tain-ing, Our end-less Sab-bath day.



This day the high and low-ly, Through a-ges joined in tune,
 This day our Lord vic-to-rious The Spir-it sent from heaven,
 We jour-ney on, be-liev-ing, Re-newed with heav-en-ly might,
 We sing to You our prais-es, O Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son;



Sing "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" To the great God tri-une.
 And thus this day most glo-rious A tri-ple light was given.
 From grace more grace re-ceiv-ing On this blest day of light.
 The church its voice up-raises To You, blest Three in One.

Fairest Lord Jesus

306

CRUSADERS' HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Trans. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

In Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heav - en can boast.

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET LM

John Hatton (d. 1793)

Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1959

Descant

5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -

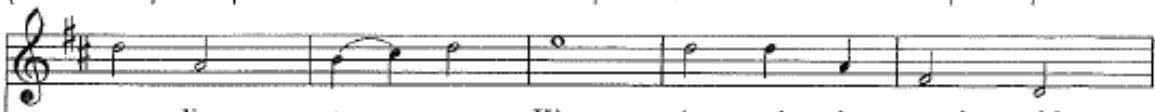


1. Je - sus shall reign where - e'er the sun Does its suc -

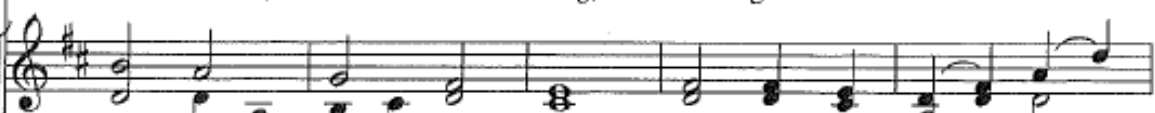
2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es

3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on His

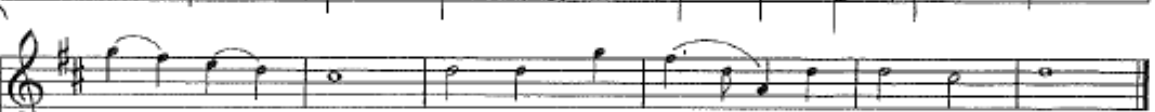
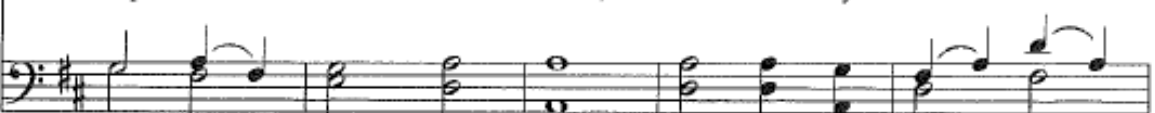
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; The pris - oners



cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



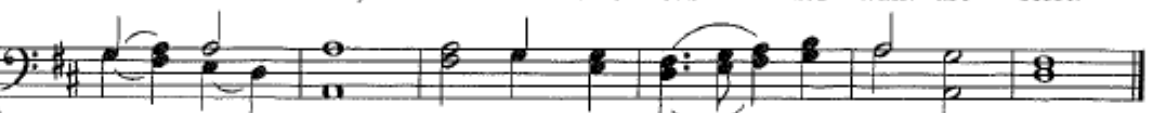
ces - sive jour - neys run, His king - dom stretch from
throng to crown His head; His name, like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, The wea - ry find e -



songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud A - men!



shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume, shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.



5. Let every creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;

Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

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*