



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 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Tenth 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

Resignation

Dale Wood

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Bible Basics & Del Dunn

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

In a world where lies surround us,
your word is like fire, O God!
In a world full of false prophets and empty promises,
your word is like fire, O God!
In a world where words lose meaning,
your word is like fire, O God!
We are here, ready for our faith to be kindled by your Word.
We are here to worship the Living God!

*Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

*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).

The Education & Discipleship Commission invites you to get connected with one of our wonderful Sunday School classes this fall. Representatives will be sharing about these and other faith formation opportunities for all ages over the next few weeks. Today we welcome Elaine Johnson and Mike Morris.

For the Beauty of the Earth, originally a eucharistic hymn, has undergone many revisions to become a hymn of thanksgiving for many human experiences. It is set to a tune that is customary in North America, but not elsewhere.

**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.

*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.

Introduction of New Members

Lindsay Badeaux
Kari & Matt Bahr
Carole & Jim Chalmers
Leslie & Jared Dobbs
Cynthia Estill
Judy & Jim Gillcrist
Gus Gunter
Kate Johnson

Adriane Lockwood
Danielle McArdle
Carol Penney
Nichole & Gabe Richard
Audrey & Wells Scott
Dot Smith
Rick Smith
Jenny & Geoff Walsh

Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Kari Bahr and Gus Gunter into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Kari and Gus, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ? **We will.**

Will we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, encourage these friends to know and follow Christ and be faithful members of his church? 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.**

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 22:47-51, page 963

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

Anthem *Lead me, Lord* Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Second Lesson Exodus 20:1-2, 12-13, 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 261** *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*
O QUANTA QUALIA

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 *These Are the Holy Ten Commandments*
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 172** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

*Charge and Benediction

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

*Postlude *Festival Voluntary* Flor Peeters

Lay Reader:
Jean Martin-Williams

The anthem is a setting of Psalm 5:8 and 4:9m set to music by English composer Samuel Sebastian Wesley, grandson of Charles Wesley.

*God of Compassion, in
Mery Befriend Us* conveys
a strong sense of faith
in God's presence
and guidance without
ignoring how much the
future remains
unknown. The
confident text is
matched by its
17th-century French
tune.



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.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need is a beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Isaac Watts with an inspired conclusion not found in the psalm itself: “no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.” The famous tune is from the 1835 *Southern Harmony*, a collection of tunes from the southern Appalachian mountains.

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

Jean Martin-Williams

USHERS

John Simpson (head),
Jimbo LaBoon, Larry Baer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Harold Short by Jackie Williams and Sally and Bill Short.

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.

Join us today after the service at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the Fall Kickoff Potluck.

The church will provide fried chicken and beverages. Join us for a time of fellowship as we begin a new season together and welcome our new members! The Faith Formation Expo will be in the Atrium offering information about fall plans for Sunday School, Presbyterian Women, Youth and Children's Ministries, and more!

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.

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.

THIS WEEK

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. Faith Formation Expo, Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, August 18

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Teacher Pre-Planning
- 11:15 a.m. Weekday School Children's Visit
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. NAMI Meeting, Room 308

Tuesday, August 19

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Teacher Pre-Planning
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Weekday School Parents Only Meeting, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Minister Meeting, Off-Site

Wednesday, August 20

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School First Day of Class
- 5:30 p.m. FarmRX Cooking Classes, Fellowship Hall, Break Out Area
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, August 21

- 5:30 p.m. FarmRX Cooking Classes, Fellowship Hall, Break Out Area
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, August 24

- 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, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Parents Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 4:15 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:15 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Kickoff with Parents, Fellowship Hall

Save These Dates!

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

473

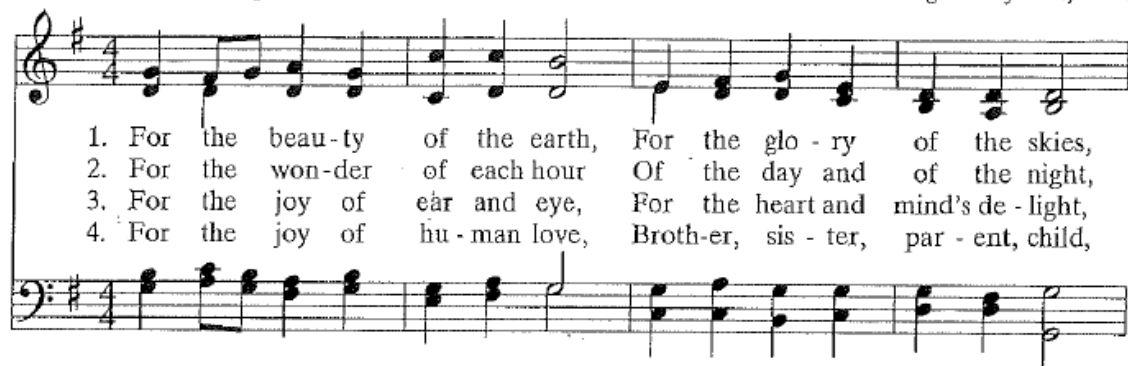
DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Conrad Kocher, 1838

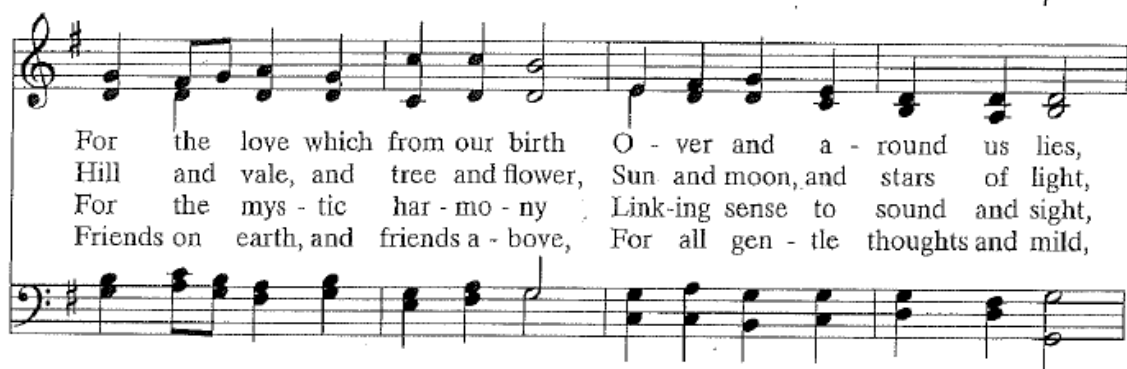
Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

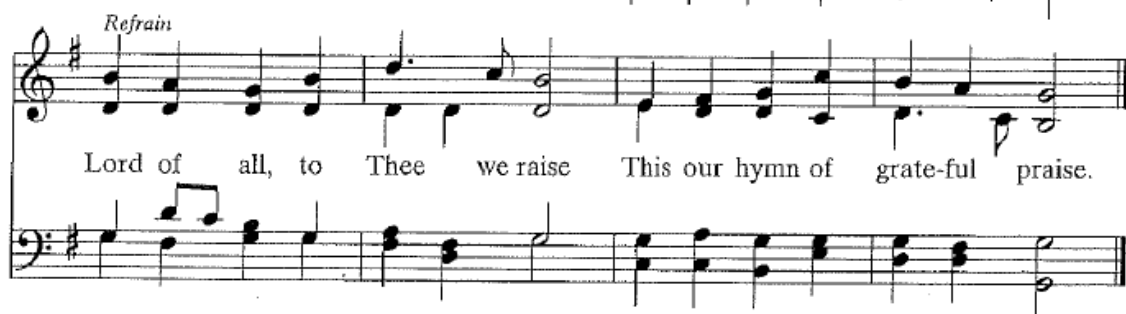


1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
 2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore
 Lifteth holy hands above,
 Offering up on every shore

Her pure sacrifice of love,
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise
 This our hymn of grateful praise.

Baptized in Water
BUNESSAN

Michael A. Seward, 1981

Gaelic melody
arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the

blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the

pro - mise, faith-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.

The musical score is written on three staves in 9/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the pro - mise, faith-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.'

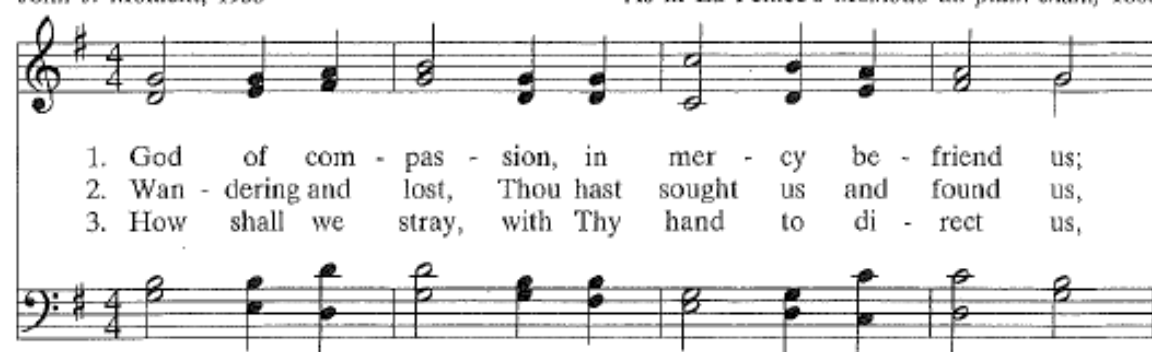
God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us 261

O QUANTA QUALIA 11.11.11.11

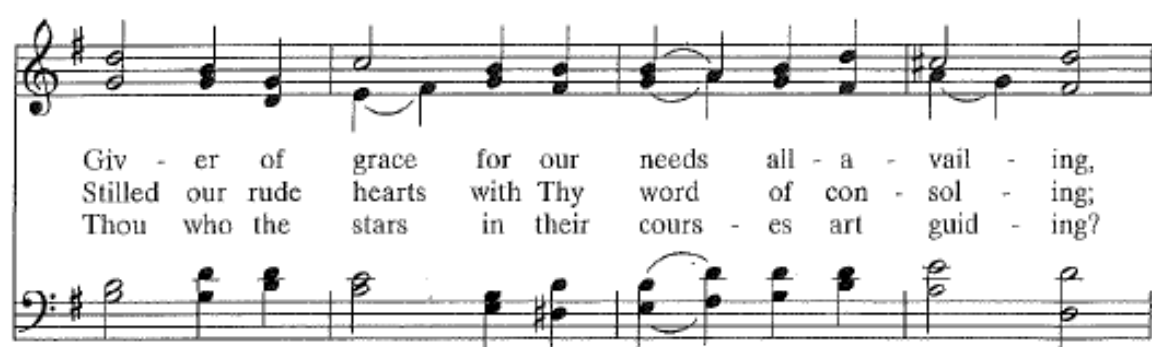
Paris Antiphoner, 1681

John J. Moment, 1933

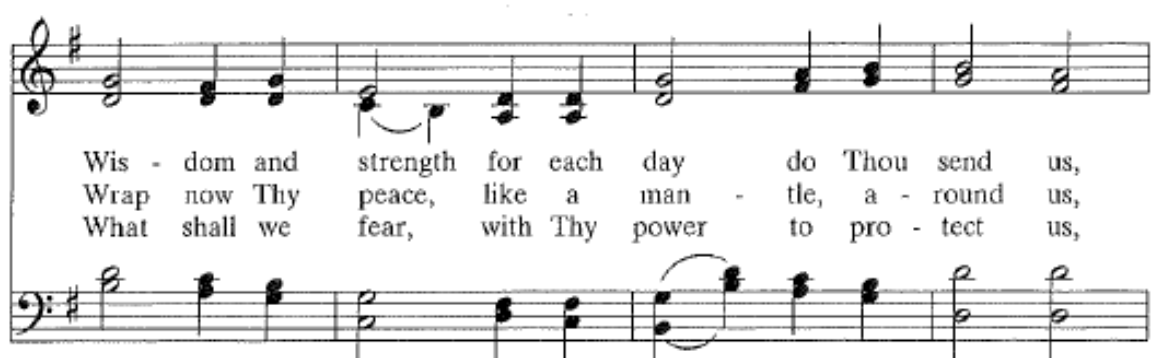
As in La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808



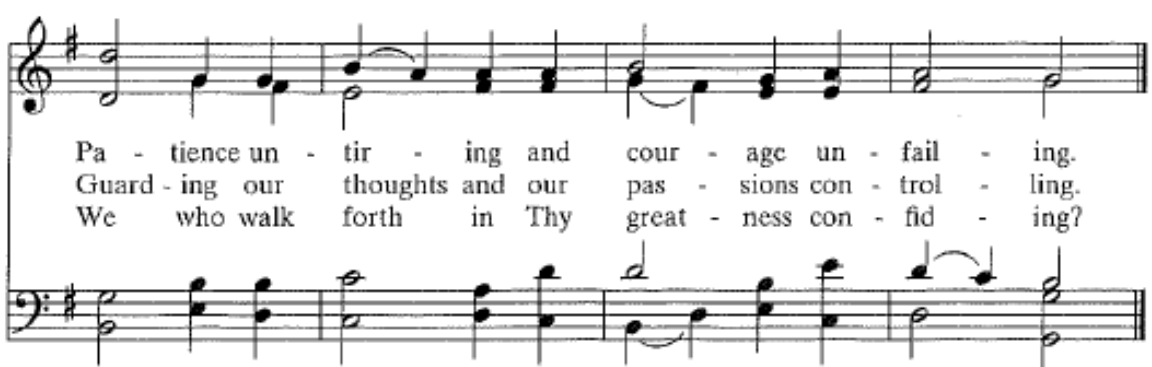
1. God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us;
2. Wan - dering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
3. How shall we stray, with Thy hand to di - rect us,



Giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy word of con - sol - ing;
Thou who the stars in their cours - es art guid - ing?



Wis - dom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Wrap now Thy peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
What shall we fear, with Thy power to pro - tect us,



Pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
Guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
We who walk forth in Thy great - ness con - fid - ing?

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 172

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, 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*