

November 16, 2025
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Generosity Sunday

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.

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

Greeting Psalm 118:24
This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude *Adagio* and *Andante* George Frideric Handel

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
Come out of the darkness, O people of God.
We have come into the light of Jesus.
Whoever follows Jesus,
Will never walk in darkness.

***Hymn 464** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

The author of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,* a prominent Presbyterian pastor, wrote the text while admiring the Berkshire mountains, stating the hymn must be sung to the music of Beethoven's Hymn to Joy. The result is one of the most popular of American hymns.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Holy God, you have created us in your image, protected and nourished us, and called us into your work of justice. Yet while we profess these truths, we forget who we are and whose we are. We put our trust in ourselves, in material goods, and in worldly powers instead of trusting you. We prioritize our comfort over our neighbor's needs. Call us back to you, God. Forgive us our failings, and direct us back onto the path you would have us tread.

***Silent Prayer**
Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

**Those who are able please stand.*

***Congregational Response** Jaques Berthier



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."

***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.

After the Sacrament of Baptism at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite on the first floor.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Mary Brantley Scott 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 Brantley, 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

Congregational 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.

Lay Reader: 11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

First Lesson Micah 6:6-8, page 850

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

The anthem is Vaughn Williams' setting of a paraphrase of Psalm 100, written by a Scot. The anthem was composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

11:00 a.m. Anthem *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune*
Ralph Vaughan Williams

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell, come ye before him, and rejoice.
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
O enter then his gate with praise, approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.
For why? the Lord our God is good: his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure. ***(cont.)***

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Second Lesson Matthew 6:19-21 page 884
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Generosity: Rebalancing for the Glory of God* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 428** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* SCHUMANN

***Dedication of 2026 Estimates of Giving**

***8:45 a.m. The Apostle's Creed** Hymnal page 14

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 *Improvisation on Old Hundredth*

***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 339** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** SINE NOMINE
Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude *Toccata in Seven* John Rutter

Each successive stanza of *We Give Thee but Thine Own* expands the implication of the first. More than a concern with money, stewardship shapes our relationship with God and with other people.

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.*

Be Thou My Vision is a poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer date from at least the 10th century. The Irish tune has remained popular despite its lack or repetition and its wide range.

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

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:30 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 Sacrament of Baptism. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children's Ministry Suite.

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*

Baptism Elder
Paige Simmons

Lay Reader
11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS
8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Carl Bergmann

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon (head), Emily LaBoon
Larry Baer

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN
Bryan Owens

FLOWERS
The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Elmer Pittman and Nancy Pittman by Beverly and Ned Phares.

NOVEMBER FLOWER TEAM
Susan Ferguson (chair), Shannon Ferguson, Susan Barrett, Amy Cowsert, Jennifer Trapnell

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, 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.

Generosity Sunday
Today

Generosity Sunday - *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it -- the world, and all who live in it.* Psalm 24:1

Stewardship is an act of joyful worship." This has been the theme of our ongoing conversation about the faithful and financial practice of stewardship in support of our mission at First Presbyterian Church of Athens. Psalm 24 is clear in its declaration that all that we have is indeed a gift from God; the parable of the talents in the 25th chapter of Matthew tells us that we are to use those gifts to advance the kingdom on earth. The worship is in the giving, not the gift. Today, we will present our estimates of giving as an act of faith and finance. We commit to making monetary gifts and we commit our lives as living gifts to God. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity as an act of worship to support the life and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Thanksgiving Potluck - Join us today after the 11:00 a.m. service to celebrate God's generosity with an all-church potluck in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide baked ham and beverages and side dishes are provided by our members.

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday - If you were unable to make it to the store to fill a food bag but still want to feed a family for Thanksgiving, you can leave a check for $50 to the church in the collection plate with a note that it is for the Thanksgiving food bag drive. Alternatively, you may donate at firstpresathens.org/giving (please select General Fund and add "Thanksgiving bags" in the memo box).

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 16 - Generosity 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. Church Wide Potluck, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, November 17
8:30 a.m. Men's Small Group, Tinsley Stern Library
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room
5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, November 18
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Wednesday, November 19
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 20
9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
2:00 p.m. Mellows, at Highland Hills
4:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Resource Pantry, The PIT
5:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Sanctuary & Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, November 23 - Thornwell Offering
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Thornwell Offering
November 23

Your gift will help prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Begun as an orphanage in Clinton, SC, Thornwell now has multi-faceted programs to help children including foster care, residential care, family services, and child development services. Please make your check to FPC with "Thornwell" noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/give (please select "Thornwell" under "Select a Fund"). Thanks to the generosity of a friend of Thornwell, this year, whatever is given to Thornwell will be matched dollar for dollar! Please give generously!

Live Nativity
Tuesday, December 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join Weekday School families and friends for our 14th Annual Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m. this **Tuesday, December 9**. We will be in the Dougherty Street parking deck. Guitarist Bob Burton, FPC Handbell Choir, and special guests will provide live music. WDS teachers will be in the rooms to help children and parents make a Christmas ornament to take home! Hot cocoa will be available for all to enjoy! Come celebrate the birth of our savior and experience the hands on story of the Christ Child! Anyone interested in participating as a character (no lines) or in set-up or clean-up, please contact Elaine Johnson at (706) 206-8180.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

31st Holiday Benevolence Market
December 7, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

This year, First Presbyterian Church of Athens is hosting the Holiday Benevolence Market, where you can choose meaningful and symbolic gifts on the shopping lists of several non-profit mission partners. This market is specifically designed to share the vision and work of the incredible non-profit organizations all over Athens doing amazing work. It is also designed for teaching our children and grandchildren about how simple acts of generosity can make such a great impact and how we are blessed to be a blessing. More information about the organizations participating and the shopping lists will be published as we approach December 7.

Holidays@First - Outreach and Volunteering Opportunities

Parade of Lights Hospitality – We will provide hospitality for participants in the Downtown Athens Parade of Lights on **Thursday, December 4**. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard at whitney@firstpresathens.org.

Holiday Meals on Wheels – We still have a few volunteer delivery driver spots open for Thanksgiving. If you are interested in delivering meals, please contact John Turner at johnlovickturner@yahoo.com. We will also be looking for volunteer delivery drivers for Christmas and New Year's Day. Alternatively, you can help cover the cost of one or more meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day by making a financial contribution* **by December 31**.

Salvation Army Angel Tree – Please consider purchasing Christmas gifts for one or more of the Salvation Army "angels" (infants –12-year-old children) posted in Fellowship Hall. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel." Please bring your gifts to church by **Sunday, December 7**, or to the church office by **Friday, December 5**.

* *For financial contributions make your check to First Presbyterian Church and note cause in memo line, or give online at FirstPresAthens.org/giving and select appropriate fund in drop-down menu.*

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Hannah Knight
Interns: Morgan Cassidy, Devon Smith
Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

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, Busy Bags, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

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.

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.

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For any questions, please contact Hannah at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

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Children and Youth Ministries - Sunday School
Godly Play (4 years-2nd grade)
Explorers (3rd-5th grade)
Youth (6th-12th grade)

Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Ministry Suite each Sunday starting at 9:45am. Our younger kiddos will be participating in **Godly Play**- an interactive, hands-on, reflective method of learning about God by modeling Bible stories and responding. Our **Explorers Class** is for our 3rd-5th graders and is new this year! This group will spend time learning more about Bible basics and hear the stories of God's people, following the Narrative Lectionary text.

Youth Sunday School meets in the PIT and kicks off each Sunday with donuts & fellowship at 9:45am! We use the Living the Word curriculum from Spirit & Truth Publishing- it directly follows the Narrative Lectionary Text each week. There is time for games, intentional discussion, and hearing the sacred stories of old!

Youth Group (5:30-7:00 p.m.)
Sunday night youth group is a safe space for youth to come as they are! We will split into middle and high school groups, eat a yummy meal, and finish the evening as a large group. There will be games, Bible study, creative response time, and lots of laughs as we spend intentional time together. The theme for this year is "Back to Basics"- we will spend time learning more about key Biblical figures, hearing the stories of old, and diving deeper into prayer. As Jesus reminds us- He is the vine and we are the branches (John 15)! There is value in abiding in the One who knows and loves us fully. Come join us- all are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45-10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Bible Basics • Moses Waddel Room
Bible Basics is an intergenerational class that, as the name suggests, focuses on the Bible. This fall, the class is studying the gospel of Luke. If you interested in grappling with questions about this ancient text, please join us in Moses Waddel Room.
Contacts: David Dantzler (jdaviddantzler@gmail.com) and Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org)

Builders • Room 301
This class is a space for anyone navigating the complexities of family life, relationships with children and youth, or careers. Our time together will offer a blend of fellowship, mutual 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. We'll begin this year with "Good & Evil." This eight-lesson study guide explores challenges to our faith journey and suggests O.T and N.T. passages to help us deal with them.
Coordinator: Jerry Rogers (jrogerswtw@aol.com)
Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

New Voices • Room 310
The New Voices class is a discussion based class. Our goal is to create joy through art, food, music, prayer, scripture, class led discussion, community and inclusion. We're starting with Karen Armstrong's book, "St. Paul, The Misunderstood Apostle." Themes for this study: The reality of sin, The love of God, Effective grace, Salvation, Prayers in real life.
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)
Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796–1867); alt.



Baptized in Water

492

BUNESSAN 5.5.8.5.5.9

Michael A. Saward, 1981

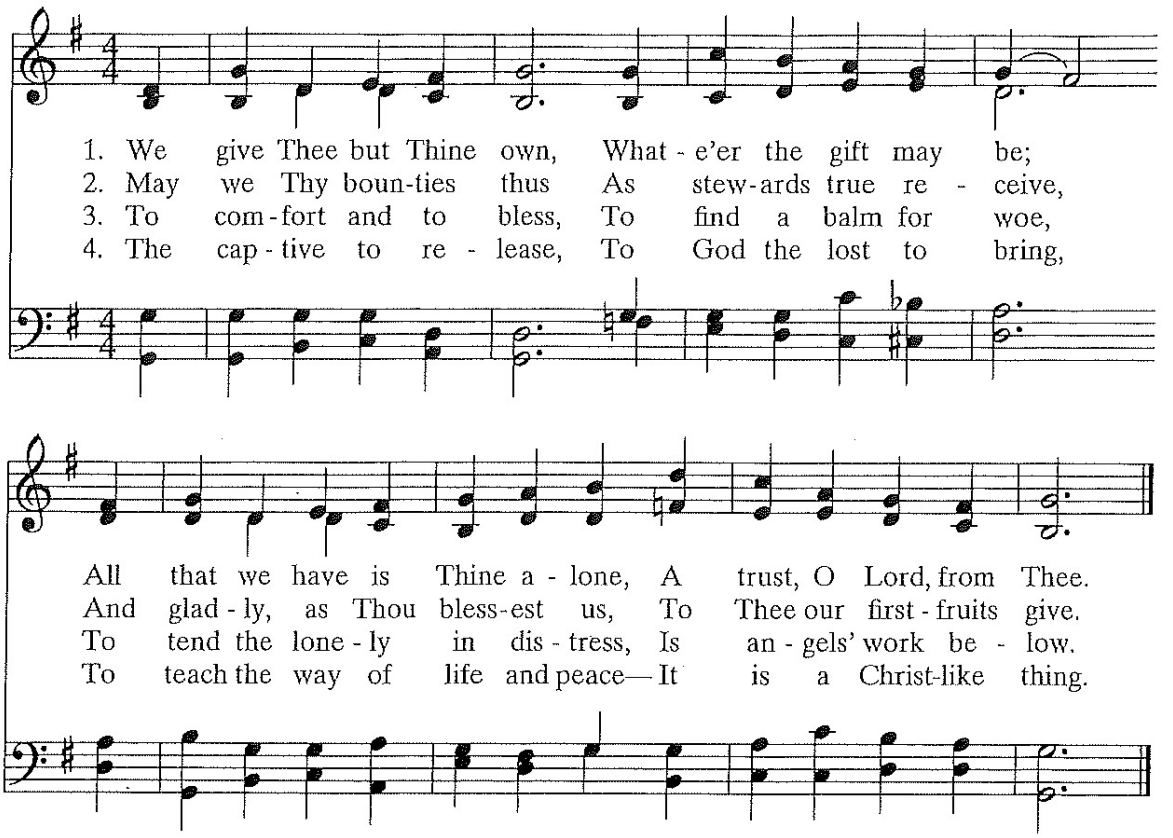
Gaelic melody
Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985



We Give Thee but Thine Own 428

SCHUMANN SM

William Walsham How, c. 1858 — Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis,* 1850



5. And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

339 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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

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

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Lindsay Griffeth	Susan Baldwin	Steven Brooks
Dan Nadenicek	Bill Bushnell	Courtney Dantzler
Karen Phillips	Amy Cowsert	Shannon Ferguson
Ethelyn Simpson	Matt Crim	Edward W. (Ned) Phares
Jeffrey Trapnell	Jay Holloway	Holly Sheats
Pat Tritt	Tom Lane	Lawton Stephens
John Turner	Joan Pinson	Madeline Van Dyck
Pat Waldrip	Paige Simmons	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. Deanna Rollins, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant (wds@firstpresathens.org)*
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Ms. 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*
Ms. Morgan Cassidy, *Children and Youth Ministries Intern*
Mr. Devon Smith, *Children and Youth Ministries Intern*