



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!

June 21, 2026
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

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Psalm 118:24

Prelude

Thaxted

Eric H. Thiman

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Vacation Bible School

Song of Gathering

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator’s praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn 229, stanza 1

Call to Worship
God calls us to be partners in loving the world:
supporting each other in justice and righteousness,
broadening the scope of mercy,
investing ourselves in blessing others.
God calls us to be partners in loving the world
so we come to tune our hearts to grace.

***Hymn 276**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
God of justice and mercy, you hear the cries of suffering, the pleas for help, and you come down to see. We confess that we hear the cries and the pleas and we often turn away. Forgive us, holy God, for cynicism that locks us into arrogance. Forgive us, holy God, for refusing to recognize your image in the faces of our enemies. Forgive us, holy God, for caring only for “us” while you insist there is no “them.” Stretch our mercy to align with yours and set us as a blessing to your world.

***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).

The Moment for Mission will be given by Hannah Knight

Great Is Thy Faithfulness is a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23 by a Methodist writer and pastor. The tune was composed especially for this text in 1923 and the pair has proved enduring.

**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.

Lay Reader: Carol McKay

The anthem text is from parts of Psalms 4 and 5, set to music by English organist and composer Samuel Sebastian Wesley, grandson of Charles Wesley.

O God, Show Mercy to Us is a paraphrase of Psalm 67 which combines themes of communal prayer for blessing, a prayer for all people to acknowledge God, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. It is set to a tune by Gustav Holst, based on his theme from Jupiter in his orchestral work The Planets.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

David Ogden



*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

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 Psalm 85, page 532

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 Genesis 18:16–33, page 14

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

Sermon

Disputing with God: Advocating for Others

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

O God, Show Mercy to Us

THAXTED

*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.**

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 *I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ* 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** AR HYD Y NOS
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Postlude *Toccata on Thaxted* David Cherwien

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Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand was written by English nonconformist minister and hymn writer Philip Doddridge for a sermon based on Acts 26:22. The tune is named after 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.

Come to the Party: God’s Love For Us is a Reason to Celebrate!

Save the date for our intergenerational VBS! All ages are welcome - there will be activities for kids, youth, and adults! Dates are **July 12-15, 5:00-7:30 p.m.** Dinner is provided. The cost is \$30 per person to help provide materials and resources for our mission projects throughout the week. Payment can be made via our website (firstpresathens.org/giving, please select “VBS Fund” under “select a fund”) or mailed to the church office. You are invited to come join the party - all are welcome!

Please register at tinyurl.com/vbsparty2026. Questions? Contact Hannah Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

Carol McKay

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon, John Simpson, Mary Peace

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Frank and Sue Parker, by Mary Peace.

JUNE FLOWER TEAM

Tootsie Adams, Susan Banister,
Lucy Bell Johnson, Page Pate

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.

FPC History Book Club

Led by Ron Bogue, Richard Lane, and Smith Wilson

June 21, from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Friends of all ages and stages are invited to join us for our special summer Sunday School class focusing on the history of our First Presbyterian Church of Athens congregation and building following the 10:00 service:

June 21 - For our third session, we'll be back in Moses Waddel Room to answer any burning questions and to draw some connections between the saints of our congregation and those we remember as we prepare to commemorate USA's 250th year. Bring your queries and wonderings from your own reading of the FPC History Book!

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. Beginning Sunday, **May 24 through August 16**, 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 21 - Father's Day

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 11:15 a.m. FPC History Book Club Sunday School, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, June 22

- 10:00 a.m. Lay Caller Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, June 23

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

Wednesday, June 24

- 9:00 a.m. WDS Wonderful Wednesday, WDS
- 6:00 p.m. Summer Fellowship: Scotland vs. Brazil World Cup, Paloma Park

Thursday, June 25

- 4:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Resource Pantry

Saturday, June 27

- 9:00 a.m. Summer Fellowship: Kayaking on the Broad River

Sunday, June 28

- 8:00 a.m. Montreat Worship and Music Conference
- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching

Summer Fellowship Outings

Summer is here! We hope you'll plan to join us for some (or all!) of these fun fellowship outings. Each of these is open to anyone who would like to attend – all ages and stages of our church family! Please RSVP to Whitney (whitney@firstpresathens.org) so we can keep a headcount and feel free to reach out with questions.

Wednesday, June 24 at 6:00 p.m. Watch a World Cup Match - Scotland vs. Brazil at Paloma Park (235 W. Washington St)

Pick a team and get ready to cheer them on through the World Cup!

Saturday, June 27 at 9:00 a.m. Kayaking on the Broad River

\$35 per person. Please e-mail Whitney to sign up *by June 22*.

World Cup Bracket Challenge, enter online by June 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Join our World Cup Bracket Challenge! The winner gets 2 tickets to a future Wed@First dinner and a World Cup keychain. Sign up through FPC website or visit tinyurl.com/FPCWC2026 (password "WC2026"). Bracket will be ready for selections after the group stage ends on June 27 and locks on Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 p.m., so set your alarms and make sure you are all set!

Wednesday, July 1 at 7:00 p.m. Bingo and Ice Cream at FPC

Come cool off in the Fellowship Hall with some ice cream and friendly competition for fun prizes!

Saturday, July 25 at 6:05 p.m. Gwinnett Stripers v. Iowa Cubs (Triple-A baseball), Coolray Field (Lawrenceville, GA)

\$15 per person. Please e-mail Whitney *by July 20* to claim your spot!

Wednesday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m. Happy Hour at Creature Comforts Brewing Company (271 W. Hancock Ave)

Peruse local vendors at the Athens Farmers' Market and enjoy a beverage and a bite with friends!

Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. Downtown Dinner, Ted's Most Best (254 W. Washington St.)

Bring the whole family and head downtown for food, drink, and fun!

1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

O God, Show Mercy to Us

(Psalm 67)

THAXTED

The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909

Gustav Holst, 1918



1. O God, show mer - cy to us, and bless us with your grace; and
2. For you will judge the peo - ples in truth and righ-teous-ness, and



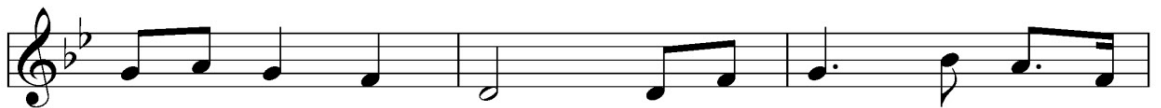
cause to shine up - on us the bright-ness of your face, so that your way most
on the earth all na-tions will your just rule con-fess. Let all the peo-ples



ho - ly on earth may soon beknown, and un - to ev-ery peo - ple your
praise you; let all the na-tions sing. Then earth in rich a - bun-dance to



sav-ing grace be shown. Let all the peo-ples praise you; let
us its fruit will bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our



all the na - tions sing; in ev - ery land let
God will bless - ing send, and all the earth will



prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring.
wor - ship to its re - mot - est end.

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 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

CLASS OF 2029

Meghan Bawcum
Stephen Covington
Andrew Griffeth
Anne Marie Miller
Mike Morris
Leslye Queen
Laura Toney
Gail Wilfong

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. Mikel Williams, *Director of Weekday School* (mikel@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. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotte@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*
Mr. Justin Winstanley, *Sunday Morning Manager*
Ms. Morgan Cassidy, *Children and Youth Ministries Intern*