



# 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 16, 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

Psalm 118:24

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

### Prelude

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Johann Pachelbel

### 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

As one season presses into the next, the lives we lead are ever changing:  
**Yet our God is steadfast, faithful in every season, every generation.**  
When our confidence is shaken or hope is interrupted,  
where will we find help?  
**Our help is in God, whose love is from everlasting to everlasting.  
Praise the Lord!**

### \*Hymn 260

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**Spirit of God, we confess that we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth. We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition, and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and your gift of salvation. Our footsteps do not follow your path of peace. And we are quick to use your Word to attack one another, instead of striking out against the sins we personally commit. Forgive us, Holy God. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to change our ways, so that we may live as your faithful ambassadors of the good news.**

### \*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).*

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God is a paraphrase of Psalm 46 by Martin Luther, who also created the tune. Luther encouraged the use of metrical psalms as well as chanted psalms and newly composed hymns.*

*\*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:  
Danielle McArdle

The anthem is a text by English priest and poet George Herbert, set to music by J. S. Bach, in an arrangement by English organist and composer Sir William Henry Harris.

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* was originally a 12th-century Latin poem. It is an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. This 19th-century translation is set to a tune composed specifically for these words.

## \*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.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### Prayer for Illumination

TALLIS' CANON

**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;  
eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

### First Lesson

Psalms 84, page 531

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

### Anthem *King of Glory, King of Peace*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
arr. William H. Harris

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.  
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.  
Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven. I can raise thee.  
Small it is in this poor sort to enrol thee:  
even eternity's too short to extol thee

### Second Lesson

Ephesians 6:10–24, page 1069

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

### Sermon

*Suit Up*

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

### \*Hymn 310

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

ST. AGNES

### \*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; (cont'd)**

**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.**

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.

**Offertory**      *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*      Johann Sebastian Bach

Hymn 592

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 447**      *Lead On, O King, Eternal*      LANCASHIRE

### \*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** *A Thornbury Fanfare* Malcolm Archer

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



*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](http://firstpresathens.org/giving). Thank you for your generosity.*

*Lead On, O King Eternal*, written for a seminary graduation, seems to begin as a battle hymn and works well with its martial tune. Later stanzas turn from that imagery to focus on “deeds of love and mercy” and courage for life’s journey.

**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.

**Flower Committee Gathering & Workshop**  
**Wednesday, August 19, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Atrium**

Join the Flower Committee for a Gathering & Workshop on **Wednesday, August 19**, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Atrium. We will serve refreshments and enjoy members of our committee demonstrating different floral arranging techniques to sharpen our skills as we create arrangements for worship service.

Please e-mail Lucy Bell at [lucy.steelebell@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.steelebell@gmail.com) if you're able to join us so we can prepare accordingly.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*  
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

### *Lay Reader*

Danielle McArdle

### USHERS

John Simpson, Mary Peace, Larry Baer

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

### AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of all Sunday School classes by Diane and Lewis Hudgins.

### AUGUST FLOWER TEAM

Susan Baldwin, Lucy Bell Johnson, Karen Cobb, Karen Gilmore, Elaine Johnson, Ethelyn Simpson, Rosemary Stancil

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

---

---

## Save These Dates!

### **Sunday, August 23:**

**- 9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School for all ages resumes!**

### **- 12:15 p.m., Youth Parent Meeting in Fellowship Hall & Tubing in Helen**

Youth and their parents are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15pm for a brief meeting to go over important information for the program year. Afterwards, the youth will travel to Helen, GA to go tubing in the Chattahoochee! The cost is \$10 per youth, and you are asked to bring a bag lunch. More information to come in youth ministry communications! Reach out to Hannah Knight ([hannah@firstpresathens.org](mailto:hannah@firstpresathens.org)) for more information or to RSVP.

**Saturday, August 29, 9:00 a.m.:** Habitat for Humanity Build Day. Please contact Whitney Booth Lockard ([whitney@firstpresathens.org](mailto:whitney@firstpresathens.org)) if you are interested in signing up or have any questions.

---

---

## Choir Rehearsals Resume

**Chancel Choir** - Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m., Room 202

**St. Andrews Choir (grades 2-5)** - Sunday, August 30, 4:00 p.m., Room 202

**Youth Choir (grades 6-12)** - Sunday, August 30, 4:45 p.m. Room 202

**Handbell Choir** - Monday, August 24, 5:30 p.m. Room 205

**Cherub Choir** - starting this Fall, Cherub Choir will meet during children's Sunday School

For more information about choirs, contact John Coble ([jcoble@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jcoble@firstpresathens.org)) or Charlotte Chromiak ([charlotte@firstpresathens.org](mailto:charlotte@firstpresathens.org))

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, August 16

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fall Kickoff Potluck, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Godly Play Training, Children's Ministry Suite and Moses Waddel Room
- 12:15 p.m. Generosity Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Weekday School Parents Only Meeting, Sanctuary

### Monday, August 17

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Pre-Planning

### Tuesday, August 18

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School First Day of School
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Stephen Minsters Dinner, Chop House

### Wednesday, August 19

- 2:00 p.m. Flower Committee Gathering and Workshop, Atrium
- 6:30 p.m. Chance Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### Thursday, August 20

- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

### Sunday, August 23

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:15 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 12:15 p.m. Youth Parent Meeting & Tubing in Helen, Fellowship Hall

---

## Volunteers Needed: Children and Youth Ministries

Interested in leading children's Sunday School, helping out at youth group, teaching Godly Play, or working with our awesome children & youth? We need your help! Please reach out to Hannah Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries at [hannah@firstpresathens.org](mailto:hannah@firstpresathens.org) and see the sign-up links below. Thank you for helping our children & youth continue to grow in their faith and connect with their Creator!

Youth: <https://tinyurl.com/youth2627>

Kids: <https://tinyurl.com/children2627>



# 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.*

-----

**For any questions, please contact Hannah Knight  
at [hannah@firstpresathens.org](mailto:hannah@firstpresathens.org).**

-----

**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. 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 "Fruit of the Spirit"— we will spend time learning about all the fruits of the Spirit and how to live them out in our daily lives. Practicing living out the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control help us to be able to live life more abundantly. As Jesus reminds us— He came so that we can have life abundantly! Come join us— all are welcome!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

**Bible Basics** • Moses Waddel Room

*(class will resume on August 30; we will not meet on September 6)*

We are studying 1/2 Samuel in the Fall and 1/2 Kings in the Spring (with a small dose of Chronicles thrown in).  
*Contacts: David Dantzler ([jdaviddantzler@gmail.com](mailto:jdaviddantzler@gmail.com)) and Elaine Johnson ([elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto: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](mailto:ryan@firstpresathens.org)) or Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard ([whitney@firstpresathens.org](mailto:whitney@firstpresathens.org))*

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

**Del Dunn Sunday School Class** • Room 308

We offer an in-depth study of scripture in a collegial environment and welcome all who seek to enrich their understanding of the Bible and its application to our daily lives. Several teachers rotate in leading the class in thought-provoking discussions. Our study for the fall is 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus in the LifeGuide Bible Studies series published by InterVarsity Press.

*Coordinator: Jerry Rogers 706-769-4469 or [jrogersutw@aol.com](mailto:jrogersutw@aol.com).  
Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449*

**New Voices** • Room 310

Our Goal is to Create Joy through Art, Food, Music, Prayer, Scripture, Class Led Discussion, Community, purple open-mindedness and inclusion. The planned program is a discussion of:

– Darkness and light (For there is always light.

If only we are brave enough to see it.

If only we are brave enough to be it.)

– Christian Doctrine by Shirley Guthrie

– Ecclesiastes for You and Me.

“Your mere presence makes me smile. Every time.”

– Hammond

*Contact: Lewis Hudgins ([lewisahudgins@gmail.com](mailto:lewisahudgins@gmail.com))*

Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

**Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class**

Bride's Room, Tinsley-Stern

Rev Will Norman will lead discussion on the New Testament books. When Will is not able to meet with us, we are watching the series of “Great Churches of Christianity”, a wonderful DVD series with Professor William Cook. All are welcome, as are all viewpoints.

*Contact: Ian Hardin ([ianhardin1@gmail.com](mailto:ianhardin1@gmail.com))*

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

## Second Quarter Finance Update

Dear Friends,

As we reach the halfway point of 2026, we wanted to share a ministry and financial update. While the numbers are important, they tell only part of the story. The larger story is the faithfulness of this congregation, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the many ways God continues to work through the ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Athens.

We're grateful for what has been a wonderful summer (so far!) of growing together in God's love through our fellowship, worship, learning, and our service to others. Looking back on the recent months – to our 2nd annual intergenerational VBS, Summer Choir, serving meals at Our Daily Bread, participating in the various summer fellowship gatherings, trips to Montreat conferences, the FPC History Book Club, and so much more – we are reminded of what a gift it is to belong to God and to one another.

Soon, you'll be receiving more information about **Realm**, a new and improved software that will help us not only connect with one another as individuals but also to stay connected with church programs. This will replace the ChurchLife app and will offer much more functionality in terms of registering for events, connecting with different groups within the church, and contacting one another.

Another long awaited improvement to our church systems is an upgraded **campus security system called Centegix** that is now in place for both the church and the Weekday School. Trained FPC and Weekday School staff and volunteers will wear badges that, in case of an emergency, could be activated immediately to alert others and communicate a precise location to local emergency services. We pray fervently that this is a resource we will never need to use and we are grateful to be properly prepared to welcome people into a safe space. If you have questions about Realm or Centegix, please contact our Office Administrator, Paulo Santos, at paulo@firstpresathens.org.

We are especially grateful for our church staff, whose flexibility and servant leadership have allowed us to continue serving the congregation well while also honoring Ryan's terms of call and providing for his **13-week sabbatical**. Sabbaticals are an important investment in pastoral renewal, and we are thankful we can offer that benefit through the generosity of this church.

Through June 30, expenses have remained well controlled, landing approximately **2% above budget**, or about **\$16,000 higher than planned**. This modest variance reflects thoughtful planning and disciplined stewardship, considering we have had higher than expected building repairs with a water leak that impacted the Fellowship Hall and Weekday School earlier in the year and investments in technological and safety infrastructure, and other facility improvements necessary to support our ministries.

At the annual congregational meeting in February, the Session presented a 2026 operating budget that included a seven percent "challenge gap" between projected income and expenses. To balance the 2026 operating budget, we assumed congregational giving (including non-pledged gifts and bequests) would increase by approximately **7% over 2025 levels**, or that operating expenses would decrease by 7%. Through June 30, revenue is approximately **\$68,000 below budget**, resulting in a year-to-date operating deficit of approximately **\$84,000**.

While we take that gap seriously, it is important to remember that historically, annual church giving is rarely linear, with a significant percentage arriving in the later months of the year as expenses roll on more steadily. We are so grateful for those households who have responded by "smoothing" their gifts throughout the year, as this helps the church to meet our monthly expenses and allows our ministry to flourish. As we enter the second half of the year, we encourage every household to confirm that your pledge is current and up to date. Contact Jennifer Adams, Church Accountant, at jadams@firstpresathens.org with questions regarding your pledge or giving records. We also invite you to prayerfully consider whether you may be able to make a gift above and beyond your pledge during the remainder of the year. Every gift supports the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Athens.

We also give thanks for those households who continue to give over and above their gifts to the operating budget to help eliminate our construction debt. As of **June 30, 2026, the remaining balance was approximately \$258,000**. This reflects years of faithful stewardship and generosity from the congregation! With **less than twelve months remaining until the note matures**, the Session and Generosity Committee have already begun evaluating our options and developing plans to address the remaining balance before maturity. If you have funds you would like to contribute to retire this debt, please contact Jennifer Adams (jadams@firstpresathens.org or Jeffrey Trapnell (jeffrey.trapnell@gmail.com)).

We recognize that a 170-year-old building comes with a revolving door of upkeep and preservation needs. To address these needs faithfully, we have begun work on a comprehensive maintenance plan (including deferred maintenance and accessibility improvements). One of the most immediate priorities is replacing the main chiller (HVAC system), which was installed in 2009 and has shown its age in recent weeks, as many of us have experienced during worship. This and other anticipated facility needs will require additional capital investment beyond what was included in our 2026 operating budget, and we will continue to keep the congregation informed as these plans take shape.

We are grateful for all that God has done through First Presbyterian Church of Athens during the first half of this year. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, your service, and your commitment to the mission and ministry of this church. If you have questions about this financial update, please contact Administration Commission Chair Courtney Dantzler (courtneysparsons@gmail.com) or Treasurer Michelle Clendenen-Shaw (michelle.shaw@usan.com).

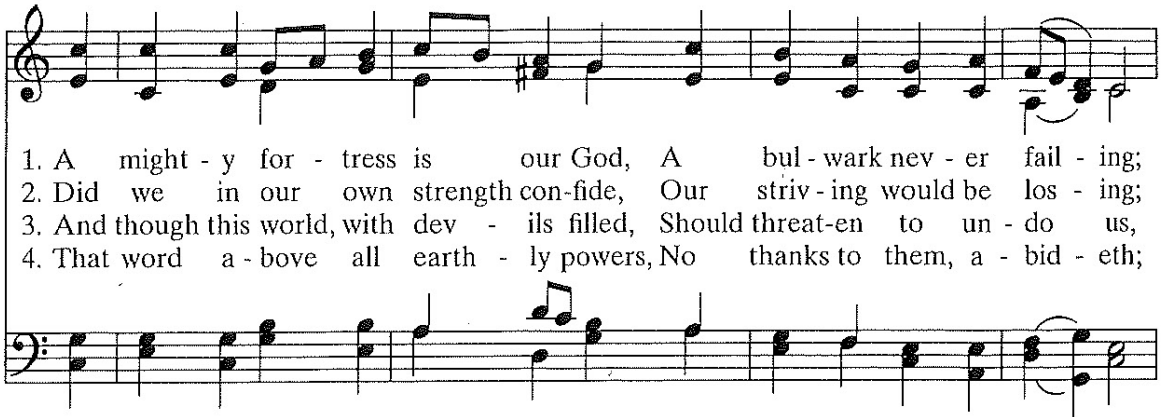
## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

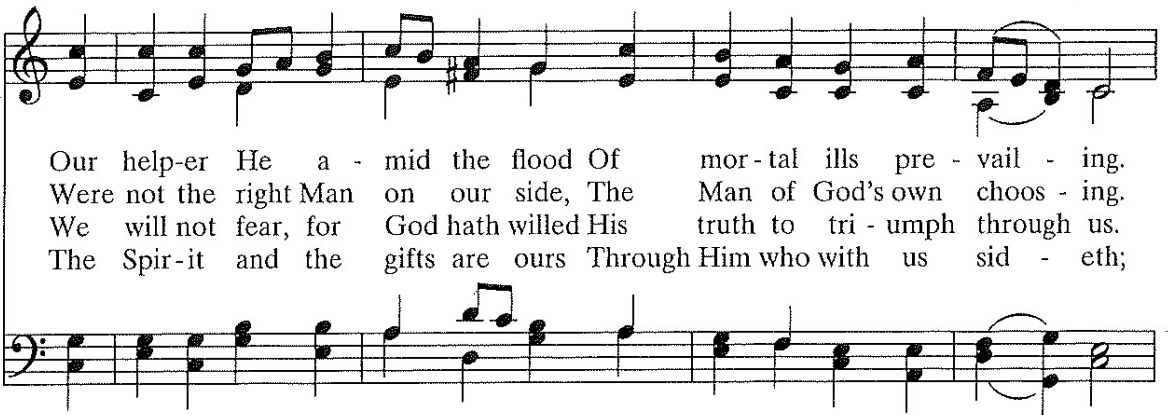
Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

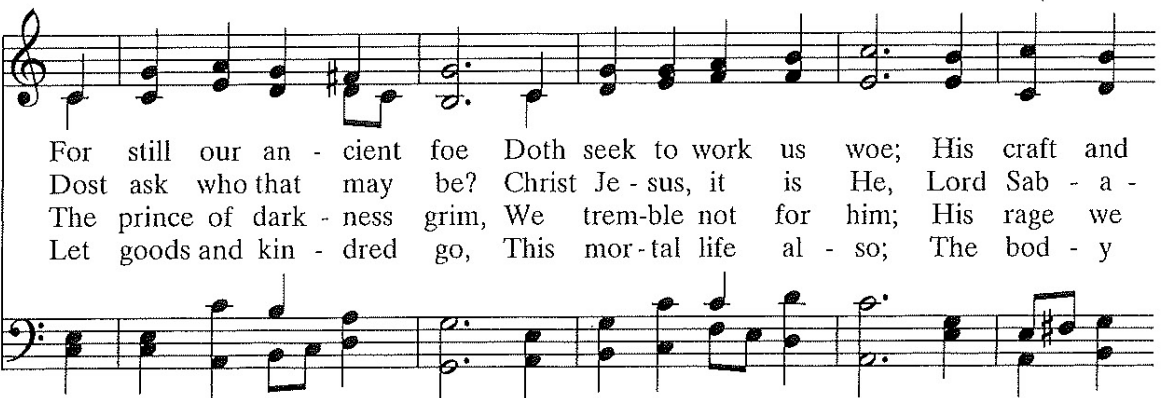
Martin Luther, 1529



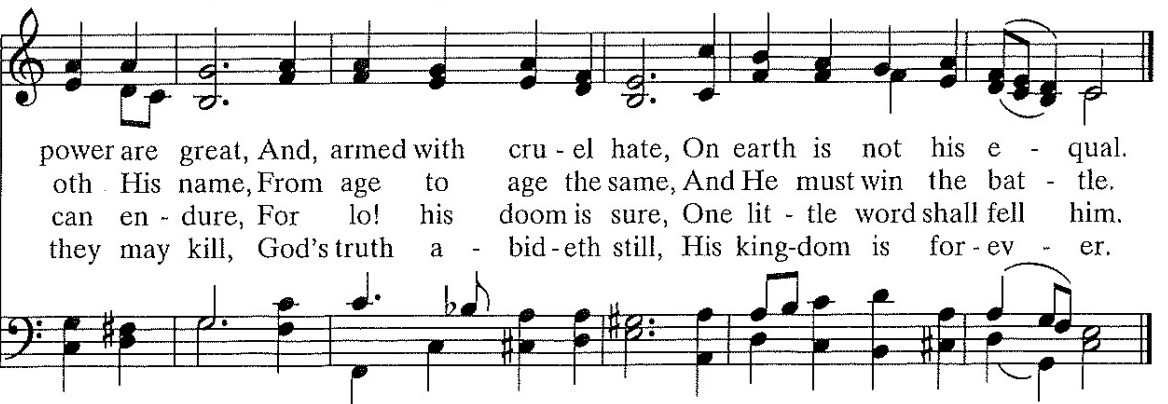
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,  
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre -vail - ing.  
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.  
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.  
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -  
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.  
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

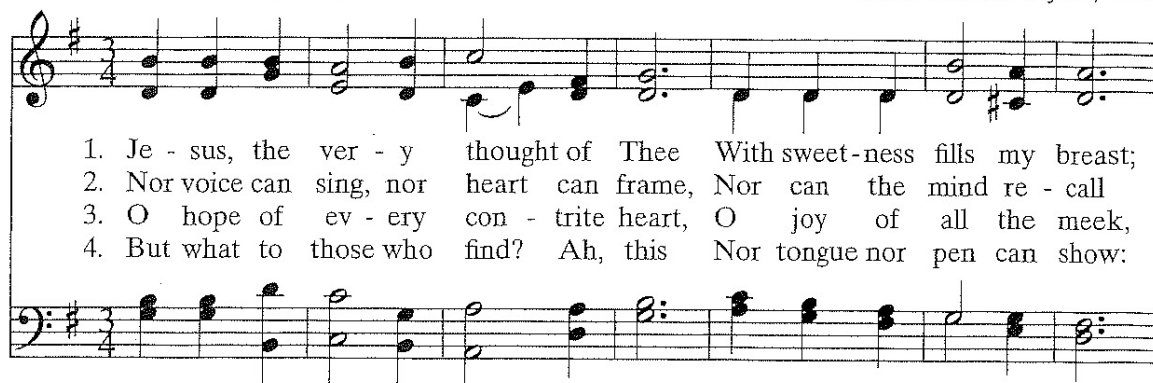
# Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

310

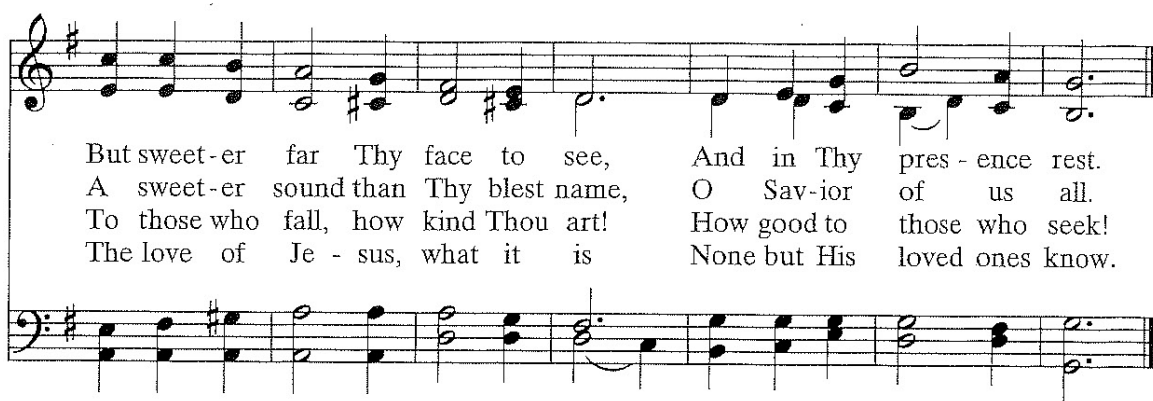
ST. AGNES CM

Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)  
Trans. Edward Caswall, 1849; alt. 1987

John Bacchus Dykes, 1866



1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of Thee With sweet-ness fills my breast;  
2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the mind re - call  
3. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
4. But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show:



But sweet-er far Thy face to see, And in Thy pres - ence rest.  
A sweet-er sound than Thy blest name, O Sav-ior of us all.  
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!  
The love of Je - sus, what it is None but His loved ones know.

5. Jesus, our only joy be Thou,  
As Thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be Thou our glory now,  
And through eternity.

## Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6 D

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888

Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, The day of march has come;  
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears;

Hence - forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home:  
 And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;  
 For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,  
 For not with swords' loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums;  
 Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light:

And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.  
 With deeds of love and mer - cy The heav - en - ly king - dom comes.  
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might.

## 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](mailto:ryan@firstpresathens.org))  
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor* ([whitney@firstpresathens.org](mailto:whitney@firstpresathens.org))  
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* ([margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org))  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* ([jcoble@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jcoble@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries* ([hannah@firstpresathens.org](mailto:hannah@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Mikel Williams, *Director of Weekday School* ([mikel@firstpresathens.org](mailto:mikel@firstpresathens.org))  
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Office Administrator* ([paulo@firstpresathens.org](mailto:paulo@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* ([jadams@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jadams@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *Administrative & Communications Assistant* ([frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Deanna Rollins, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* ([wds@firstpresathens.org](mailto:wds@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* ([charlotte@firstpresathens.org](mailto: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*