



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 23, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 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

Aspects of ‘Bunessan’

Robin Erskine

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Music Ministry

Song of Gathering

**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.**

O QUANTA QUALIA

Call to Worship

God said, “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord.”
Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,
And I will give you rest.”
We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors,
Let us worship God this day!

***Hymn 469**

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, you invite us into holy rest, but we confess we struggle to let go. We fill our hours with work and worry, acting as though the world depends on us. We look to our own efforts for security instead of trusting your provision. Forgive our restless hearts. Free us from the need to produce and achieve, and teach us how to rest in your grace. Help us to embrace the holy sabbath, a gift and a commandment, both given in love.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

Morning Has Broken is a 20th-century text created for this traditional tune named for the small village on the Isle of Mull off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of “new” and “first,” each morning is treated as re-creation of promise of the original day.

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."

After the Passing of the Peace 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.

Lay Readers:
8:45: Karen Burg
11:00: Anne Marie Miller

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler is a paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28-30 by a Canadian minister. The text is enhanced by the folksong-like tune which was composed it.

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.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Barthier



*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

Congregational 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

Matthew 11:28-30, page 890

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *God Be In My Head*

Andrew Carter

God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in my heart and in my thinking,
God be at mine end and at my departing.

Second Lesson

Deuteronomy 5:12-15, page 161

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

Sermon

Sabbath

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn Insert

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

AUSTIN

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,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, (cont'd)**

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 Readers

8:45 a.m. Karen Burg
11:00 a.m. Anne Marie Miller

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Diane Hartzell
11:00 a.m. Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke,
Ethelyn Simpson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of John Wesley and Michael Warren Reed by Patti Reed.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Harper May Reinhold on August 4, 2026. Parents are Collier and Jon Reinhold. Grandparents are Karen and Jeff Cobb, and great grandparents are Eleanor and Gordon Bradwell.

AUGUST FLOWER TEAM

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

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

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.

Project Safe Workday August 30, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Join us to support Project Safe by helping to sort clothes, clean shelves, and tidy up the thrift store. Project Safe works to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, supportive services, advocacy, prevention, and education. For more information, please contact Kate Johnson at katejohnson456@gmail.com. The Project Safe thrift store is located at 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (in the Bell's Shopping Center).

Wed@First Begins in September

Wed@First is a monthly gathering for mid-week intergenerational fellowship and growth at FPC. On the first Wednesday of the month (see dates below), everyone is invited to participate in LIFT, our program that combines Shakespeare and Friends, dinner, study, play, and prayer with our church friends of all ages. **LIFT stands for Living in Faith Together.** One of the great gifts unique to the church is the opportunity to grow alongside people from different generations and LIFT presents us with monthly gatherings for fellowship, study, and fun – all around the dinner table with friends of different ages.

The theme for this fall is “Fruit of the Spirit”. We will gather for LIFT on **September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** and all are invited to participate!

Please RSVP for dinner in the Atrium, online, or by contacting the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338) by Mondays at 12:00 p.m. Price is \$12/person and a \$45/family max (complimentary for children 5 and under).

REALM

WHAT IS REALM?

Realm is 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.

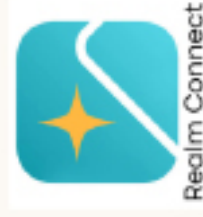


CAN I SIGN UP FOR EVENTS OR TO VOLUNTEER THROUGH REALM?

Yes! Through Connect, a new and updated app that will replace ChurchLife app, you can RSVP for events, join groups, and communicate with other church members through the messaging system.

HOW ABOUT SETTING UP GIFTS?

You can give through Realm or Connect app, or online at firstpresathens.org/giving (where we have a new giving page). If you already have set up an automated gift, it was carried over to Realm. There you should be able to see your giving history dating back to 10 years.



Scan me!

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR CHURCH MEMBERS?

We need you to sign up so you can have access to Realm and Connect. To do that, please go to onrealm.org/FirstPresAthensGA or scan the QR code and follow the steps to sign up. Your request will be sent to the church office, who will check and approve your profile.

For more information about Realm, please contact Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Athens Area Homeless Shelter Board Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, August 26

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, August 27

- 6:00 p.m. Athens Flute Choir Open Reading Session, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 29

- 9:00 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Build Day, Off Site

Sunday, August 30

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day
- 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

Habitat For Humanity Build Day

We need up to 9 more volunteers to work side-by-side with future homeowners on a new Habitat home build in Athens on **Saturday, August 29**. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Lunch is included! Email Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) to sign up.

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 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

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Hannah Knight

Interns: Morgan Cassidy

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.*

Contact Hannah Knight (hannah@firstpresathens.org), Director of Children and Youth Ministries, with any questions.

Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Ministry Suite each Sunday starting at 9:45am. Our younger children participate in **Godly Play** (4 years to 2nd grade), an interactive, hands-on, reflective method of learning and wondering about God's great story. Our **Explorers Class** (3rd – 5th grade) also learn the stories of God's people, through acting out stories, worship and prayer practices, designing and playing games, and more!

Youth Sunday School (6th – 12th grade) meets in the PIT (youth space on basement level) kicking off each Sunday with donuts & fellowship at 9:45am. This class studies scripture that follows the texts of that morning's worship service, engaging these sacred stories alongside games and fun conversation. Middle and high school small groups will meet together sometimes, as well as in separate small groups.

Youth Group (5:30-7:00 p.m.)

This Sunday evening gathering is a safe space for both middle school (6th-8th grades) and high school youth (9th-12th grades) to come as they are to enjoy fellowship, dinner, games, Bible study, and prayer-- a great way to begin the week! The theme for this year is "Fruit of the Spirit" (as found in Galatians 5), so we will learn about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control — and how those fruits help us to follow Christ in our daily lives. All are welcome — bring a friend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Bible Basics • Moses Waddel Room

Resumes on August 30 and 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) 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)

New Voices • Room 310

Our goal is to create joy through art, food, music, prayer, scripture, class-led discussion, community, open-mindedness, and inclusion. This year, we hope to discuss a variety of topics and texts: darkness and light, *Christian Doctrine* (Shirley Guthrie), and *Ecclesiastes for You and Me* (John Iles).

Contact: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

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: jrogerswtw@aol.com.

Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class
Bride's Room, Tinsley-Stern

Rev. Will Norman will lead us in discussion on books of the New Testament. On other weeks, we watch and discuss the "Great Churches of Christianity", a DVD series led by Professor William Cook. All are welcome, as are all viewpoints

Contact: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Morning Has Broken

469

BUNESSAN. 5.5.5.4 D

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Gaelic melody
Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

AUSTIN 8.7.8.7

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

William P. Rowan, 1992



1. "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis-
2. "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's
3. "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with
4. "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not



tress; come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to
 light; do not fear the path be - fore you; do not
 me. Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and
 fear. Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and



me and find your rest."
 run from me in fright."
 learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 cast a - way your care."



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less



earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion



All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to



pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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 Dantzer
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*