# 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!*

November 8, 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.*

*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** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* John Ferguson

**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 to the waters of life.
**We will wash and be clean.**
God frees us from all that separates us from our neighbors.
**Let us live in harmonious community with all creation.**

***Hymn 489** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* UNSER HERRSCHER

In the first stanza of *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*, "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem, but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
**We have rebelled against your life-giving reign and raised up worldly kings for ourselves—people, possessions, fame. You have sent us prophets to declare to us the error of our ways and we have despised them, choosing instead to follow false prophets who tell us what we want to hear. We have failed to heed your persistent call to lives of simplicity, love, self-sacrificial service, and commitment to the flourishing of all creation. Forgive us our short-sightedness and self-focus. Draw us back to you, that we might center our lives on our relationship with you, and turn outwards in love for all that you have made.**

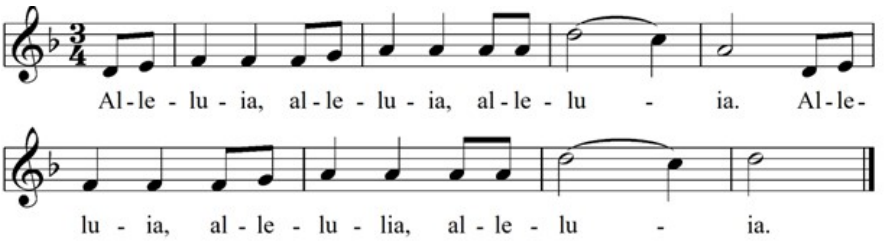
**Those who are able please stand.*

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response** Jacques 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 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.*

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

**Congregational Prayer for Illumination** Hymn 454, stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word**
**we are gathered all to hear you;**
**let our hearts and souls be stirred**
**now to seek and love and fear you;**
**by your teachings true and holy,**
**drawn from earth to love you solely.**

*Lay Reader:*
*8:45: Jean Martin-Williams*
*11:00: Beverly Phares*

**First Lesson** Matthew 6:25-34, page 884

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

The anthem was written by American composer Robert J. Powell for Marilyn Keiseser's tenth anniversary at All Souls' Episcopal Church in Asheville, NC.

**11:00 Anthem** *Behold, the Tabernacle of God* Robert J. Powell

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you,
and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you;
for the temple of God is holy, which temple are ye:
for the love of whom ye do this day
celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia

**Second Lesson** Exodus 36:2-7, page 82

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

**Sermon** *More Than Enough* Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Take My Life* radiates from the word "take," resulting in a survey of personal attributes and possessions, giving weight to "all" at the end. The tune was composed by a French Reformed hymnwriter.

***Hymn 391** *Take My Life* HENDON

***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***)**

**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,**
**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** *Adagio* Antonio Vivaldi
arr. J.S. 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**

*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.*

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 210** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* is a paraphrase of Psalm 90 by Isaac Watts that speaks to the human condition. Since the 19th century it was been joined to the famous tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 555, stanza 3

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,**
**to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.**
**The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore.**
**The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

**Postlude** *Finale* Robert J. Powell

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**Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger,** available from 8:30 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 Passing of the Peace. 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*

***Lay Reader***
8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams
11:00 a.m. Beverly Phares

### USHERS
**8:45 a.m.** John Simpson (head), David Cole
**11:00 a.m.** Jimbo LaBoon (head), Emily LaBoon
Ethelyn Simpson

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER
Justin Winstanley

### AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN
Bryan Owens

### FLOWERS
The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Veterans' Day by Randy Dudley.

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

### 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.

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## Project Safe Work Day
**Today, 2:00 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 kateejohnson456@gmail.com. The Project Safe thrift store is located at 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (in the former Bell's Shopping Center).

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## "Footsteps of Paul" Trip Informational Meeting
**Today, 12:15 p.m.**

As a result of their study of Acts last Spring, members of the Bible Basics class are exploring the possibility of a group trip to Greece and possibly Ephesus in the Fall of 2027 or Spring of 2028. If you are interested in learning more about how this trip is coming together, please join us for a light lunch and an opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas **today at 12:15 p.m.** in Moses Waddel Room. Please contact Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org) if you are interested but cannot attend, so that you can be included in informational updates as we move forward.

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## Save the Date for the Women's Retreat!

Save the date for the next FPC Women's Retreat on January 8-10, 2027 at Lake Cherokee, SC. Join us for a weekend of rest, study, reflection, and fellowship! Email Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) to reserve your spot or if you have any questions.

## THIS WEEK

**Sunday, November 8**
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:15 p.m. "Footsteps of Paul" Trip Informational Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day, 995 Hawthorne Ave.
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 9**
10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room
5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

**Tuesday, November 10**
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

**Wednesday, November 11**
9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

**Thursday, November 12**
9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
2:00 p.m. Mellows at Bentley Adult Day Care
4:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Resource Pantry, The PIT
5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

**Sunday, November 15 - Generosity Sunday, Food Bag Sunday**
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 p.m. Called Session Meeting - New Members, Parlor
12:00 p.m. Generosity Sunday Potluck and Welcome New Members, Fellowship Hall
1:15 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
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

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## Generosity Sunday, November 15

*One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.* - Psalm 145:4

"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. On Generosity Sunday, 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.

## Join us November 15 after the 11:00 a.m. service for the Generosity Potluck

On Sunday November 15 at approximately 12 noon, we'll celebrate God's generosity with an all-church potluck in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide baked ham and beverages – please bring a dish to share (crockpots welcome).

Potluck instructions: in hopes of covering our tables with a nice variety of dishes, we ask that you bring something in the category that corresponds with the first letter of your last name:

A-G: starchy sides (pasta, potatoes, etc…) H-M: vegetable sides N-R: salads S-Z: desserts

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## Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is Sunday, November 15

Can you provide a bag of food that can be used by an Athens family of four to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Please bring the items on the list below in a reusable bag to church on **November 15** or drop them off at the church during normal business hours by **Friday, November 13**. Alternatively, you can send a check for $50 to the church or donate at firstpresathens.org/giving (please select General Fund and add "Thanksgiving bags" in the memo box).

2026 Shopping List (* not in bags delivered prior to November 15)

- ☐ Cranberry sauce
- ☐ Chicken broth
- ☐ French fried onions (that go on top of green bean casserole)
- ☐ Stuffing/Dressing mix
- ☐ Cornbread mix
- ☐ Mac & Cheese
- ☐ Instant potatoes
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Gravy (cans or jars)
- ☐ Cookies
- ☐ Fresh sweet potatoes*

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## Holiday Meals on Wheels

Thanksgiving Day drivers are needed! Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church deliver nutritional meals to homebound seniors. FPC also pays for the meals on these three days. Volunteers meet at the Athens Community Council on Aging at 135 Hoyt St. at 10:00 a.m. The routes take 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

If you are interested in delivering meals, please contact Mary Burton at marybu1325@gmail.com. Since this is a popular family event, please be sure to sign up early.

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## Salvation Army Angel Tree

Will you be someone's angel this year? Please consider purchasing Christmas gifts for one or more of the Salvation Army "angels" (infants –12-year-old children) which will be posted in Fellowship Hall starting November 8. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel." Please bring your gifts to church by **Sunday, December 6**, or to the church office by **Friday, December 4**.

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## Sign Up for the New Church App, Realm

Have you signed up for Realm Connect? If you haven't, please scan the QR code and click "Sign Up" or go to onrealm.org/FirstPresAthensGA. More information about Realm can be found on the church website or on our bulletin boards.

# 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.***

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**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 converstaion. 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
This fall, we will explore the beginning and early years of Israel's monarchy as recounted in the books of 1 & 2 Samuel. Just as the early Israelites did in ancient times, we will wrestle with the questions of: Who is God? Who are we as God's people? What is God's plan for us and God's creation? If you are interested in learning how these issues are addressed in these Old Testament texts, please join us.
*Contacts: David Dantzler (jdaviddantzler@gmail.com) and Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org)*

**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: jrogerswtv@aol.com.*
Zoom ID: 706 543 1820

**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. "To everything, turn, turn, turn, there is a season and a time to every purpose, under heaven." Yes, the class will be studying the Book of Ecclesiastes and what it means for each of us.
*Contact: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)*
Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

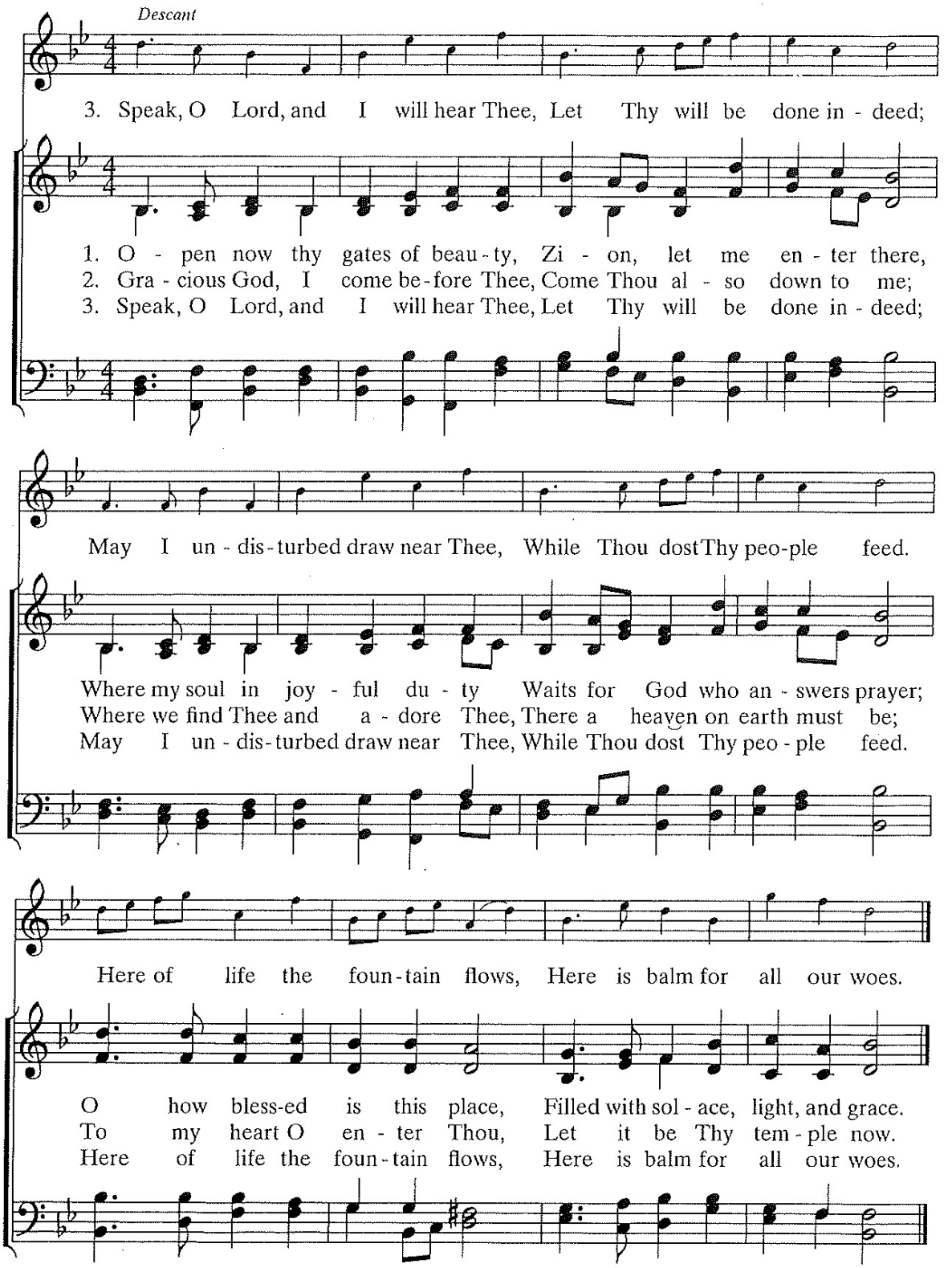
**Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class**
Bride's Room, Tinsley-Stern
Rev. Will Norman will lead us in discussion on books of the New Testament. On other weeks, we watch and discuss the "Great Churches of Christianity", a DVD series led by Professor William Cook. All are welcome, as are all viewpoints.
*Contact: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com)*
Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

# Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 489

UNSER HERRSCHER 8.7.8.7.7.7

Benjamin Schmolck, 1732
Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863

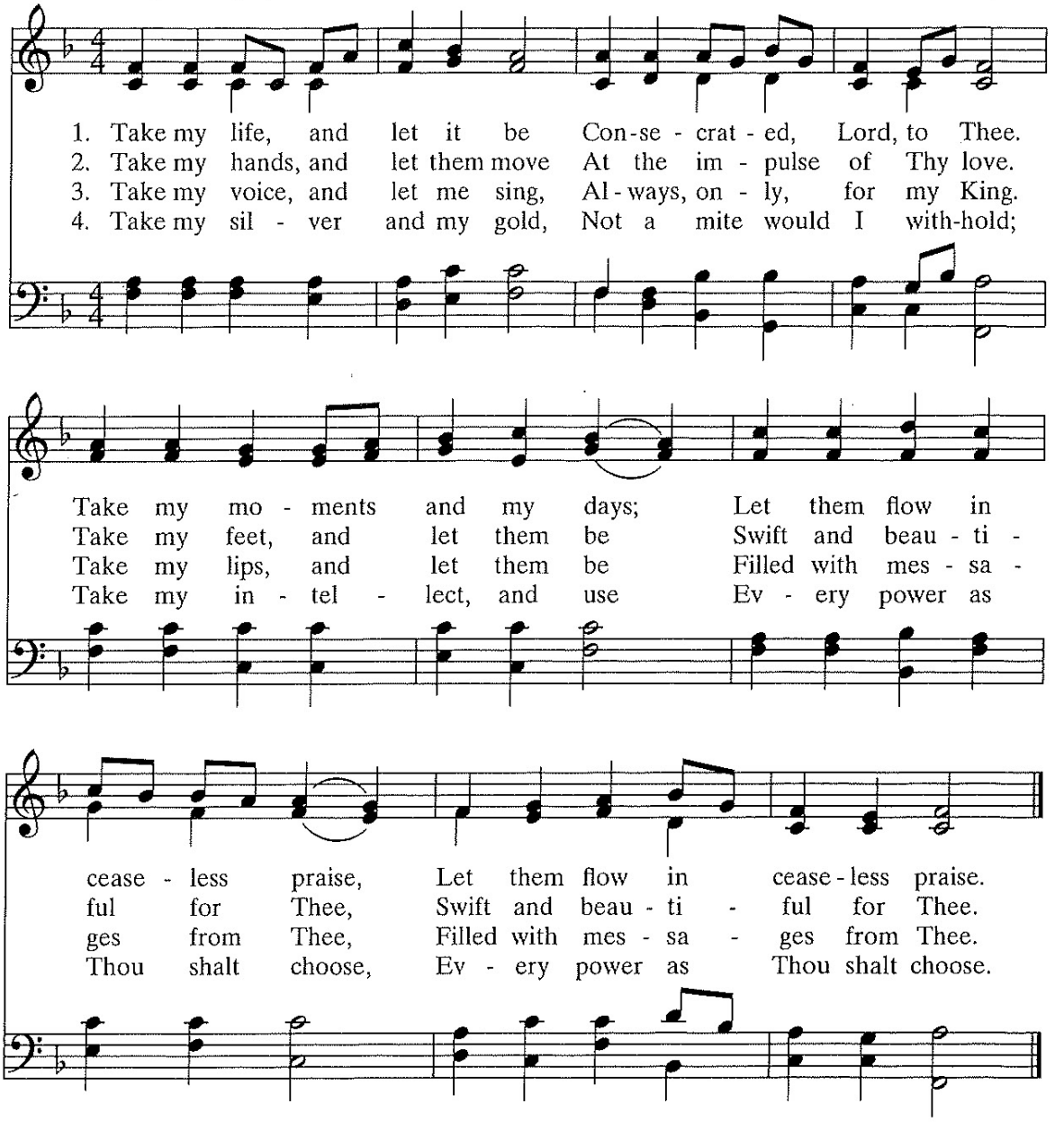
Joachim Neander, 1680
Harm. *The Chorale Book for England,* 1863; alt.
Desc. John Dykes Bower (1905–1981)



# 391 Take My Life

HENDON 7.7.7.7

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874 H. A. César Malan, 1827



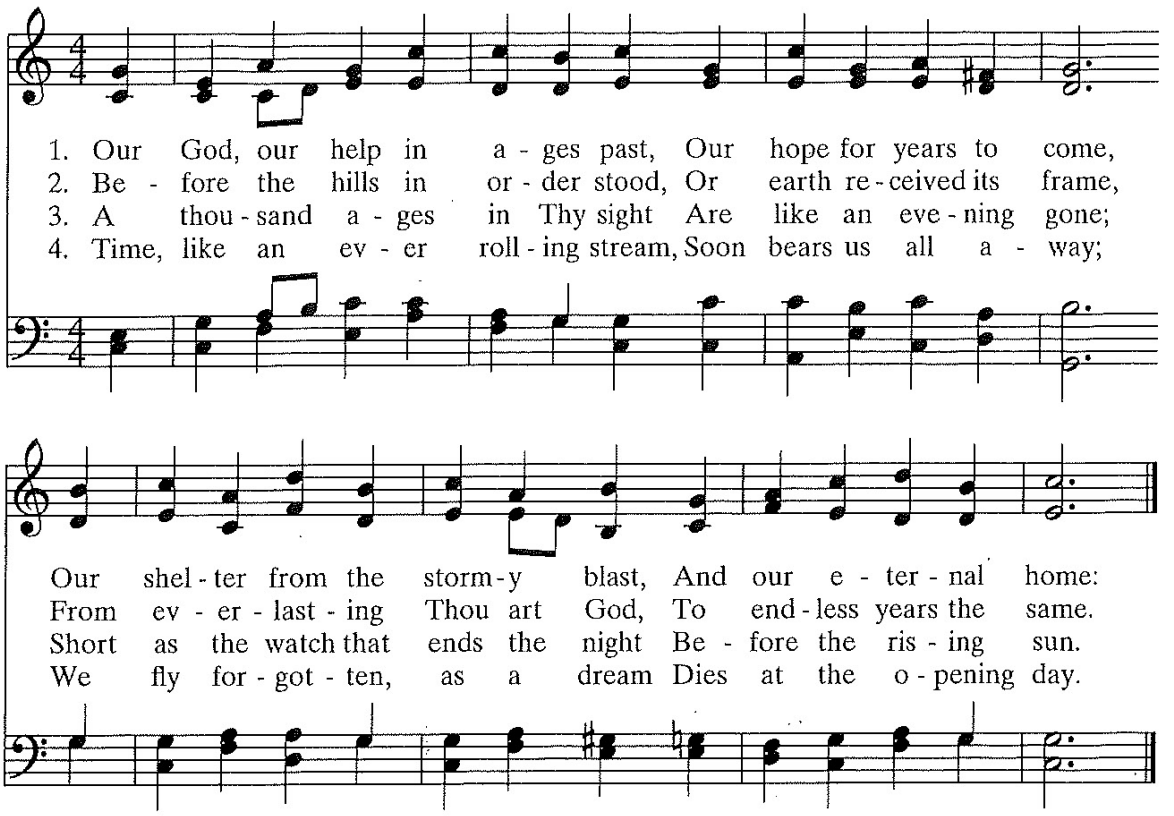

5. Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

# Our God, Our Help in Ages Past 210

ST. ANNE CM

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. Attr. William Croft, 1708




5. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

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

| Class of 2027 | Class of 2028 | Class of 2029 |
|---|---|---|
| Susan Baldwin | Steven Brooks | Meghan Bawcum |
| Bill Bushnell | Courtney Dantzler | Stephen Covington |
| Amy Cowsert | Shannon Ferguson | Andrew Griffeth |
| Matt Crim | Edward W. (Ned) Phares | Anne Marie Miller |
| Jay Holloway | Holly Sheats | Mike Morris |
| Tom Lane | Lawton Stephens | Leslye Queen |
| Joan Pinson | Madeline Van Dyck | Laura Toney |
| Paige Simmons | John Webster | 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*