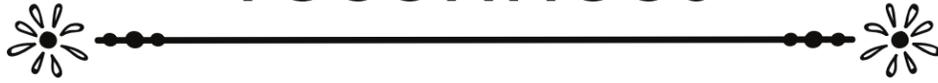


# reconnect



## MATTHEW 25

Convicted by Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-46, the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the whole Presbyterian Church (USA) to act boldly to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. Our church is among a growing group of over 800 PC(USA) congregations who have committed to the Matthew 25 vision of building congregational vitality, eradicating systemic poverty, and dismantling structural racism in our communities. Stay tuned to our FPC communications channels to learn more about how this denomination-wide movement is being embodied at FPC Athens.

## COMMUNICATION

Every Thursday, we email out the Weekly Word with information on worship and upcoming church events. If you have not received these helpful emails, please contact Paulo Santos for assistance. We also invite you to follow @firstpresathensga on social media for regular updates.

## CHURCH LIFE APP

The ACS Church Life app provides access to our church calendar, member contact information, and your giving history. To get the app, go to the App Store (iphone) or Play Store (Android) and search for ACS Church Life. Download the app to your phone. The app looks like this:  You will need to have your Apple ID or Google Play login information to download. Contact Jennifer Sunderlin for assistance. You can also access the directory on our website by clicking Member Login in the upper right-hand corner.

## WAYS TO SERVE

We invite you to fill out the updated "Ways to Serve" form, now online! Use this QR code to complete the google form or pick up a paper copy in the Atrium. From mission and outreach to worship leadership and congregational care to youth and children's ministry, there are countless ways to get reconnected.



## CHURCH STAFF

Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor	ryan@firstpresathens.org
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor	cstrickland@firstpresathens.org
Margaret Davis, Parish Associate	margaret@firstpresathens.org
John Coble, Director of Music	jcoble@firstpresathens.org
Kim Ness, Director of Youth	kness@firstpresathens.org
Natalie Bishop, Director of Children	natalie@firstpresathens.org
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Angie Townsend, Accounting Assistant	angie@firstpresathens.org
Marcy Fabris, WDS Administrative Assistant	wds@firstpresathens.org

# fall calendar

- August 22 Two worship services resume  
Weekday School Parent Meeting  
Youth Parent Meeting
- August 23 1st day of Weekday School
- August 29 Children's Ministry Sneak Peek  
Youth Group Kick Off
- September 5 Labor Day Weekend
- September 12 **Welcome Back Party on the Porch**  
Narrative Lectionary begins  
Sunday School and Godly Play resume
- September 19 First Things New Member Class
- September 26 New Member Tea
- October 3 World Communion Sunday
- October 17 Church picnic
- October 20 Wednesday@First
- October 24 Ath1/2 Pre-race worship service
- October 31 Reformation Sunday
- November 7 All Saints, Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 14 Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday
- November 17 Wednesday@First
- November 21 Stewardship Sunday



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# FALL@FIRST 2021



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

reconnect  
renew  
rejoice

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It's time to begin a new year in Children's Ministry and safely gather together in our Circle of Wonder with our First Pres Friends! This fall, children ages Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to "Kids in the Courtyard" and Godly Play on Sunday mornings while our little ones, infants – 4 years old are invited to the nursery. *\*For the safety of our children, we will continue Covid precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

### Kids in the Courtyard, 9:45a.m. – 10:40a.m.

Children will learn new ways of connecting with God outside in our lovely church courtyard. This special time together will be filled with different types of morning prayer, Bible stories, mini mission projects, and will conclude with a fun fellowship time as we feast together to get ready for Godly Play.

### Godly Play, 10:40a.m.-12noon

Children are invited to Godly Play during the 11:00a.m. worship hour this fall. Seeing that our children have been safely worshiping from home this past year, we would like to take time this fall to help our children reacclimate to being back in church. The Godly Play method and routine does a wonderful job of supporting children in this way! Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

### Nursery, 8:30a.m. – 12:15p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

We are excited to welcome our 6th-12th graders back to the PIT, located on the basement level. Visit [www.fpcathenspit.com](http://www.fpcathenspit.com) for more information.

### Sunday School

This fall, youth will serve as leaders in Children's Ministry for Kids in the Courtyard. They will help with storytelling, feasting, and sharing love with our younger church members.

### Confirmation

Open to current 9th graders, confirmation classes will be held during Sunday School starting late Fall. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for March 27, 2022.

### Youth Group

Taking advantage of the space outside the PIT and the lower parking garage, youth group will meet outside this Fall. Evenings will be filled with opportunities for fellowship and fun as we build our youth community. Using the Narrative Lectionary, we'll explore what it means to be an active, Christian teen in today's changing world.

Middle School Youth Group, 5:00-6:00p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:00-7:30p.m. (dinner provided)

# renew & rejoice



## WORSHIP

*"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say, Rejoice!"*

Join us for worship at 8:45a.m. or 11:00a.m. in the Sanctuary. Coffee and donuts are back in the Atrium! For those worshipping at home, the 11:00a.m. service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Music is an important part of our worship and the life of our church. Hymns, anthems, and instrumental music are a musical offering to God led by our five singing choirs for all ages, and our handbell choir. For more information on choirs, contact John Coble, Director of Music.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

This has been a hard year to say the least. We are here to help renew your spirit. Stephen Ministry is a program which equips laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to those who are facing a crisis or difficulty such as death of a loved one, job loss, chronic illness, relocation, etc. To learn more, contact a Stephen Leader: Margaret Davis, Carol Strickland, Bob Frisch ([rpfrisch@aol.com](mailto:rpfrisch@aol.com)), Dawn Frisch ([dawnmfrishc@aol.com](mailto:dawnmfrishc@aol.com)), Lisa Oelke ([lisakoelke@gmail.com](mailto:lisakoelke@gmail.com)).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

Presbyterian Women is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There are three small groups of women at FPC that meet as part of PW. These circles meet monthly in member homes and at the church for fellowship and to study and discuss scripture passages. This year's Bible study is called *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Newcomers are always welcome. Please contact Carol Strickland if you would like to join an existing women's circle or begin a new one.

## WEDNESDAY@FIRST

This Fall, we will host monthly Wednesday@First dinners and discussions. Individual dinners will be served. Come enjoy a time of fellowship around the table as we learn together what it means to be a Matthew 25 Church.

## SMALL GROUPS

Are you interested in joining a small group for a 6-8 week study this fall? Groups will be organized around the three main goals of Matthew 25: building congregational vitality, eradicating systemic poverty and dismantling structural racism. Contact Kim Ness to sign up and learn more.

## WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Our Weekday School begins its 56th year as a mission arm of the church on August 23, 2021! We will welcome 134 children, ages 3 months through 5 years, to educate, love, and nourish spiritually, emotionally and socially. We ask specifically for your prayers for a safe, healthy and happy school year for all! Contact Elaine Johnson to learn more about our wonderful WDS.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:40a.m. with most adult classes being held on the 3rd Floor. You are invited to visit or join a class at any time. Contact the class representative for more information.

### Dell Dunn Christian Issues

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – currently we are doing a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles. *Contact: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)*

### Inquirers

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies. *Contacts: Carl Bergmann (cberg@ccrc.uga.edu), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)*

### New Voices

Women: From Bible times to modern times - What are new voices saying about women's roles in society today? Is there anything new to learn about women in the Bible? What was it like to be a woman in the Biblical period? Discussion guided by 'Women In the Bible', by Jaime Clark-Soles. *The beginning date for New Voices has been postponed until further notice. Contact: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)*

### Parents in the PIT

Congratulations, you survived this last 1.5 years! This new class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support. Short devotional, A-Z spiritual practices, check ins, coffee and donuts! *Contact: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)*

### W. D. Hooper

The "oldest" Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. We welcome new members (even young ones!) to the historic but vital Hooper Bible Class! *Contacts: Jerris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)*

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

The class features open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity. Books for study this fall: 'Wesley For Armchair Theologians', by William Abraham, and 'The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth', by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. *Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jitscanlon@yahoo.com)*

### Women's Bible Class

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. *Contact: Wanda Wilcox (wwilcox@uga.edu)*