

Ministers

Paul Baxley

Frank Granger

Randy Brittain

Janet Cleland

Brandon Pendry

Emily Harbin

Anne Brittain

Alan McArthur

Senior Minister

Minister of Christian Community

Minister of Music

Minister of Children, Families, and Outreach

Minister of Youth and Mission

Minister of College Students

Organist and Music Associate

Pianist



First Baptist Church

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www.firstbaptistathens.org



First Baptist Church

Athens, Georgia

December 31, 2017

11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday after Christmas

Creative Brooding:

The symbol of Christmas—what is it? It is the rainbow arched over the roof of the sky when the clouds are heavy with foreboding. It is the cry of life in the newborn babe when, forced from its mother's nest, it claims its right to live. It is the brooding Presence of the Eternal Spirit making crooked paths straight, rough places smooth, tired hearts refreshed, dead hopes stir with newness of life. It is the promise of tomorrow at the close of every day, the movement of life in defiance of death, and the assurance that love is sturdier than hate, that right is more confident than wrong, that good is more permanent than evil.

- Howard Thurman, *The Mood of Christmas (and other celebrations)*

...we often fail to make a distinction between evangelism and discipleship. People can *meet* God within their cultural context but in order to *follow* God, they must cross into other cultures because that's what Jesus did in the incarnation and on the cross. Discipleship is cross-cultural. When we meet Jesus around people who are just like us and then continue to follow Jesus with people who are just like us, we stifle our growth in Christ and open ourselves up to a world of division. However, when we're rubbing elbows in Christian fellowship with people who are different from us, we can learn from each other and grow more like Christ.

- Christena Cleveland, *Disunity in Christ*

*First Baptist Church is a thriving community in Christ
where we all participate in worship
and are transformed by mission.*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 31

11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary

Monday, January 1

Church office closed

Tuesday, January 2

7:00 p.m..... Boy Scout Troop #22 — Rm. 3 (3rd floor)

Thursday, January 4

11:00 a.m..... The Seekers Team — Rm. 5 (3rd floor)

Sunday, January 7

9:15 a.m..... Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer

9:45—10:45 a.m..... Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building

11:00 a.m..... Worship Service — Sanctuary

3:00—6:00 p.m..... Youth Activities — FBC Commerce

WELCOME VISITORS! We are so glad you're here! There are wonderful programs and opportunities for all ages! If you'd like to learn more about our ministries, please fill out the guest information card in the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. You may also speak to any of our ushers, greeters, or ministers and then be sure to visit the FBC website (www.firstbaptistathens.org) for more information.

COMMUNITY NOTES

On Sunday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m. First Baptist Athens will have the privilege of hosting the **COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL SERVICE** for the King Holiday Weekend sponsored by the Athens Area Human Relations Council and the Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens. The King Weekend observances are particularly important this year, as 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. We will be honored to welcome several distinguished guest leaders for the service. Our Sanctuary Choir will provide an anthem for the service. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Our **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS** will resume on January 17 and will include dinner, children's choirs, mission kids, adult discipleship, youth activities and sanctuary choir. Reservations are needed for the meal. We offer a choice of hot meal, salad bar with baked potato, and a children's menu option. The cost of adult meals is \$7.00. The cost of children's meals is \$3.50. The supper line opens each week at 5:00 p.m. Dinner reservations may be made by a phone call to the church office, sign up by email, or sign up through our church website. **SPECIAL NOTE:** If you had previously signed up for standing reservations last August, we are asking that you please **re-register** for the Wednesday supper list. Stay tuned to FBC publications for information about Adult Discipleship options after the new year.

OUR CHURCH ON MISSION

Emergency Food Bank Needs:

Pork 'n Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Salmon/
Tuna

Join our **MISSION MINISTRIES at FBC** by signing up for your choice of ministries on the two month calendar on the second floor hallway. On the FIRST and LAST Sunday of every month, a mission team member will be in the main hallway to help you sign up to serve with FBC's mission partners.

PIVOT PUERTO RICO is a learning immersion experience for lay leaders of all ages that includes six studies exploring God's mission in the world ahead of 4.5 days of Caribbean cultural acquisition and reflection in Puerto Rico. Offered by our partners at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, this unique mission trip will begin with six studies followed by on-site work in Puerto Rico over the President's Day weekend (February 15-19). This is not a typical mission trip. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.cbf.net/pivotpuertorico/>. Space is limited to the first 50 people to sign up. If you have questions about going or funding, please contact Brandon Pendry, Minister of Youth & Missions (brandon@firstbaptistathens.org). The deadline to register is this Friday, January 5.

Please consider joining fellow members of FBC for the **MLK DAY OF SERVICE** at Bear Hollow Zoo (293 Gran Ellen Dr.) on Monday, January 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Come prepared to work outside and bring hedge trimmers, shovels and gloves, if possible! Questions? Contact Brandon Pendry (Brandon@firstbaptistathens.org).

The Worship of God

Ringing the Trinity

Invitation to Worship

Brandon Pendry

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Mark Hayes

Invocation

Janet Cleland

***Hymn 102**

Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

ANTIOCH

First Lesson:

Hebrews 2:10-18

Breanna Martin

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Testimony in Song

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Jennifer and Livy Baxley

Johnny Marks/
arr. Luke Duane

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Paul Baxley

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn 114**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child TEMPEST ADEST FLORIDUM
> Children PreK - 2nd grade will remain in worship with their families.<

Second Lesson:

Galatians 4:4-7

Emily Harbin

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Unfinished* Brandon Pendry

***Hymn 148** *Go! Tell it on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

***Prayer of Stewardship** Sallyanne Barrow, Deacon

Offertory *We Three Kings* arr. Fred Bock

***Response of the People** *His Name is Called Emmanuel* LASST UNS ERFREUEN
His name is called Emmanuel, more wonderful than words can tell.
God is with us! Alleluia!
Born in our darkness, He is Light; born in our weakness, He is Might.
God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Recognition of Commitments

Benediction Paul Baxley

Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Carol Tornquist

***Please stand, if able.**

Serving Together

Co-Deacons of the Week

Dec. 31-Jan. 6: Steve Barton, Sallyanne Barrow

January 7-13: Fred & Amy Young

Fellowship Team

December: Debbie Hargrave, Cindy Haygood, Daniel Haygood, Wayne Hogan

January: Bill Hopper, Joanna Hill, Jane Hubert, Connie Ivester

Welcome Center Team—December 31

Bettye & Wayne Jordan

Welcome Center Team—January 7

Beth Sanders, Janice Love

Usher Team

December: Brad Lastinger, Doug Dillard, Ches Smith, Kevin Price, Bill Horton, Wes Hogan

January: Jerry Gouge, Carl Hedrick, Jimmy Thomason, Milton Mills, Randan Ashmore, Steve Smith

Counting Committee

December 31: Lane Chason, Jackie Griffin

Watch your inbox for our weekly electronic news **THE MIDWEEK MESSENGER** which is sent each Wednesday. If you do not currently receive our weekly enews but would like to, please contact Sharon Jenkins (Sharon@firstbaptistathens.org). Items to be included should be submitted to Sharon by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Recent Prayer Concerns

Kathy Barrow – home

Larry Cutshaw, husband of Evelyn Cutshaw

Harriet Dwyer – home

Greg Schul, brother of Cheri Rose

Sarah Kesler – Pruitt Health Athens Heritage, rm 401

Larry Moon – recent cardiac ablation

Juanita Reddish, Alan Reddish's mother