



# A Word from Dr. Ryan Baer

Dear friends in Christ,

Near the village of McBaine, Missouri, about a half mile from the banks of the Missouri River, stands a burr oak tree that is estimated to be between 350 and 400 years old. It stands 90 feet tall and its branches span 130 feet, and its trunk is nearly 24 feet in

circumference. It was already standing tall when the Lewis and Clark Expedition paddled by in 1804. It has survived lightning strikes, droughts, and floods, and local residents and students at the nearby University of Missouri simply refer to it as “The Big Tree.”

I’ve been thinking about “The Big Tree” as we enter the Fall season. We have endured much, and we have much for which to give thanks, and our theme for this year is “Growing in Grace and Gratitude.” Within the pages of this edition of Fall@First, you will find abundant opportunities to do just that – to grow in worship, discipleship, service, and community.

In the very first psalm, the psalmist declares that those who delight in the Lord and meditate on God’s Word are happy. “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” (Psalm 1:3, NRSV).

I hope you’ll take advantage of all the opportunities before you to connect with First Presbyterian Church this Fall. Together, we’re creating 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. Let us grow together in grace and gratitude!

Peace be with you,

Dr. Ryan J. Baer  
Senior Pastor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of ATHENS  
185 E. Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 543-4338  
[www.firstpresathens.org](http://www.firstpresathens.org)



@firstpresathensga



# Fall@First

August 21 - November 19

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Sunday, August 21, Welcome Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo

This weekend, the Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo is supplying our pulpit at both the stated meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery yesterday and at our Sunday morning worship service. Dr. Aloyo began his tenure as the 11th President of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur on August 1.



### Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch, Sunday, August 21, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us after the 10:00 a.m. worship service for our Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch. We'll have coffee, fruit, and a variety of Bojangles biscuits. Come connect with friends old and new and celebrate the start of the Fall season.

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### Sunday, August 28: Two Services Begins, Red Cross Blood Drive, Project Safe Work Day

**28** Red Cross Blood Drive, Sunday, August 28, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please join us in Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code AFPC) or contact the church office. If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer ([jbneighbors@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbneighbors@bellsouth.net)).



### Project Safe Work Day, Sunday, August 28, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. The store will be closed to shoppers during our work time. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at [kittydavedonnan@gmail.com](mailto:kittydavedonnan@gmail.com) to volunteer.

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# Fall@First

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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**Sunday, September 4:**  
**Communion Sunday,**  
**Food Sunday**

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**Monday, September 5: Labor Day, Church Office Closed**

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**Sunday, September 11: Stephen Ministry Recognition and Reception**



**Sunday, September 18: First Things Class at 1:30 p.m.**

A class for those interested in membership at First Presbyterian Church. Please let us know that you will be able to attend by Wednesday, September 14 by emailing Lucy Bell Johnson at [lbell@firstpresathens.org](mailto:lbell@firstpresathens.org) or calling the church office at 706-543-4338. *(Child care available upon request).*

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**Wednesday, September 21: Wed@First begins, through November 16**

Wed@First provides an opportunity to experience Christian fellowship and growth in a relaxed atmosphere. It includes dinner, children's' choirs, and classes for adults on a variety of topics beginning as early as 3:00 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. Dinner opens at 5:30 p.m. Our after-dinner program, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., will begin with a study led by Dr. Ryan Baer about Matthew 25.



**Friday, September 23: Picnic with Redcoat Band**

Pack your picnic basket, blanket, frisbee, and chairs and join friends of all ages at the Intramural Practice Fields to enjoy hearing and watching the UGA Redcoat Marching Band practice.

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**Friday, September 30: Movie Night and Discussion, Wall-E, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in Moses Waddel Room for a movie screening followed by discussion. All are welcome. Popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.





# Fall@First

## OCTOBER

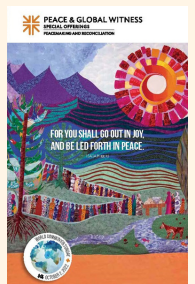
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WEDNESDAY@FIRST

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2 Sunday, October 2: World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering, New Member Introduction and Reception, Blessing of the Animals, Food Sunday



### Blessing of the Animals, 4:00 p.m.

Join us for the Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard. We will offer a blessing for our furry and feathered companions. All pets are welcome. Invite your animal-loving neighbors and friends! In the event of rain it will be in the lower parking deck.

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16 Sunday, October 16: Choir Dedication Sunday, Church Picnic (2:00 - 5:00 p.m.) Please save the date for this annual celebration of our music ministry when we honor members of our choirs and they also publicly commit themselves to offering their time and talents by serving in one or more of our choirs. Later that day, join us for a festive afternoon in our annual Church Picnic at Sandy Creek Park.



Sunday, October 23: AthHalf Race Service at 6:30 a.m., The Rev. Craig Topple preaching, AthHalf Water Station Volunteer, One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

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30 Sunday, October 30: Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF (United Nation's Children Fund) After the 11:00 a.m. worship service, children will be dressed in their church friendly costumes ready to collect donations for UNICEF as well as pass out Halloween treats for all!







# Fall@First

## Ends November 19

### NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

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#### Wed@First

Join us for dinner and program. Sign-up online, through the Fellowship Pad, or contact the church office.



#### Sunday, November 6: All Saints' Day, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

The observance of All Saints' Day will take place during both services and will include reading the names of those who have joined the church triumphant in the last year.

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#### Sunday, November 13: Stewardship Dedication Sunday, Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday, Project Safe Work Day



#### Project Safe Work Day, Sunday, November 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. The store will be closed to shoppers during our work time. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at [kittydavedonnan@gmail.com](mailto:kittydavedonnan@gmail.com) to volunteer.

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