

The page features stylized, grey-toned graphics of fish and leaves in the corners. In the top-left, a large fish is partially visible, with a smaller fish below it. In the bottom-right, a large fish is partially visible, with a smaller fish above it. The graphics are composed of simple, bold lines and shapes, including circles for eyes and curved lines for fins and leaves.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Maundy Thursday

APRIL 2, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Welcome

We're glad you're here! Thank you for joining us today. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804, when our church was formed to minister to the Native American and European settlers in Athens. Over the past two centuries our congregation has changed, but our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to "do all the good you can, in all the ways you can." At Athens First United Methodist, there are many ways to get involved, grow in your faith, and do good in our community.

If you are unable to attend worship in person, each Sunday our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WRFC 960 AM, and our 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services are live-streamed on our website at athensfirstumc.org/webcast.

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through four-year-olds on Sundays from 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. The nursery area is located on the first floor of the building, off the Washington Street entrance.

Children

Worship activity bags (age appropriate for all preschool and elementary children) are available every Sunday in the narthex and by the south entrance of the sanctuary. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through second grade and follows the Children's Message during 11:00 a.m. worship all Sundays except for Communion Sundays.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for all ages, kindergarten through adult, each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool.

Connect

We are blessed to have a large congregation. Because of this, we offer many programs and ministries. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to get involved. If you would like a buddy to guide you along this process, please notify a Helper. Helpers serve as part of our Welcome Ministry team. Look for them in the narthex or near the altar. You can also contact a Helper through our website athensfirstumc.org/helper.

Another great way to learn about the life of our church is through attending a Newcomer Orientation held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11 a.m. We also encourage you to visit our website, athensfirstumc.org, for information about our ministries, to register for events, and to listen to sermons from our sermon archive. Visit athensfirstumc.org/thesteeples to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athens_firstumc on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 706-543-1442.

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks or sings the text in **bold type**.

Gathering

THE PRELUDE

“Prière à Notre-Dame” from Suite Gothique | Boellmann

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” | Barr

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded” | Burkhardt

“Ah Holy Jesus” | Burkhardt

THE WELCOME

Betsy Butler

THE HYMN 549

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” | ST. ANNE

Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples

The washing of one another’s feet, following the example of Jesus when he washed the feet of his disciples, is a symbol of our need for renewed cleansing and forgiveness, made possible by the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ foot washing we see the majesty of God, who always stoops to lift our burdens and cleanse our sins, empowering us to live freely. Through washing another’s feet, we also commit ourselves to lives of service, in the spirit of Christ, who took on human form, humbling himself in cross-bearing service to others. By kneeling and washing, we express the love which serves human needs, both within our fellowship and outside this place. Hear then the Word of the Lord.

THE SCRIPTURE

JOHN 13:1-17, 31-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And

during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

THE ANTHEM

"I Shall See" | Trotta

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

THE LITANY

Beth Dickinson

O Prince of Peace, O Friend of Sinners, we praise you and give you thanks, because you laid aside your power as a garment and took upon yourself the form of a slave.

You became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. You allowed yourself to be born to die in our place, You allowed your own feet to be anointed for death. You allowed a sinner to wash your feet with her tears. For God chose what is low and despised in the world to bring to nothing things that are. Therefore, with the woman who gave you birth, with the woman who anointed you for death, with the woman who worshiped you with her tears, and with all our fellow sinners who have loved and served you from that time till now, we praise you, Lord Jesus.

O Eternal Father, blessed is our brother Jesus, who on that night before Passover, rose from the Supper, laid aside his garments, took a towel and poured water, and washed his disciples' feet, saying to them: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Come now, mighty Spirit of God, wash us and make us one body in Christ, that, as we are bound together in this act of love, we may no longer be in bondage to the principalities and powers that enslave creation, but may know your liberating peace such as the world cannot give. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

"O Vos Omnes" | Victoria

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

THE PRAYER

* THE HYMN 289

"Ah, Holy Jesus" | HERZLIEBSTER JESU

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Martha Aenchbacher and Chuck Hodges

Jesus spent his life teaching us the meaning of love. Through word and deed Jesus showed us how to love God and to love one another. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He invited the women and the children and the tax collectors and the sinners to come to his table. He broke bread with the least and the lost and shared the cup of redemption with them all. He crossed boundaries of race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and class. He challenged religious authority, and he scoffed at pomposity and self-absorbed grandeur. He called out the hypocrites. He admonished the scribes and the Pharisees for their hardened hearts. He brought a simple message: Love God, love yourself, and love one another.

We gather in the name of Jesus and remember the way that he showed us. We gather to remember not just his death, but his life.

The way of Jesus goes through the cross, but we are not there yet. It is close. We can see its shadow. We can feel the cold, dark, night. We know that the enemies of God are conspiring. They have had enough of him. He threatens their comfort. He threatens their way of life. He threatens their power. They will come for him. First though, we will gather. We gather with Jesus and his closest friends. We gather with those that called him teacher, Rabbi, friend. We gather for the Passover meal, to remember that God saved the people from slavery. God saved once. God saves forevermore.

God saved the Israelites at Passover, and revealed that it is God who reigns, not the Pharaoh. Our God saved once. God saves forevermore.

Even as they were sharing this sacred meal together, the disciples were not of one heart. Jesus knew that he was asking much from these men, and he knew that they would fail him. Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus to the religious authorities. Was he angry at some slight? Was he disappointed that Jesus would not raise an army against the Romans? Was he upset with the value of the oil that the woman “wasted” when she anointed Jesus? We will never know Judas’ heart, but Jesus knew that he would be betrayed. And did Jesus do with the man that would betray him? He broke bread with him. All of the disciples were deeply saddened, and they asked:

“I would never betray you, Lord. It's not me, is it?”

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed by his friend, he took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples and said, “Drink from this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and the cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by Christ’s blood. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the altar to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will fill all four sides of the altar. You will be given a piece of bread and you are invited to share the cup with the person to your right. All of the bread is gluten free. You will be dismissed from the altar by a minister.

THE ANTHEM AFTER COMMUNION

“A Hymn to God the Father” | Helvey

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

*Jesus Leads His Disciples to the
Garden of Gethsemane*

When the holy meal had been shared, the disciples began to argue over which one would be the greatest. Even here, at the end of their time together, they did not seem to understand what Jesus had been teaching them all along. He reminded them that to be great in the Kingdom of God meant to serve. After Jesus’ talk of betrayal, the disciples’ argument, and Jesus’ rebuke

of them, the disciples seemed to be growing anxious. Peter proclaimed:
“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

And Jesus replied, “I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me.” Afterwards, Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane.

*** THE PROCESSION TO THE GARDEN**

Hymn 290 “Go to Dark Gethsemane” (verses 1-3)

The congregation follows the acolytes and choir to the garden.

**Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter’s power;
your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**See him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.**

**Calvary’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

In the garden, Jesus asked his disciples to pray for him, for he wanted to be alone. There, Jesus prayed. He asked his friends to keep watch, but they kept falling asleep. He prayed for another way out. He prayed in anguish. He prayed as a man who could feel pain, who would be hurt by betrayal. He prayed as a man who knew that if he followed God’s will, he would be charged, convicted, mocked, humiliated, abandoned, and nailed to a cross. Knowing all of this full well he prayed, “Not my will, but yours.” Then he stood up for all that he had lived for. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come to into the time of trial”

THE ANTHEM

“ABENDLIED” | Rheinberger

Translation: Bide with us, for evening shadows darken, and the day will soon be over.

THE BLESSING

All depart in silence.

GOOD FRIDAY



April 3 | 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane, his trial, crucifixion, and ultimately his death. This day is devoted to remembering the agony Jesus endured because of his love for us. We will remember during a meaningful service that features the Passion reading, a sermon, and special music.

EASTER SUNDAY



April 5

Sunrise | Evergreen Memorial Cemetery | 6:30 a.m.

Sanctuary | 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

On this day we acknowledge that the stone sealing the tomb of Jesus was rolled away, and the tomb was empty. This is a day of joyous celebration over the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will celebrate the glorious resurrection with a special sunrise service at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Our traditional service times will include joyful worship with brass, special music, and a sermon from Chuck Hodges in the sanctuary.



Easter Egg Hunt

All families are invited to celebrate Easter with us at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 3:00 p.m. on April 4! The hunt will take place at the field in front of 320 Dogwood Drive located in the Glenwood neighborhood in Five Points. Detailed directions can be found on the webpage listed below. Please donate one dozen filled eggs per child attending (no chocolate please!). Eggs can be dropped off at the church office any time before Wednesday, April 1. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/easteregg hunt Ashley Gottschalk | ashley@athensfirstumc.org



Great Day of Service | May 2

Help us make this the Greatest Day Of Service yet! Projects are family-friendly and will be located here at Athens First United Methodist and throughout the community. On May 2, we will gather for breakfast and communion at 7:30 a.m. and then head out together to share the love of Christ. Childcare is provided for children four and under. There is a place for everyone to serve! Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Job Openings

We are now accepting applications for two administrative positions that will begin in mid-July. Both positions, the Administrative Assistant to Children and the Administrative Assistant to Adults, are full-time. Work hours are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please visit our webpage for more information and to apply. Applications will be accepted through May. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/employment Erika Bates | erika@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Music & Arts Week | June 9-11

Our annual Music and Arts camp will be held June 9-11. Children currently in kindergarten through grade four are invited to participate as we learn ways to be hearers and doers of the Word. We will use our hands, feet, mouths, and whole bodies to praise God! Throughout the day children will rotate through classes in drumming with song, "step" body percussion, and instrument-making along with other traditions like daily Chapel and missions times. Our clinician

is James Wells from Brentwood UMC in Nashville, TN. The cost is \$30 per child (\$40 after May 10). Registration ends May 31.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek



Preschool Summer Camps

AFUMC's Weekday Preschool is offering three weeks of Summer Camp: *Color My World*, May 18-22; *Mighty Machines*, June 1-5; and *All Creatures of Our God and King*, June 8-12. Camps run Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon. The cost is \$115 per child, and camps are open to children ages 2 on or before December 31, 2014, through children who just completed pre-K. Early bird and sibling discounts available. Registration forms are on our webpage or may be emailed upon request.

Susan Brodrick | preschool@athensfirstumc.org
706-340-5097



Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, April 8, will be Zaxby's. Meals are \$5 each. Advance dinner orders are required. Order

your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. Contact Diana to make a standing/regular reservation. Take-out boxes will be available if you have to eat and run, or run and then eat! You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal, and volunteers eat free! Order | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Diana Zylow | diana@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

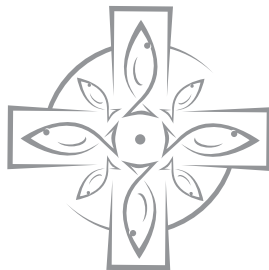
Desserts for REACH International Friday Nights

The international students really enjoy homemade desserts at their Friday night Bible study! This is a simple way to serve our international students! If you are willing to provide a dessert for 30 students on a Friday night, please sign up for a date online. You may also want to include a recipe with your dessert so the students can try it themselves later. Most don't know how to bake but are eager to learn! Lynn Bryant | lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Devotional Studies | Join Anytime

Devotional studies and small groups are open to new members at any time, with no commitment--come as you are able! There is no need to register, no homework, and no materials necessary. Books are available for purchase as requested. Offered on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. is the Monday *Disciplines* Bible study, which reads scriptures and passages from the *Disciplines* daily devotional. On Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. is the *Jesus Calling* Express Study, which reads from the popular *Jesus Calling* devotional. These two groups offer an opportunity to pause and reflect with others on Christ during the busyness of the week.

Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



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