

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Good Friday

APRIL 3, 2015
12:00 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 service begins in the Hancock Street Garden.

THE WELCOME

Beth Dickinson

THE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:39-46

³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." ⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵ If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

THE PRAYER

Almighty God, look graciously we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners. Grant that, through faith in him who suffered death on the cross for our salvation, we may know the power of his resurrection. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you, now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PROCESSION TO THE SANCTUARY

"Stay with Me" | Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Please follow the choir to the sanctuary and remain standing.

* **THE HYMN 297**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” | ST. CHRISTOPHER

* **THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Betsy Butler

Jesus calls all who are heavily burdened to come to the cross and lay before him all our cares and sorrows. At the cross of Jesus we will find mercy and love.

Merciful God, we confess to you and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have neglected your works of justice and mercy; we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves; we have not loved one another as Christ has loved us; we have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Lord have mercy,

When we stand in the shadow of the cross.

Christ have mercy,

When we kneel with repentant hearts.

Lord have mercy,

And shine your resurrection light on us.

God as we walk through this day may we remember,

Beyond sin there is love inexhaustible,

Beyond death there is life unimaginable,

Beyond brokenness there is forgiveness incomprehensible,

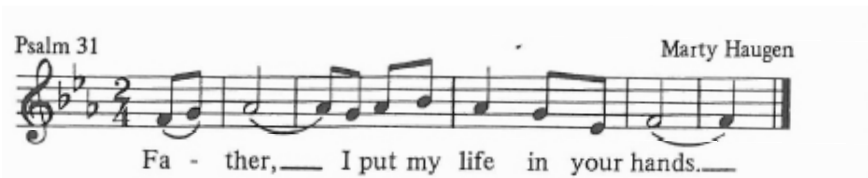
Beyond betrayal there is grace poured out eternally.

May we remember and give thanks for the wonder of your love.

Take us by the hand and lead us to the cross of Jesus; guide us on the path to peace and life, for the sake of your Son, who bore our sins in his body. Amen.

THE PSALTER

“I Put My Life in Your Hands” | Psalm 31



In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, oh my faithful Lord; in your hands I commend my spirit. *Refrain*

For all my foes reproach me; all my friends are now put to flight. I am forgotten like the unremembered dead, like a dish that now is broken. *Refrain*

I place my trust in you, Lord; in your hands is my destiny. Let your face shine upon your servant, Lord; in your hands I will place my life. *Refrain*

THE PASSION STORY

John 18:1-19:30

THE ANTHEM

“And the Mother did Weep” | Jenkins

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

THE MESSAGE

Martha Aenchbacher

THE MUSICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PASSION

Janis Maxwell, organ

Jessie Kenney, timpani

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

All depart in silence.

Musical Interpretation of the Passion of Christ

This interpretation begins with the familiar tune Land of Rest. The hymn most often sung to this old folk melody is "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days", found on page 269 of your hymnal. It is a symbol of our journey through Lent and Christ's time on earth in human form. We move from this hymn to another tune: "When Jesus Wept." This old hymn was written by American composer William Billings in 1770, and portrays Christ's night in the garden of Gethsemane. The words are as follows: When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound; when Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

This poignant melody leads us into a dramatic section of the Sacred Cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," composed by Theodore Dubois in 1867. The organ swells up and down, illustrating the words found in the scripture: "...and the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." Mark 15:38 (King James)

After the crashing and chaos, we move into Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings." This piece of 20th century music became well-known when it was played constantly over the radio in the days following the assassination of President Kennedy. The haunting chords barely cover the slowing heartbeat of the dying Christ. Finally, the music fades completely, and we are left with the reality of the last heartbeat and the earthly death of our Lord and Savior.



Sermon Notes

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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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



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



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



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

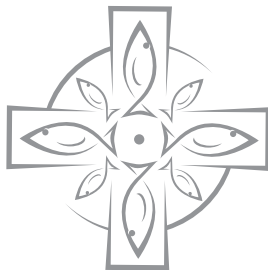
Desserts for REACH International Friday Nights

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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