

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outline. One fish is at the top left, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right. They are connected by thick red lines that form a large, abstract shape resembling a stylized 'A' or a cross. There are also three small red circles: one in the top left, one in the bottom right, and one in the center of the red lines.

# ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*The Season of Pentecost*

AUGUST 16, 2015  
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

# Welcome

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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 all of our services are live-streamed on our website at [athensfirstumc.org/webcast](http://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, children age 2 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](http://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 someone to guide you along this process, please contact Martha Aenchbacher.

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](http://athensfirstumc.org), for information about our ministries, to register for events, and to listen to sermons from our sermon archive. Visit [athensfirstumc.org/thesteep](http://athensfirstumc.org/thesteep) 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

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\*Please stand as you are able.

The congregation speaks or sings the text in **bold type**.

## Gathering

*The flowers on the  
altar today are  
given to the glory of  
God and in loving  
memory of Mr.  
and Mrs. Carol  
M. Ridlehuber by  
their children and  
grandchildren.*

### THE PRELUDE

"Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise" | Limbaugh

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

8:30 A.M. "Surely the Presence of the Lord"

Sung by the Worship Team

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

### THE WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Betsy Butler

## Praise & Thanksgiving

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 139

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" | LOBE DEN HERREN

### \*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**the third day he rose from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was  
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Son of  
Caroline and  
Billy Gravely*

8:30 a.m. | Robert James Gravely

**Bobby, Bobby, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and  
loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always  
be. Bobby, Bobby, God claims you, God helps you, protects you,  
and loves you too.**

*Son of  
Kristin and  
Jordan Byce*

9:45 a.m. | Cason Lee Byce

**Cason, Cason, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and  
loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always  
be. Cason, Cason, God claims you, God helps you, protects you,  
and loves you too.**

**THE WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS | 11:00 a.m.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Martha Aenchbacher

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

Robin Stewart, Director of Children's Ministry

At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in kindergarten through grade 2 will go to Children's Church on the third floor where they may be picked up at the end of the service.

# Proclamation of the Word

## THE OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 a.m. “Here in Your Presence” | New Life Worship/arr. Caldwell

*Natalie Smith, flute; Sarah Lawing, clarinet; Hans Holzen, Serena Scibelli, violin; Chris Enghausen, double bass*  
*Found in Your hands, fullness of joy, every fear suddenly wiped away here in Your presence. All of my gains now fade away, every crown no longer on display, here in Your presence. Heaven is trembling in awe of Your wonders. The kings and their kingdom are standing amazed. Here in Your presence, we are undone. Here in Your presence, Heaven and Earth become one. Here in Your presence, all things are new. Here in Your presence, everything bows before You. Wonderful, beautiful, glorious, matchless in every way.*

9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. “You Are Mine” | arr. Hayes

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear, you will hear My voice, I claim you as My choice. Be still, and know I am here. I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night I will be your light, come and rest in me. Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine. I am strength for all the despairing; I am healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know My name. I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk, and live!*

### \*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### THE SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 10: 30-33

Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.”

### THE SERMON

“You Are Here” | Chuck Hodges

# Response to the Word

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION | 8:30 a.m.

Please turn to page 9 in our hymnal. At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available at the stations in the front of the sanctuary.

Hymn 328 "Surely the Presence of the Lord" | Wolfe

Hymn 496 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" | Bradbury

# Sending Forth

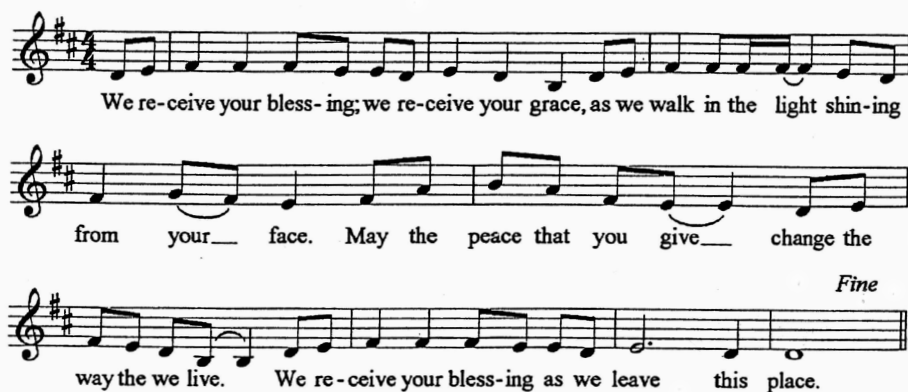
## \* THE HYMN 399

"Take My Life, and Let It Be" | MESSIAH

## \* THE BLESSING

## \* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"We Receive Your Blessing"



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "We re-ceive your bless-ing; we re-ceive your grace, as we walk in the light shin-ing from your face. May the peace that you give change the way the we live. We re-ceive your bless-ing as we leave this place." The word "Fine" is written above the final measure of the third staff.

## \* THE POSTLUDE

"The Church's One Foundation" | Rutz

## AUGUST USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal, Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowrey, Jim Lyons, Candler Meadors, Olan Moore, Bob Noble, Grace Rabek, Ken Reece, Keith Wilson, Michael and Sharon Broun

9:45 a.m. Chris Bostdorff, Tom Cooper, David and Jane Disney, Mark Ellison, Mark Firth, Tom Hedges, Dan Lasseter, Jim Lyons, Sharon Milton, Tom Milton,

Al Rogers, Bill Trigleth, Michelle and Reeves McNeill

11:00 a.m. Al Hawley, Henry Folsom, Tom Henson, Henry Garrard, Jim Lyons, Jake Riley, Frank Thornburg, Mike Scott, Tom Dean

## OFFERING STEWARDS

Bob Booth, Jim Lyons, Nat Carmack, Henry Garrard, Nathan King, Al Hawley, Sean Rogers, Charlie Upchurch III

## GREETERS

Martee and Foy Horne, Frances and Nat Hansford, Tina Powers and Jerry Guyer, Rebecca and Adam Scarboro, Robin Hardin and Cecily Callaway, Annie Miller, Lucy Frierson, John Cunningham

## FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

Acolyte Manager: Lili Hollis

8:30 a.m. Abbi Merhar, Isaac Ward, Tommy Chambers

9:45 a.m. Kate McDonald, Millican Jarrett, Charles Clarke

11:00 a.m. Riley and Madison Holland, Seele Jarrett

## ATTENDANCE ON AUGUST 9

**Total Worship | 1169**

**Sunday School | 584**

8:30 a.m. | 223

9:45 a.m. | 362

11:00 a.m. | 497

Online | 87

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$1,815,292

Goal for August | \$187,868

Amount after 1 Sunday | \$109,413

## OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister

[athensfirstumc.org](mailto:athensfirstumc.org)

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**Martha Aenkbacher** Minister of Congregational Care

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**Beth Dickinson** Minister of Discipleship

[athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies](mailto:athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies)

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**Josh Miles** Director of Student Ministries

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**Robin Stewart** Director of Children's Ministry

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**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children's Music Ministry

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**Lynn Bryant** Director of REACH International

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[lynn@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:lynn@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

**Rusty Wood** Director of Recreation Ministries

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**Linsey Jarrett** Director of Weekday Preschool

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[linsey@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:linsey@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

**Julie Caldwell** 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

[julie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:julie@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-540-0042



# @weekday@ **PRESCHOOL**

Athens First United Methodist Church

Join us in praying over the children and teachers  
in our Weekday Preschool.

Father, we ask you to bless these children and their families. We thank you that you love each of them far more than we can comprehend. We pray even from this tender young age that these children may come to know you as the Creator of all things and the ultimate Father. We pray that these children will learn just how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Thank you for the opportunity to love and serve these precious children. Amen.

*[athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool](http://athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool)*



## Baptisms

On August 9, Madeleine Scott Myers received the Sacrament of Baptism in our sanctuary. Madeleine is the daughter of Marbrey and Matt Myers and the granddaughter of O.D. Dalton and Liz Dalton.

On August 9, McCall Grace Weekley received the Sacrament of Baptism in our sanctuary. McCall is the daughter of Jill and Dax Weekley, the granddaughter of Donna Weekley and Ken Weekley, and the great granddaughter of Ina Claire and Gene Weekley.

On August 9, Anna Blake Sams received the Sacrament of Baptism in our sanctuary. Anna is the daughter of Natalie and Gus Sams.

## Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Meghan Livingston and Aaron Lee who were married on August 8 in our sanctuary.

## Sunday Night Kick-off | Tonight

The first floor is about to get busy on Sunday nights! All Route 56 and Youth Sunday Night programs will begin meeting again tonight. These groups are open to all students and their friends, and we hope that you will join us this year! Our Sunday night programs are focused on fellowship, praise, prayer, service, and thanksgiving! For more information these programs, contact Erika.

**Wesleyan Youth Choir** | Grades 7-12 | Room 148 | 4:30 p.m.

**Open Road and Octane** | Grades 5-6 | Room 120 | 4:30 p.m.

**Encounter** | Grades 7-12 | Room 119 | 5:45 p.m.

Erika Bates | [erika@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:erika@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Photo Directory Sign-up

We are creating a family photo album of everyone in our church family...that means you! Registration in the library has closed; however, you may now sign up online. Help us meet our goal to provide you with a comprehensive directory that you may turn to for information about our church body. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel.

Rachel Skinner | [rachel@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rachel@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Sign up | [athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org)



## Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday night meals will resume in Fall 2015! We're kicking off dinner on Wednesday, August 19, with all of our caterers. Dinner is **free** on August 19, but registration is required by Tuesday, August 18, at noon. Our caterers this year include:

**First Wednesday**—Barberitos | Soft shell turkey tacos with toppings and chips

**Second Wednesday**—Chonell's | Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread

**Third Wednesday**—Dawg Gone Good BBQ | BBQ pork sandwich, mac and cheese, alternating side

**Fourth Wednesday**—Brixx Pizza and Fox's Pizza | 1/2 turkey sandwich and side salad (from Brixx) OR personal cheese or pepperoni pizza and apple slices (from Fox's Pizza)

Dinner is served from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall at \$6 a meal. Advance orders are required. Order by Tuesday at noon; orders accepted online only. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you order your meal. To reduce food waste and keep costs low, no walk-up meals are available. Save five percent when you order and pay for a month in advance; get a free meal when you order and pay for an entire semester in advance. Volunteers eat free! Please sign up to work one (or more) Wednesdays. Sign up online to serve; there's no need to order a meal if you sign up to serve.

Rachel Skinner | [rachel@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rachel@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Connect to Community

Fall is just around the corner. As we kick off the fall season, we will launch more than twenty small groups beginning in August and September. There is a place for everyone to grow in their walk with the Lord and connect to community at Athens First United Methodist Church. We believe that connecting to our church family and finding community here is an integral part of our faith development. In an effort to help you find the right fit, we're hosting a small group preview night on August 19. Join us to learn more about the small groups being offered and find the right group for you! For more information, contact Beth. Register online to join any of these groups this fall.

Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Register | [athensfirstumc.org/connecttocommunity](https://athensfirstumc.org/connecttocommunity)

## Disciple 3

Disciple 3, "Remember Who You Are," looks at the major and minor Old Testament prophets and the apostle Paul as they continually called people back to their God and to a sense of who they were as a people "set apart." The Disciple series goes deep into the word of God, and as small group members journey together, they develop deeper relationships with God and one another. The cost of the workbook is \$40. This study will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, August 26, and is led by Don Griner and Mary Lynn Lane. You can preview Disciple 3 on August 19 at Wednesday Night Kick-off.

## Freeway

*Freeway: A Way to be Free* is an eight-week coed experience that is built upon God's amazing grace, conversations with friends, and a personal exploration of our life story. Past

participants rave about this study that takes them on a grace-filled journey toward the life God dreams for them. Freeway will be a great place to connect with others if you have not found a place to connect at Athens First United Methodist Church. This study will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning August 26. The cost of this study is \$20. Please register online to facilitate planning and ordering materials. If you are interested, please plan to preview this class on Wednesday, August 19.

## Living Fully, Dying Well

Led by Dianne Morrison, this study will guide participants to learn how to face openly and unafraid the benefits and limitations of aging and end-of-life decisions. The group will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the John Wesley Parlor beginning Wednesday, August 26. The cost of the book is \$11. This study will be available to preview on August 19. Make plans to join us for more information.

## Experiencing God

*Experiencing God* is a classic Bible study that looks at what it is to know and do the will of God. As a small group, participants will examine Biblical and contemporary illustrations to understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. This study meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. beginning on August 26 and is led by Alan Cannon and Frank Sweezey. The cost of the participant book is \$17. A preview is available on August 19.

## Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* will be offered Tuesday nights this fall, September 1 through October 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Materials for this course cost \$100; couples share one set of materials. Childcare is available with registration. Please join us for Wednesday Night Kick-off, August 19, to preview Financial Peace University in Hull Conference Room.

## New Testament Letters

New Testament Letters will look at the writings of the Apostle Paul using Adam Hamilton's book *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*. If you would like to have the book, the cost is \$10. This study meets Wednesdays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in Hull Conference Room. Please register online to facilitate planning. If you are interested in this course, stop by the library during kick-off to preview.

## Breath

Susie Thrasher will be leading a group of women studying the new Beth Moore Bible study *Breath, The Life of God in Us*. *Breath* examines the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and its title is drawn from the words of John 20:22, which records that Jesus “breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” This study will meet Wednesday mornings September 9-October 28, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The workbook is \$10. Please register online so we may order participant workbooks.

## Believing God

This in-depth women’s Bible study is based on Isaiah 43:10 that explores what it means not only “to believe in God” but “to believe Him.” All women are invited to join! It will meet on Wednesday afternoons September 16-November 18 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and is led by Therese Wilson. The cost is \$16 for the participant workbook; please register online so we may order the correct number.

## Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions

This is an ongoing Bible study group that is open to everyone. This group reads scripture passages from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Psalms and from The Upper Room’s *Disciplines*. This group will begin meeting on August 17 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. in room 200.

## Comeback Boys of the Bible

*Comeback Boys of the Bible* by Neal Jeffrey is a Bible study encouraging men how to get up from the knockdowns of life. Neal Jeffrey, a former NFL quarterback and current associate pastor, looks at the stories from Moses to David to the thief on the cross and many in between. The cost of this study is \$5. It will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning August 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m and is led by Keith Wilson and Bruce Powers. Please register online to facilitate ordering materials.

## Covenant Bible Study Groups

The Covenant Bible study consists of three modules: Creating the Covenant, Living the Covenant, and Trusting the Covenant. Covenant Bible study demonstrates how the covenant relationship between God and people is woven throughout the Bible. Childcare will be available by registration for all sessions except Wednesday morning. Individual books are \$20.

Creating the Covenant (C1) will be offered on Wednesdays beginning August 26 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Trusting the Covenant (C3) will be offered Tuesdays beginning September 1 from 6:30-8:00 p.m; Wednesdays beginning September 9, 9:15-10:45 a.m; and Sundays beginning August 23, 4:45-6:15 p.m.

## Connect Groups

Participants in Connect Groups gather for conversation, community, Bible study, friendship, prayer, and fun social events. The Connect Groups are built up of individuals and couples in the same age-range of life. While always welcoming new members, the groups stay together throughout the year and truly grow in their connection with God and each other. A preview is available on August 19.

Connect Groups (Parents) will be offered Sundays beginning August 23 from 4:45-6:15 p.m. and 5:45-7:15 p.m.

Connect Groups (Young Married Couples) will be offered Wednesdays beginning September 9 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Connect Group (Young Adults) will be offered Thursdays beginning August 27 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

All are welcome to join a group of expert, novice, and beginning knitters and crocheters as they create prayer shawls. Completed prayer shawls are prayed over by the group and given to those who are grieving or have special needs. This group meets regularly in the parlor by the elevator on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

## Later Book Group

The Later Book Group meets on second and fourth Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m., starting September 9, in Room 247 (the Cornerstone Sunday School classroom). All are invited to these wide-ranging and interesting discussions of books pertinent to our faith. Our next book will be *Our Endangered Values* by Jimmy Carter. We will start with the first three chapters. Please join us for Wednesday Night Kick-off, August 19, to preview this study.



# Kids Music and Arts

Come see what Kids Music and Arts is all about on Wednesday, August 19!

Come and Follow Me

## Age 3-Kindergarten

**Dance** | Age 3-Kindergarten  
4:30-5:15 p.m. | Room 145

**Cherub Choir** | Age 3  
5:15-5:45 p.m. | Rooms 311 & 313

**Sonshine Choir** | Age 4  
5:15-6:00 p.m. | Tabernacle Room 325

**Joy Choir** | Kindergarten  
5:15-6:00 p.m. | Temple Room 320

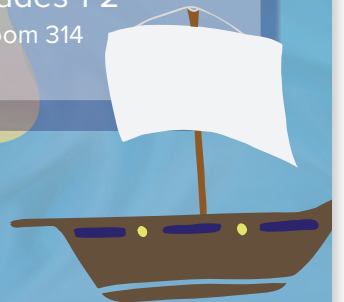
## Grades 1-4

**Lyric Choir** | Grades 1-2  
4:30-5:20 p.m. | Room 151

**Celebrate Worship Arts** | Grades 3-4  
4:30-5:10 p.m. | Amphitheater Room 314

**Celebrate Choir** | Grades 3-4  
5:10-6:00 p.m. | Room 151

**Lyric Worship Arts** | Grades 1-2  
5:20-6:00 p.m. | Amphitheater Room 314



## Kids Music and Arts

"Come and Follow Me" to Kids Music and Arts this year!

This Wednesday night program is choir and more for children age 3 through grade 4. Every child who is 3 years old by September 1, 2015 through fourth grade is invited to participate. This year we will learn about trusting and following God through singing, ringing, moving, playing, acting, and creating. Registration is now open online and families will receive an information packet in the mail. Information and registration cards will also be available at the Kids Hub in the Galleria and on the third floor children's Sunday School bulletin board. Join us this Wednesday, August 19, at kick-off.

Sarah Lawing | [sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Churchwide BBQ | August 30

Have you marked your calendar for the seventh annual Churchwide BBQ? You won't want to miss this family friendly and fun event. We will enjoy excellent music along with great barbecue and fellowship with our church family. Join us August 30 at 5:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park. Register and sign up to bring a covered dish online.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/bbq](http://athensfirstumc.org/bbq)

## Missions Thank You

We want to thank the volunteers who participated during the summer months in the numerous mission opportunities we are committed to: Our Daily Bread, Sack Lunch Ministry, Smart Lunch, Smart Kids, REACH, and the Children's Consignment Sale. God used each of these ministries to be a blessing to the people in our community, and it was truly amazing to see such willing hearts serving God. Because

of all who serve, we are doing all the good we can, in all the ways we can, to all the people we can through missions at Athens First United Methodist Church.



## Elijah Project

ONE Student Ministries is excited to begin our third year of an inter-generational prayer ministry called the Elijah Project. Through the partnership of youth, international students, and adult church members and consistent, expectant prayer, we anticipate seeing God move in our church in a powerful way—and we want YOU to participate! Registration for the 2015-2016 Elijah Project will be open until September 13.

Laney Jones | [laney@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:laney@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Learn More | [athensfirstumc.org/elijahproject](http://athensfirstumc.org/elijahproject)



## Children's Consignment Sale

Thank you so much to everyone who was a part of this year's Children's Consignment Sale! We are beyond thankful for the items you donated, the clothes you

consigned, the items you bought, and of course the many volunteers who made our sale happen. The sale was a great success and such an enjoyable experience! All proceeds will benefit “Imagine No Malaria,” helping to protect children from the fatal disease of malaria.

## HOLY GROUND



### Holy Ground | Grades 1-4

We are excited to announce a new Sunday morning routine for grades 1-4. Beginning August 2, children in grades 1-4 should be dropped off for Sunday school in the Chapel at 9:45 a.m. Children will participate in a unique faith

experience through singing, creating, and learning how the Bible can come alive in their world. After Holy Ground, children will walk to the third floor with their shepherds. Parents should pick up their grade 1-4 students from the third floor at the end of Sunday school.

Sarah Lawing | [sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

### Join the Greeter Team

The Greeter Team is looking for new members! Members of this active and friendly ministry area serve two to three times a year by greeting at an assigned door for two brief shifts on a Sunday morning and by volunteering at special events, such as the Churchwide BBQ. Marty Mitchell, a long-time greeter, says that she enjoys greeting because “it is a way to welcome people to a church that is so warm and accepting, and where there is a place for everyone to be involved.” If you can share a smile and hold open a door, you can definitely be a greeter! We would love for you to be a part of this growing team. To sign up, contact Rachel Skinner.

Rachel Skinner | [rachel@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rachel@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## This Week

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 | JOHN 6:51-54

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Worship Service</b> SANCTUARY<br><b>Preschool Nursery &amp; Sunday School</b> FIRST FLOOR   |
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Fun Gym</b> GYM   |
| <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>Worship Service</b> SANCTUARY<br><b>Adult Sunday School</b> SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING<br><b>Elementary Sunday School</b> THIRD FLOOR<br><b>Grade 5 &amp; 6 Sunday School: Fuel</b> FIRST FLOOR<br><b>Youth Sunday School: First Word</b> FIRST FLOOR<br><b>Newcomer Orientation</b> HOSPITALITY ROOM |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Sack Lunch Ministry</b> HULL STREET ENTRANCE  |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Worship Service</b> SANCTUARY<br><b>Young Professional Adult Sunday School Class</b> ROOM 224<br><b>Newcomer Orientation</b> HOSPITALITY ROOM<br><b>Scouting Roundup</b> HULL CONFERENCE ROOM   |
| <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Adult Sunday School Leader Meeting</b> ROOM 222<br><b>New Member Reception</b> HOSPITALITY ROOM   |

3:45 p.m. **Agape Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148  
 4:30 p.m. **Route 56: Open Road** ROOM 120  
**Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148  
 4:45 p.m. **Preview for Connect Group (Parents)** ROOM 114  
**Trusting the Covenant** ROOM 224  
 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150  
 5:45 p.m. **Preview for Connect Group (Parents)** ROOM 100  
**Encounter** YOUTH AREA

## MONDAY, AUGUST 17 | I KINGS 8:1, 6, 10-11

10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Circle 1 Meeting** ROOM 100  
 1:15 p.m. **Monday Bible Study** ROOM 200  
 5:30 p.m. **Staff-Parish Relations Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class**

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 | PSALM 84:4-5, 11-12

10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Circle 7 Meeting** ROOM 100  
 5:30 p.m. **Staff-Parish Relations Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
 6:00 p.m. **Middle School Volleyball League** GYM

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 | EPHESIANS 6:18

3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM  
 4:30 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Dance Class** ROOM 145  
**Kids Music and Arts: Grades 1-2 Choir** ROOM 151  
**Kids Music and Arts: Grades 3-4 Worship Arts** ROOM 314  
 5:00 p.m. **Wednesday Night Dinner** HANCOCK HALL  
**Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120  
 6:00 p.m. **Engage Bible Study** YOUTH AREA  
 6:30 p.m. **Connect to Community: Adult Small Group Preview**  
 7:00 p.m. **Adult Pick-up Volleyball** GYM  
 7:30 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119  
 8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 | PSALM 111

6:00 p.m. **Adult Softball** BISHOP PARK  
**Middle School Volleyball League** GYM

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 | JOHN 6:56-69

6:30 p.m. **REACH International Snack and Chat: Welcome Back Party** YOUTH AREA

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 | EPHESIANS 6:10-20

8:00 a.m. **Mobile Food Pantry**  
 9:00 a.m. **REACH International Leadership Training**  
 10:00 a.m. **ONE Student Ministries Adult Leader Training** YOUTH AREA

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