

The background features a stylized graphic design. It includes several fish-like shapes in grey and black outlines, some with small black dots for eyes. These are interspersed with thick red lines that form geometric shapes, including L-shaped corners and curved segments. A solid red circle is also present in the upper left and lower right areas.

ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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APRIL 3, 2016  
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

# Welcome

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We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804. 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.”

## *Newcomer Orientation*

We invite you to learn about the life of our church, ways you can get involved, and how to become a member by attending Newcomer Orientation, which is held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

## *Sunday School*

We offer Sunday school for children age 2 through adult each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

## *Children*

At Athens First United Methodist Church, we invite families to worship together. Children’s Church is held for children in kindergarten through grade 2 most Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service.

## *Financial Report*

Budget for 2016 | \$2,763,539  
Amount Given YTD | \$659,814  
Goal for March | \$226,004  
Amount after 3 Sundays | \$139,422

## *Attendance on March 27*

Total Worship | 2654  
Sunday School | 391  
8:30 a.m. | 463  
9:45 a.m. | 1226  
11:00 a.m. | 937  
Online | 28

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## *Ministers and Ministry Directors*

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister  
[chuck@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:chuck@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-206-5529

**Martha Aenchbacher** Minister of Congregational Care  
[martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org) | 678-230-9708

**Beth Dickinson** Minister of Discipleship  
[beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org)

**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions  
[betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org)

**Josh Miles** Director of Student Ministries  
[josh@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:josh@athensfirstumc.org)

**Robin Stewart** Director of Children’s Ministry  
[robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org)

**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children’s Music Ministry  
[sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org)

**Stephen Mitchell** Director of Music  
[stephen@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:stephen@athensfirstumc.org)

**Janis Maxwell** Director of Youth Music & Organist  
[janis@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org)

**Rusty Wood** Director of Recreation Ministries  
[rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org)

**Linsey Jarrett** Director of Weekday Preschool  
[linsey@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:linsey@athensfirstumc.org)

**Julie Caldwell** 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader  
[julie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:julie@athensfirstumc.org)

## *Contact Us*

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Find us on Facebook at Athens First United Methodist Church.

[athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# The Worship of God

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8:30 a.m.

THE GATHERING MUSIC

## *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage between Camille Blair and Cole Whalen in our sanctuary on April 2, 2016.

**\*THE CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

327 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” | **DIADEMATA**

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne,  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed**

**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 GLORY OF GOD | 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 WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Beth Dickinson

### *Anthem Lyrics*

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand. In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live. There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ. No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the pow'r of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand. Till He returns or calls me home—here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

### \*THE HYMN OF PRAISE

308 “Thine Be the Glory” | JUDAS MACCABEUS

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Betsy Butler

**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 OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“In Christ Alone” | Getty

*Sung by Julie Caldwell*

### \*THE DOXOLOGY | The Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 20:19-31 | p. 108 NEW TESTAMENT

## THE SERMON

“Looking Farther Than Our Eyes Can See” | Chuck Hodges

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please turn to page 5 in the bulletin for the Communion liturgy.

### The Receiving of the Elements of Communion

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 center station in the front of the sanctuary.

### The Music During Communion

“Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees”

8:30 a.m. service

**\*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Because He Lives”

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone,  
because I know He holds the future, life is worth the living just because  
He lives.**

**\* THE POSTLUDE**

“Rejoice the Lord is King” | Burkhardt

## Sermon Notes

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# The Worship of God

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9:45 &  
11:00 a.m.

## *Gathering*

### *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage between Camille Blair and Cole Whalen in our sanctuary on April 2, 2016.

### THE PRELUDE

“All Glory Be to God on High” | Albrecht

### THE WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Beth Dickinson

### THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Christ Is Alive”

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

## *Praise & Thanksgiving*

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

308 “Thine Be the Glory” | JUDAS MACCABEUS

### \*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### \*THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glorify 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

9:45 a.m | Betsy Butler

11:00 a.m | Beth Dickinson

**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.**

## *Proclamation of the Word*

### *Anthem Lyrics*

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives! He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives my ever living Head! He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save; he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love. He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives and I shall conquer death; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives! Alleluia!

### THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives” | Burkhardt

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; with the Alleluia Ringers; Brandon Craswell, trumpet*

### \*THE DOXOLOGY | The Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### THE SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 20:19-31 | p. 108 NEW TESTAMENT

### THE SERMON

“Looking Farther Than Our Eyes Can See” | Chuck Hodges

## *Response to the Word*

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your

name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. 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 wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory 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 God, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**



## The Receiving of the Elements of Communion

At Athens First United Methodist, 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 center station with the acolytes.

# *Sending Forth*

### \* THE HYMN

"We Walk by Faith"

**We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear  
From Him who spake as man e'er spake; but we believe Him near.**

**We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound,  
To call on Thee when Thou art near, and seek where Thou art found:**

**That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
We may behold Thee as Thou art, with full and endless sight.**

### \*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"We Receive Your Blessing"

**We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the  
light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the  
way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.**

### \* THE POSTLUDE

"Rejoice the Lord is King" | Burkhardt

# Great Day of Service

Saturday, April 16



BUILDS COMMUNITY

[athensfirstumc.org/gdos](http://athensfirstumc.org/gdos)

## Join us!



Two Seatings: 10:45 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.  
Tickets: adults—\$10 & \*children 3-12—\$5  
\*children 2 and under eat free

All proceeds support foster care efforts in the Athens area.

[athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket](http://athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket)

## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Susan and Jim Cooper and family in the loss of their son-in-law, Rob Burfield, on March 23.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Martha Aenchbacher in the loss of her sister, and Emily and Samantha Harvel in the loss of their aunt, Susan Lea Aenchbacher, on March 23.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to John Branyon and family in the loss of his aunt, Macye Garland, on March 24.

## Great Day of Service and Celebration Brunch and Basket Auction

Come serve at the Great Day of Service before heading out to watch the Dawgs! Projects are family-friendly and will be located here at Athens First United Methodist Church and throughout the community. On April 16, we will gather for light refreshments and Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m. and then head out together to share the love of Christ. Childcare is provided for children age 4 and under. We will gather as a church family for fellowship at our Celebration Brunch and Basket Auction on April 17. Please consider donating baskets for our auction, as an individual or with a group. All proceeds will benefit foster care in the Athens area. Register | [athensfirstumc.org/gdosandcelebrationbrunch](https://athensfirstumc.org/gdosandcelebrationbrunch)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## Can't Serve at the Great Day of Service?

If you cannot serve on April 16 at our Great Day of Service, there are still opportunities to help. Please email Sarah Epps or Betsy Butler if you are able to shop and run errands the week of April 11–April 15. We are in need of volunteers who are willing to pick up pre-ordered supplies, as well as volunteers who will receive donated baskets for the auction. Sarah Epps | [sfbee99@gmail.com](mailto:sfbee99@gmail.com)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, April 6, is Barberitos. Join us for soft shell turkey tacos with toppings and chips. Meals are \$6 each. Advance dinner orders are required. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. 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!

EA Whorton | [edithann@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:edithann@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals](https://athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals)

## Senior Fun Trip | Gibbs Garden

There is still room for the Senior Fun Trip to Gibbs Gardens on April 7. The cost is \$50, which include transportation, garden ticket, and tram ticket. Please bring extra money for lunch in the garden. The group will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. from the Kohls's parking lot. If you are interested in participating in the Senior Fun Trip, please contact Dan Maxey as soon as possible.  
Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097

## Stay Off the Ladder

Do you have odd jobs that need to be completed in your home, but you "shouldn't be getting up on that ladder?" We would like to help with these household tasks during the Great Day of Service and in the weeks to follow. Please contact Martha Aenchbacher or Betsy Butler to see if we can meet your needs.  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-678-9708

## Our Roots in the Reformation

When was the Reformation, and where did it begin? What was Reformed? Were the people called Methodists once part of the Lutheran Church? Was King James a Lutheran, and did he really translate the King James version of our Bible? Was our founder John Wesley a Catholic or Lutheran priest? Learn the answers to these questions and many more as we discuss our Protestant heritage. If you already know the answers, then join us to share your wisdom and enjoy short biographical videos depicting the stories of

some of the martyrs who made the Protestant Reformation and the King James Version of the Bible possible. See how Christianity was born again by the efforts of a few inspired heroes risking, and sometimes losing, their lives proclaiming that salvation comes only by faith in God through Jesus Christ. Join us for this informative and entertaining small group study with minimal reading. This group, led by Bob Dean, will meet Mondays, beginning April 4, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in room 100.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](http://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

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

## Battle Plan for Prayer

*The Battle Plan for Prayer*, a new small group for men, is based on the popular movie *War Room*. This study begins with prayer's core purpose, its biblical design, and its impact throughout history. Readers will be guided through scripture in the fundamentals of how effective prayer works, inspired towards a closer, more intimate relationship with God, and shown how to develop specific prayer strategies for each area of life. It should be your first plan of attack in all of life's battles, not your last resort. If you want to experience the joy of mightily answered prayer, then it's time to engage with God at another level. Keith Wilson will lead this group on Wednesdays, beginning April 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 240. The study guide costs \$10. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](http://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

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

## Children's Sabbath | April 24

Join us Sunday, April 24, at our 9:45 or 11:00 a.m. worship services for a special service as the children of our Kids Music and Arts program lead worship that will help all ages engage with the body of Christ and offer thanks and praise to God. As always, all children are welcome in any of our Sunday morning services. Sunday School and nursery care will follow a normal schedule. For more information, contact Sarah Lawing.

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

## Troop 1 Chicken BBQ | May 1

Boy Scout Troop 1 is selling BBQ chicken box lunches for \$9 per plate for carryout on Sunday, May 1, from 11:30 a.m.

to 1:00 p.m. Lunches include a BBQ chicken half, freshly cooked that morning, plus coleslaw, applesauce, bread, and pickles. Tickets will be sold from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the reception area and at noon outside the sanctuary on April 17 and 24, or can be purchased from any Troop 1 member. Lunches will be available for pick-up in the snack area of the gym. Limited walk-up lunches will be available, so buy a ticket to be sure you get a meal! Thank you for supporting Troop 1 as they raise funds for trips and equipment for our growing and active Scout troop.

Joe Wyrick | [joewyrick@icloud.com](mailto:joewyrick@icloud.com)

## Adopt a Mom | The Ark

The Ark, a mission partner of Athens First United Methodist Church, is looking for individuals to adopt moms in their third year of Adopt-a-Mom. This program has identified 155 mothers who would otherwise go unrecognized or remembered on Mother's Day. A donation of \$25 allows you to adopt a mom, who will then be delivered a card and flowers on Mother's Day, May 8. Visit their website for more information and learn how to make a donation.

Learn more | [athensark.org/adopt-a-mom](http://athensark.org/adopt-a-mom)

## Weekday Preschool Summer Camp

Registration has begun for summer camps! We are offering three camps:

**May 16-20—Let's Pretend**

**May 23-27—Exploring God's World**

**June 13-17—A-Camping We Will Go**

All camps take place Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$115 per child and is open to children age 2 on or before December 31, 2015, through children who just completed Pre-K. Please visit the webpage for details about each week of camp, information on early bird specials and sibling discounts, and registration forms. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Brodrick.

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

Susan Brodrick | [preschool@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:preschool@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-2427

## Families on the Fifth | May 29

Join us May 29 at 9:45 a.m. and begin summer with our family-friendly Sunday School program for children in kindergarten through grade 4 and their parents. Our next

Families on the Fifth Sunday will equip families with "Take Out Church." Take Out Church is a way for each family to bring faith to life with you while on vacation this summer. Each family will build and decorate a pizza box that will provide ways to worship God, grow as disciples, and love your neighbors. Each item in the box is designed to help us live into our mission as a church. Mark your calendars for May 29 to receive your Take Out Church materials.  
Robin Stewart | [robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide immediate shelter and guidance to homeless families with children, due to the impact of misfortunes upon their lives. As our church offers host weeks throughout the year, our volunteers are what makes these weeks possible. Each volunteer must be trained through the IHN's organized training program. If you would like to be trained to volunteer with this wonderful ministry, please contact Taylor Miller.  
Taylor Miller | [miller3750@bellsouth.net](mailto:miller3750@bellsouth.net)

## Music and Arts Week | June 1-3

Calling all treasure hunters! Come and discover the hidden treasure at Music and Arts Week, June 1-3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Children currently in kindergarten through grade 4 are invited. Mark Burrows, Director of Children's Ministries at FUMC Fort Worth, will lead us in fun, singing, and storytelling each day. Mr. Mark uses found objects and recyclables to turn trash into treasure as he tells exciting stories of Biblical proportions. Registration is open until May 22.

Volunteers are needed as well! We need adult and youth volunteers who are interested in helping children discover the hidden treasure of Jesus. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the webpage to register.  
Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek](http://athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek)  
Sarah Lawing | [sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Route 56 is ZOOMing into VBS

ZOOM is a VBS program intentionally developed for our Grade 5 students in Route 56 (Our students in Grade 6 are invited to volunteer at VBS). Activities will be both at

the church and other destinations. Transportation will be provided. Come join the fun and build relationships with your Route 56 friends as we dig deeper into the word, serve our community, and grow closer to God. ZOOM meets June 6-9 at the church from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Please register online. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Rogers for more information.  
Register | [athensfirstumc.org/vbs](http://athensfirstumc.org/vbs)  
Leslie Rogers | [leslie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:leslie@athensfirstumc.org)

## Vacation Bible School Needs Your Help

Please help us prepare to share the Light of Jesus with our Vacation Bible School children in June. Right now we are gathering supplies and the commitment of servants. Please prayerfully consider your response. If you are available to serve in the following ways, please contact Robin Stewart:

- adults to shepherd children
- music leaders

If you can donate any of the following items, let us know.

- styrofoam from large packages to use as rocks
- twinkle lights
- flashlights
- glow stars
- large pieces of cardboard to build boats
- blue tarps
- under-bed containers
- feathers
- plastic flowers

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

Robin Stewart | [robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Children's Consignment Sale

As you are cleaning out closets from the school year and transitioning into summer clothes, please consider donating your gently used children's items to be sold at the fourth annual Children's Consignment Sale, August 12-13! This year we will have a section just for school uniforms; we invite you to donate uniforms that your children have outgrown! All proceeds to this year's sale will go to support foster care efforts in the Athens area. Please bring items to Room 103, and contact Mary Claire if you have any questions.  
Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

# This Week

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## SUNDAY, APRIL 3 | ACTS 5:27-32

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Adult Sunday School** SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
- Preschool Nursery & Sunday School** FIRST FLOOR
- Elementary Sunday School** THIRD FLOOR
- Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel** FIRST FLOOR
- Youth Sunday School: First Word** FIRST FLOOR
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 12:15 p.m. **Venture Crew Meeting** ROOM 125
- 2:00 p.m. **Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1** ROOM 100
- 3:45 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
- 4:30 p.m. **Route 56: Open Road** ROOM 120
- Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
- Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
- 4:45 p.m. **Connect Group (Moms)** ROOM 224
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. **Encounter** YOUTH AREA

## MONDAY, APRIL 4 | ACTS 9:1-9

- 10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting**
- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 6:30 p.m. **Our Roots in the Reformation** ROOM 100
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study Evening Class**

## TUESDAY, APRIL 5 | ACTS 9:10-20

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 12:00 p.m. **UMW Circle 2 Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 5:00 p.m. **Girls' Spring Volleyball League** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 | PSALM 30:1-5

- 1:00 p.m. **A Woman's Heart** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM  
4:30 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Dance Class** ROOM 145  
**Kids Music and Arts: Lyric Choir Grades 1-2** ROOM 151  
**Kids Music and Arts: Grades 3-4 Worship Arts** ROOM 314  
**Prayer Shawl Ministry** ROOM 200  
4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 247  
5:00 p.m. **Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120  
**Wednesday Night Dinner** HANCOCK HALL  
5:10 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Celebrate Choir Grades 3-4** ROOM 151  
5:15 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Cherub Choir Age 3** ROOM 321  
**Kids Music and Arts: Sonshine Choir Age 4** ROOM 325  
**Kids Music and Arts: Joy Choir Kindergarten** ROOM 320  
5:20 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Grades 1-2 Worship Arts** ROOM 314  
5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters | Women's Bible Study** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
**Connect Group (Young Married Couples)** ROOM 301  
5:45 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226  
6:00 p.m. **Engage Bible Study** YOUTH AREA  
**Connect Group (Young Married Couples)** ROOM 307  
6:30 p.m. **Five Marks of a Methodist** ROOM 222  
**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148  
**Disciple 3** ROOM 229  
**The Battle Plan for Prayer** ROOM 240  
7:30 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119  
8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

## THURSDAY, APRIL 7 | PSALM 30:6-12

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM  
8:00 a.m. **Senior Fun Trip | Gibbs Gardens** LEAVING FROM KOHL'S PARKING LOT  
9:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study** HANCOCK HALL  
5:00 p.m. **Souper Supper** HANCOCK HALL  
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119  
6:30 p.m. **Adult Softball** BISHOP PARK  
7:00 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Adult)** ROOM 222  
**Connect Group | Married Couples with Children** THE HOME OF DUTCH AND MARY BETH GUEST

## FRIDAY, APRIL 8 | REVELATION 5:11-14

## SATURDAY, APRIL 9 | JOHN 21:1-14

- 9:00 a.m.

**Children's Soccer**

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## Athens First United Methodist Church

327 N. Lumpkin Street

Athens, GA 30601-2743

Telephone | 706-543-1442

Fax | 706-546-4797

Website | [athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org)

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### Postmaster

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