



Welcome

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."

Attendance

Please let us know of your attendance this morning by completing the pew pad.

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 | \$2,789,339 Amount Given YTD | \$1,807,606 Goal for July | \$180,306 Amount after 5 Sundays | \$241,295

Attendance on August 7

Total Worship | 1199 8:30 a.m. | 194 9:45 a.m. | 413 11:00 a.m. | 479 Online | 113 Sunday School | 461

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Ministers and Ministry Directors

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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 | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Anne and Branch Howe by their children.

THE PRELUDE *THE CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP TFWS 2272 "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" | HOLY GROUND We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now.

We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

*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 PASSING OF THE PEACE Martha Aenchbacher

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Robin Stewart, Director of Children's Ministry Anthem Lyrics

In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my

strength, my song. This

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Chuck Hodges

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 the Worship Team

*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

Romans 12:2 | p. 151 New TESTAMENT The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

"The Mark of Maturity" | Chuck Hodges

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

402 "Lord, I Want to be a Christian" | I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN Verse 1

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29

The Prayer of Preparation

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant

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 crv 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."

us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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 "Be Thou My Vision"

*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Standing on the Promises" | R. Kelso Carter

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

* THE POSTLUDE "Postlude on CWM RHONDDA" | Carlson

The Worship of God

9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Anne and Branch Howe by their children.

THE PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" | Whitsett

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "O Be Joyful in the Lord" | John Yarrington Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 467 "Trust and Obey" | TRUST AND OBEY

*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 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.

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** Martha Aenchbacher

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

9:45 a.m. | Luke Thomas Goodman, son of Lauren and Josh Luke, Luke, 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. Luke, Luke, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

11:00 a.m. | Lucy Anne Kane, daughter of Leigh Anne and Casey Lucy, Lucy, 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. Lucy, Lucy, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Chuck Hodges

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 | 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

Anthem Lyrics can be found on page 451 of the hymnal.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM The text for this anthem "Be Thou My Vision" | arr. Dan Forrest Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

> *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 Romans 12:2 | p. 151 New Testament The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON "The Mark of Maturity" | Chuck Hodges

Sending Forth

* THE HYMN 399 "Take My Life and Let It Be" | MESSIAH

*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 "Postlude on CWM RHONDDA" | Carlson

The Steeple

SUPER SUNDAYS

The first floor is about to get busy on Sunday nights. Sunday night programs for Route 56 (grades 5-6) and Youth (grades 7-12) begin meeting tonight. These groups are open to all students and their friends—we hope that you will join us this year!

Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal

Grades 7-12 | Room 148 | 4:30-5:45 p.m. Find your voice with us this year! Auditions are not required.

Janis Maxwell | janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Open Road and Octane

Grades 5-6 | Room 120 | 4:30-6:30 p.m. Join us each week for fun, food, missions, and music! Leslie Rogers | *leslie@athensfirstumc.org*

Encounter

Grades 7-12 | Room 119 | 5:45-7:30 p.m. Our Sunday night program is focused on fellowship, praise, prayer, service, and thanksgiving! Josh Miles | *josh@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442





Open church is an invitational experience to explore fall opportunities here at Athens First United Methodist Church. We hope you'll come and see all that we have to offer and find new ways to participate in the life of our church.

Wednesday Night Meals Preview

Enjoy a sample of our Wednesday Night meals in Hancock Hall anytime from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner is FREE this night, but please register online for us to get a head count. Barberitos, Taziki's Mediterranean Café, Fox's Pizza Den, Weaver D's, and Dawg Gone Good BBQ will each have samples available. This is the perfect time to preview the fall menu for Wednesday Night Meals.

Faithful Growth | Adult Small Group Preview

This fall we are offering many ways to connect with God and with others through sharing our faith walks and by studying the Bible together. You are invited to preview any of our small groups and Bible studies in the hallway outside of Hancock Hall from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Materials will be available for you to review. Come find the right small group for you this fall!

Adult Sanctuary Choir

The choir will rehearse on Wednesday, August 17, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the choir room. New members are welcome as we start a new year of music making. Auditions are not required for the sanctuary choir.

Engage | Grades 7-12

Engage is our Wednesday evening youth Bible study. We meet in the youth area for food and fellowship at 6:00 p.m., then we have middle school (grades 7-8) and high school (grades 9-12) Bible study until 7:30 p.m.

Route 56 GPS | Grades 5-6

GPS (God's Positioning System) is a small group Bible study designed for students in grades 5-6 to go deeper into the scriptures and learn how these words are His voice in our daily lives. We meet in the Route 56 room 120, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. A light snack is provided.

Passport to Worship | Kindergarten through grade 4

Children in kindergarten through grade 4 are invited to experience "Passport to Worship" in the Sanctuary to see worship behind the scenes with clergy and staff members. From 4:30-5:15 p.m., grades 1-2 and parents will meet in room 151, while grades 3-4 and parents will be in the Sanctuary. From 5:15-6:00 p.m., kindergarten through grade 2 and their parents will be in the Sanctuary, while grades 3-4 and parents will meet in room 151.

Kids Music and Arts | Age 3 through Kindergarten

During Open Church, KMA programming will work in conjunction with Passport to Worship. Dance (4:30-5:15 p.m.), Cherub Choir (5:15-5:45 p.m.), and Sonshine Choir (5:15-6:00 p.m.) will kick off their regular classes on August 17. Children in kindergarten through grade 4 are encouraged to join us for Passport to Worship; their choir rehearsals will begin the following week on August 24.

Fun Gym

Recreation will be offering Fun Gym on Wednesday nights from 3:30-7:30 p.m. for all who are involved in the Wednesday night programs of the church. The purpose of this program is to allow your children time to get out energy as they begin their evening of different programs throughout the church. All children grade 4 and under must be accompanied in the gym by an adult. We will be offering Fun Gym throughout the school year; hope to see you and your children on Wednesday nights!

Fun Gym | 3:30-7:30 p.m. Kids Music and Arts | 4:30-6:00 p.m. Passport to Worship | 4:30-6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Meals | 5:00-6:30 p.m. GPS | 5:00-6:00 p.m. Engage | 6:00-7:30 p.m. Adult Small Group Preview | 5:00-6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Denise McWhorter and her family in the loss of her father, Gerald Haywood, on August 4.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Art Archibald and his family in the loss of his mother, Margaret Archibald, on August 4.

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 foster care in the Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties.

Newcomer Orientation | Today

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation today in the Hospitality Room. Two sessions are offered, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. You can learn more about Athens First United Methodist, including ways to get involved and how to become a member.

Prayers for Weekday Preschool

As we begin a new school year in our Weekday Preschool on Monday, August 15, we invite you to pray for the teachers, students, and their families. It is an honor to serve these families and a privilege to teach these young minds.

Youth Parent Night | August 18

On Thursday evening, August 18, we will hold a Youth Parent Night. There will be a Clarke County gathering and an Oconee County gathering. Each gathering will run from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and a light supper will be provided. We encourage you to join us for this time of fellowship that will include discussion of our youth vision, the youth calendar for the year, and parent involvement with the youth program and Sunday school/small group classes. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Josh. Josh Miles | *josh@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Children's Flag Football

Our flag football league will be August 20-October 22 for boys and girls in Kindergarten through grade 2. Games and practices will be held on Saturdays (no games or practices will be held on UGA home game days). The teams will be co-ed and led by volunteer coaches. All games and practices will be at Chapelwood UMC. For more information, contact Rusty or Mary Claire. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/flagfootball* Rusty Wood | *rusty@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | *maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org*

New Sunday School | Young Families

Young Families is a new Sunday School class offered to married couples with elementary and nursery school age children. The purpose of this class is for couples to grow in their walk with God through study and fellowship. This class is a self/video-taught class focusing on personal growth, marriage, and parenting. The first meeting will be a breakfast social on August 21 at 9:45 a.m. in room 151. We are asking all couples that would like to attend the breakfast to bring a dish. Please register and RSVP if interested. For more information, contact Kayla Calloway. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/registration* Kayla Calloway | *kayla@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Charge Conference

There will be a called charge conference on Monday, August 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel to consider recommending Lisa Sheppard for candidacy as a minister in the United Methodist Church.

Pickleball

Please join us in a fun new program called pickleball! Pickleball is a great sport that consists of ping pong, tennis, and badminton all in one. Instructors will teach the game. This is a great game for adults young and old. Pickleball will take place Tuesday afternoons beginning August 23 from 1:30-3:00 p.m., and will be free for anyone interested. Contact Rusty or Mary Claire if you have questions. Learn more | *athensfirstumc.org/adultrecreation* Rusty Wood | *rusty@athensfirstumc.org* Mary Claire Wills | *maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org*

Churchwide BBQ

August 28 | 5:00 p.m. Sandy Creek Park

Please make plans to join us for our annual Churchwide BBQ! We will enjoy excellent music, great barbecue, and fellowship with our church family. We will have a variety of kid-friendly activities available for children, including a moonwalk, wiffle ball, and other outdoor games. Registration is now open. Sign up online or at one of the registration desks at the Washington Street entrance or the Lumpkin Street entrance.

athensfirstumc.org/bbq

Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday Night Meals will resume on August 24. Our vendors this year include Barberitos, Weaver D's, Dawg Gone Good BBQ, Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe, and Fox's Pizza Den. Dinner will be served from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Each meal is \$6. All orders must be placed by Tuesday at noon. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you order your meal.

We have two semester registrations open for you to pick the best option for your needs. One is from August-December and the other is from September-December. The only difference is one includes the two dinners in August and the other does not. If you do not want to purchase the entire semester, we have the options to purchase meals by the month or by the week. Registration is now open for both semester options, the month of August, and also August 24 and August 31. For more information, contact Kayla. Kayla Calloway | kayla@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Senior Fun Luncheon | August 25

This month's Senior Fun Luncheon is on Thursday, August 25, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. The University of Georgia head basketball coach, Mark Fox, will be our featured program speaker. For the entertainment portion, we will hear Rachel Holmes of the UGA Opera group, one of the finest soprano vocalists in the south, sing four Broadway hits. Call the church office by 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 24, to register. Church office J 706-543-1442

Girls' Volleyball this Fall

Our fall volleyball clinic will be August 29-October 24. This league is open to girls in grades 5-8. The program will teach the fundamentals of volleyball in a positive atmosphere and will include technique and game play in our gym. Please register online.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/youthvolleyball Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Parenting with Purpose this Fall

Our Parenting with Purpose program begins this fall with a showing of the movie *War Room* in Hancock Hall on

Thursday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. Six different weekly opportunities for small group discussion and study will begin the following week. Groups will focus on the movie's message about the power of prayer, the gift of grace, and strategies for a war room.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/pwp

Route 56 Retreat | September 16-18

Walk in It is the Route 56 fall retreat that will pave the way for a year of growing in the Lord. Walk in It will be a weekend for students in grades 5 and 6 to deepen friendships as we study God's Word, worship, have fun, relax, eat s'mores, pray, and encounter Christ together on our spiritual journey. This retreat will take place September 16-18 at Look Up Lodge in Traveler's Rest, South Carolina. This event will cost \$140. Registration is open online and the deadline is August 22. Only 50 spaces available! For more information, contact Kayla Calloway or Leslie Rogers. Register | *athensfirstumc.org* / route56/fallretreat Kayla Calloway | *kayla@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Leslie Rogers | *rt56afumc@gmail.com*

Opportunities to Serve | Webpage

Did you know that you can find a list of current service opportunities right on our homepage? This helpful tool is regularly updated to inform you of opportunities to serve in all areas of our church. For example, our Recreation Ministry is currently looking for coaches for our Children's Flag Football program. This is a great resource if you have yet to find a place to serve, or if you are looking to expand the areas in which you currently serve. Please take a look and see where you can serve our church, our local community, and the world. We hope you'll join us. Learn more | *athensfirstumc.org/serve*

Give a Hymnal

Quite a few of our hymnals in the sanctuary are showing wear and tear and need replacing. If you would like to give a hymnal in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete our online form or contact Stephen Mitchell. Every hymnal purchased will receive an honorarium/memorial bookplate on the inside cover. The cost is \$25 per hymnal. Place order | *athensfirstumc.org/musicministries* Stephen Mitchell | *smitchell@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

This Week

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 | PSALM 80:1-2, 8-19

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY
- **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 Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR Newcomer Orientation HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 10:00 a.m. Sack Lunch Ministry HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR Newcomer Orientation HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 4:30 p.m. Route 56: Open Road + Octane ROOM 120
- Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 5:00 p.m. Combined Handbell Ringers ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. Encounter YOUTH AREA

MONDAY, AUGUST 15 | JEREMIAH 1:4-5

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16 | JEREMIAH 1:6-10

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 6:30 p.m. Connect & Grow Group Leader Training ROOM 222
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17 | PSALM 71:1-6

- 3:00 p.m. Fun Gym GYM
- 4:30 p.m. Passport to Worship | Grades 3-4 & Parents SANCTUARY Dance ROOM 145
 - Passport to Worship | Grades 1-2 & Parents ROOM 151 Prayer Shawl ROOM 200
- 5:00 p.m. Route 56: GPS ROOM 120 Wednesday Night Meal Preview HANCOCK HALL Adult Small Group Preview HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF HANCOCK HALL
- 5:15 p.m. Cherub Choir | Age 3 ROOM 311 Sonshine Choir | Age 4 ROOM 325 Passport to Worship | Kindergarten & Parents SANCTUARY
- 5:30 p.m. 66 Love Letters | Women's Bible Study HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 5:45 p.m. Men's Prayer Group ROOM 226
- 6:00 p.m. Engage Bible Study YOUTH AREA
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Worship Team Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 | HEBREWS 12:18-24

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 | HEBREWS 12:25-29

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 | LUKE 13:10-13

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Flag Football CHAPELWOOD UMC
- **10:00 a.m. ONE Student Ministries Adult Leader Training** YOUTH AREA

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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Athens First United Methodist Church

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