

Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

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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 the 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 2017 | \$3,038,381 Amount Given YTD | \$797,889 Goal for March | \$233,086 Amount after 4 Sundays | \$208,957

Attendance on March 26

Total Worship | 1043 8:30 a.m. | 156 9:45 a.m. | 366 11:00 a.m. | 423 Online | 98 Sunday School | 340

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Contact Us

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Facebook: @Athens First United Methodist Church *athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

Palm Sunday is the Sunday immediately preceding Easter. Palm Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem which was celebrated by a large gathering waving palm branches. This day begins the series of observances focusing on the events of Holy Week. This Sunday is also often referred to as Passion Sunday, marking the beginning of the passion or suffering of Jesus leading up to and including the crucifixion.

Gathering

THE PRELUDE "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" | Burkhardt

THE SCRIPTURE

Martha Aenchbacher

Mark II:I-II | P. 44 NEW TESTAMENT

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The palms throughout the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the Altar Guild.

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THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Today we enter Holy Week, with its cycle of life, death, and new life. **Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!** Jesus, the holy one, enters Jerusalem as he rides on the back of a donkey colt. Crowds wave palm branches and cry out,

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Jesus, holy one, enter the gates of our hearts today as we join you in this time of your passion. With you, let us remember and celebrate your birth, your calling, your ministry.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Jesus guide us through the streets of our journey. Open our eyes and our ears to the guiding of God's spirit who calls us to costly faithfulness and to joyous wholeness. Let us sing with all our selves.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven. Amen.

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSION OF THE PALM BRANCHES UMH 278 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" | Ellacombe

THE MUSIC OF THE CHILDREN

8:30 a.m. | "Lo, He Comes" | John D. Horman Sung by the 8:30 a.m. service children

9:45 a.m. | "Lo, He Comes" | John D. Horman

Sung by the Lyric and Celebrate Choirs

II:00 a.m. | "Wave Palm Branches" | Mark Burrows Sung by the 3s, 4s, and Kindergarten choirs and Sunday school children

***THE HYMN**

имн 280 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" \mid st. theodulph Verses 1-3

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

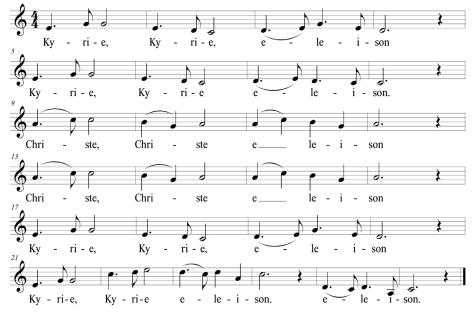
We sing, we wave our branches, we shout "Hosanna." Then, we turn away, to go back to our old ways, our old lives, our old sins. But God grants forgiveness and fills us with new life. Let us confess to the One who comes to fill us with grace.

Please note

During the 11:00 a.m. service, children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 are invited to exit the sanctuary following the Music of the Children to attend Children's Church in Hancock Hall. Almighty God, we confess that we are not so different from those who welcomed Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, yet later shouted "Crucify him!" or remained silent in the face of injustice. We have betrayed you too, Lord Jesus by our sins both secret and known. Yet you died for people like us, and you rose on the third day that we might be redeemed. For the sake of Jesus Christ do not hold our sins against us. Forgive us and shine your face upon us. Help us to have the same mind as Christ, so we would know your promises; help us to have the same heart as Christ, so we might serve your children; help us to have the same Spirit as Christ, so we might go wherever you lead us. Open our eyes to the power of love, shown to us in the unselfish sacrifice of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.



THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Bob Winstead

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

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" | arr. Gilbert Martin Janis Maxwell, organ; Jason Bennett, piano

THE SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 19:29-30 | P. 107 NEW TESTAMENT The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON "It Is Finished" | Bob Winstead

Seven Last Words

by Michael John Trotta

This music has been placed in the choir library and today's orchestra was funded to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents by the Jeremiah 29:11 Music Fund.

I. Father, Forgive Them

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy) Christe eleison (Christ, have mercy) Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

II. Today, You Will Be with Me

Today, you will be with me in paradise.

Remember me when you come into your kingdom, O Lord, hear me!

III. Behold Your Son

Deborah Stephens, soprano Behold, your son. At the cross her station keeping, stood mournful mother weeping.

IV. I Thirst

Isaiah Feken, baritone

I thirst.

If you are Christ, come down from the cross, that we might see and believe.

If you are King, save yourself, that we might see and believe.

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

V. My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me? My God, why have you abandoned me?

VI. Into Your Hands I Surrender My Soul

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

Into your hands I surrender my whole soul. Not mine, but your will be done.

VII. It Is Finished

Isaiah Feken, baritone; Andrew Bode, bass

And with a loud voice, Jesus cried, exclaiming: It is finished! Darkened was the sun, darkness covered the earth; torn was the veil; the earth did quake; all of the graves were opened wide! Truly this man was the Son of God.

Sending Forth

***THE BLESSING**

We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!

Because even if we were silent the stones themselves would have called out.

We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed,

and then it changed.

We have walked with another crowd.

One that called words of scorn and condemnation.

And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross, and yet even as the world grows dark, we cannot lose hope.

Because God is with us. God will be with us. Whatever happens. We are not alone.

And so we watch the crowd and we follow...

Violin I

Rachael Fischer Lucas Scalamogna Courtney Daglis

> Violin II Serena Scibelli Minhye Park Moises Cunha

Viola

Rogerio Nunes Rebecca Floyd Maria Kindt

Cello Ana Abrantes Eunice Kang

Bass

Chris Enghauser

Flute Lisa Bartholow Becky Neal

Oboe Holly Behr Whitney Holley

Horn Peter Riggs Andrew Sehmann

Trumpet Geoff Wood Anderson Romero

> **Timpani** Josh Luke

Harp Elizabeth Bennett

* THE POSTLUDE "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" | Burkhardt

Program Notes:

Michael John Trotta is one of the most "exciting and prominent new composers of choral music," a sought-after conductor, and dynamic clinician. He brings an "intimate knowledge of the human voice," a "rare sensitivity to the capabilities of a choral ensemble," and years of experience as an inspiring educator to thousands of singers each year. His award-winning commissions are frequently performed at Carnegie Hall, at national conventions, and his recordings are broadcast worldwide. Dr. Trotta lives in New York City with his wife Rachel where he works full time as a composer, conductor, and clinician working with choirs throughout the country. This work is one of his newest, only published in November 2016. It will be premiered in Carnegie Hall in May of this year.

From Michael John Trotta:

The texts come mainly from Jesus' last words on the cross, taken from the four gospels. Haunting in their simplicity, they expose a gamut of emotions expressed during the Passion, in a way that distills the most poignant moments of the human condition: from the tender forgiveness of the Father, Forgive Them to the hopefulness of the promise of paradise Today, You Will Be with Me. The work unfolds to reveal a complex tapestry of states of emotion: compassion (Behold Your Son), yearning (I Thirst), despair (My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me?), acceptance (Into Your Hands I Surrender My Soul) and resignation (It Is Finished). This setting uses various interpolations of biblical texts such as the Kyrie, "Truly this man was the Son of God," and "All of the gates were opened wide" as a commentary on and in dialogue with the words of Christ, further expanding the story and the reaction of those present and witness to the Crucifixion.

The Steeple

HOLY WEEK & EASTER Sunday's Coming Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Thursday, April I3 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday Friday, April 14 12:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 16 *6:30, 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 A.M. *Evergreen Memorial Park

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Danny Todd and his family in the loss of his father, Daniel "Chester" Todd, on March 29.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Elisabeth Thurmond and Patrick Finegan, who were married in our sanctuary on April 1.

Revival | New Small Group

Join us for an exciting seven-week study from popular author Adam Hamilton entitled *Revival: Faith As Wesley*

Lived It. Leader Bob Winstead will discuss the study guide lessons and companion video on Sunday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginning today in room 222. This new study explores the Eighteenth Century English Revival and John Wesley's role. Come join the Revival. Materials cost \$10. For more information, contact Cindy McKoy. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/registration* Cindy McKoy | *cindy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, April 12, is provided by Fresh Air BBQ. Join us for a barbecue pork sandwich, macaroni and cheese, Brunswick stew, slaw, and chips. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. For more information, contact Cindy. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you. Volunteers eat free. Register to volunteer online.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Maundy Thursday | April 13

On Maundy Thursday, we will commemorate the last supper of Jesus with his disciples by observing a service of Holy Communion followed by a service of Tenebrae, which will include the stripping of the altar and the extinguishing of light. Join us Thursday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We invite children to take communion with their families before exiting the sanctuary and going to the chapel for an age-appropriate experience of Jesus' last week on earth. Childcare will be available for children age 4 and under.

Good Friday | April 14

On Good Friday, we will take time to remember and reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus in a service that features the reading of the passion narrative and a musical interpretation of the Passion. Childcare will be available for children age 4 and under. Join us at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday Services | April 16

We will offer four services on Easter Sunday. Youth from ONE Student Ministries and the Wesleyan Youth Choir will lead worship at a sunrise service at Evergreen Memorial Park at 6:30 a.m. We will also offer three services in our sanctuary at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. including special music from the Sanctuary Choir and a brass ensemble. We will have overflow seating available in Hancock Hall. Please make plans to join us on Easter morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

GriefShare

Our spring GriefShare groups will continue meeting through mid-April. This faith-based curriculum for those grieving the death of a friend or family member features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. Erica Cooper, bereavement coordinator of Gentiva Hospice, facilitates both groups. The Monday group meets at 6:30 p.m. and the Wednesday group meets at 10:00 a.m. New participants are welcome to join at any time. There is no cost, but we ask that you register so that we can have enough materials prepared. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/griefshare* Martha Aenchbacher | *martha@athensfirstumc.org* 706-543-1442

Great Day of Service | April 22

Join us for many projects that will transform Athens! We have projects at the church and throughout the community. If you are unable to join us on Saturday, consider serving the week before by shopping for materials or donating ingredients or flowers for the brunch. This will be a wonderful weekend of service and fellowship, and we cannot do it without your help. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/gdos* Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | *maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org* 706-543-1442

Missions Celebration Brunch | April 23

Come join us for this year's Missions Celebration Brunch and Basket Auction on Sunday, April 23. The doors will open at 9:00 a.m. for the basket auction, so feel free to come browse before you eat. We will offer two seatings for the meal, 10:45 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. Tickets for the brunch are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 3-12 years old, and children 2 and under eat free. Proceeds from the Brunch and Basket Auction go to support Habitat for Humanity. Register online or call the church office.

We also have several volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can serve in the kitchen, the dining room, or at a registration table. To volunteer visit our website. For more information, contact Betsy or Mary Claire.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

KidCheck

KidCheck is the system our church uses to enhance security for children from birth through grade 12 while they are in programs in our building. It is important that each



We hope your family will join us this Saturday, April 15, for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will be gathering at the home of Carey and Stacy Stephens at 4:00 p.m. Please plan to join us! April Allen | *april@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

379 Westview Drive • Athens, GA 30606

family account contains current information. Of particular importance are current cell phone numbers and photos. Should we have an emergency, you may receive text messages if you have enabled that feature on your account. Photos are helpful for identification as well as hospitality. You may update your account on the KidCheck webpage by signing in with the password you set up. If you need any help or clarification, please contact April Allen. Learn more | *kidcheck.com*

April Allen | april@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

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 fourth year of Adopt-a-Mom. This program has identified over 200 mothers who would otherwise go unrecognized or remembered on Mother's Day this year. A donation of \$25 allows you to adopt a mom, who will then be delivered a card and flowers on Mother's Day, May 14. Visit their website for more information and learn how to make a donation.

Learn more | athensark.org/adopt-a-mom

Habitat for Humanity

We are so excited by the progress being made on our Habitat for Humanity Project! If you'd like to join us for this renovation project, there are opportunities to serve on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week for individuals or groups to serve. Groups are limited to 12-15 persons per shift. Volunteers can sign up a week in advance to work onsite during the week. Saturday dates are also available for volunteers and can be registered for online. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information, or to make a weekday appointment.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

Music and Arts Week

Calling all superheroes! Children currently in kindergarten through grade 4 are invited to Music and Arts Week June 13-15, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This year, we will be putting on the musical "Heroes of the Faith," and kids will have the chance to be involved in all aspects of the production, from set construction and costume design to singing, acting, and dancing! Visit our webpage for more info, including details about auditions for speaking roles. Registration is open now until May 31. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Costa Rica Mission Trip

We are sending a team to Costa Rica this summer, July 16-21, and would love for you to join us. If you would like to learn more about the details of this trip, please contact Betsy.

Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Epworth Mission Trip | July 20-23

ONE Student Ministries is excited about our Epworth mission trip for youth in grades 7-12. This trip takes place July 20-23 at Epworth by the Sea, in St. Simons Island, Ga., and includes two days of mission work, evening worship and activities, morning devotionals, small group times, beach and pool fellowship time, and dinner out in downtown St. Simons. We are capping this mission trip at 36 total students, so the earlier you register, the better. Registration is open until May 10. Please visit our webpage for more information and to register. Learn more | *athensfirstumc.org/epworth* Josh Miles| *josh@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Consignment Sale | August 4-5

Be sure to save the date for our fifth annual Children's Consignment Sale, August 4-5! As you are cleaning out your closets from the school year and transitioning to warmer weather, consider donating your gently used children's items to the sale. All proceeds from this year's sale will go to support foster care in the Athens and surrounding areas. Please bring all donated items to Betsy or Mary Claire's offices. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire if you have any questions.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442



This Week

	SUNDAY, APRIL 9 MATTHEW 21:1-11 Palm Sunday
8:30 a.m.	Worship Service sanctuary
0.50 a.m.	Preschool Nursery First Floor
9:00 a.m.	Fun Gym Gym
9:45 a.m.	Worship Service sanctuary
9:45 d.III.	Adult Sunday School second floor and saye building
	Preschool Nursery & Sunday School First Floor
	Youth Sunday School: First Word YOUTH AREA Route 56: Fuel ROOM 120
	Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground CHAPEL
	Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill ROOM 311 & 313
10.00	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
	Children's Church HANCOCK HALL
1:00 p.m.	Venture Crew Meeting ROOM 125
3:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 1 Meeting HANCOCK HALL
3:45 p.m.	Agape Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
	Youth Worship Team Rehearsal ROOM 119
4:30 p.m.	Carillons Ringers ROOM 150
	Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
	Route 56: Open Road + Octane ROOM 120
4:45 p.m.	Connect & Grow Group ROOM 200
	Disciple Fast Track Old Testament ROOM 224
5:30 p.m.	Alleluia Ringers ROOM 150
5:45 p.m.	Encounter ROOM 119
6:00 p.m.	Connect & Grow Group JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
6:30 p.m.	Revival ROOM 222

MONDAY, APRIL 10 | JOHN 12:1-11

- 10:00 a.m. Connect & Grow Group ROOM 222
- 1:15 p.m. Disciplines Devotional Bible Study ROOM 200
- 6:30 p.m. GriefShare | Monday Group ROOM 247
- 7:00 p.m. Community Bible Study, Evening Class

TUESDAY, APRIL 11 | 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 8:30 a.m. Community Bible Study Leaders Council
- 10:00 a.m. UMW Circle 2 Meeting THE HOME OF BARBARA LUCAS
- 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT
 - Connect & Grow Group ROOM 229
 - Connect & Grow Group TIMOTHY ROAD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 | ISAIAH 50:4-9a

- 9:00 a.m. UMW Nurturing Group HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study ROOM 222
- 10:00 a.m. GriefShare | Wednesday Group ROOM 100
- 3:00 p.m. Fun Gym GYM
- 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Worship Arts | Grades 3-4 ROOM 301 Dance ROOM 145 Lyric Choir | Grades 1-2 ROOM 151 Hospitality Room Hangout HOSPITALITY ROOM Prayer Shawl ROOM 200 4:45 p.m. Early Book Group ROOM 247
- 5:00 p.m. Route 56: GPS ROOM 120
- . Wednesday Night Meal HANCOCK HALL
- 5:10 p.m. Celebrate Choir | Grades 3 & 4 ROOM 151
- 5:15 p.m. Cherub Choir | Age 3 ROOM 314 & 324 Sonshine Choir | Age 4 ROOM 325 Joy Choir | Kindergarten ROOM 320 International Mission Trip Meeting ROOM 100
- 5:20 p.m. Lyric Worship Arts | Grades 1 & 2 ROOM 301
- 5:30 p.m. 66 Love Letters HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 6:00 p.m. Connect Group (Young Married) ROOM 114 Engage Bible Study ROOM 119
- 6:15 p.m. Kids Music and Arts Parent Meeting for 2s ROOM 100
- 6:30 p.m. Connect & Grow Group ROOM 224 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal SANCTUARY Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life ROOM 226 Final Words from the Cross ROOM 222 Pauses for Lent JOHN WESLEY PARLOR Later Book Group ROOM 247
- 8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, APRIL 13 | JOHN 13:1-17, 31b-35 Maunday Thursday

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study SANCTUARY
- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
- 5:00 p.m. Souper Supper HANCOCK HALL
- Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service SANCTUARY

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 | JOHN 18:1-19:42 Good Friday—office closed

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service SANCTUARY

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 | MATTHEW 27:57-66

4:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt THE HOME OF CAREY AND STACY STEPHENS

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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Athens First United Methodist Church

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