

The background features a stylized graphic design. It consists of several fish-like shapes, each with a simple eye and a curved line for a mouth, rendered in dark grey. These shapes are arranged around a central red geometric structure that resembles a stylized cross or a large letter 'H' with rounded corners. The red lines are thick and vibrant. There are also small red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Children's Sunday

APRIL 29, 2018
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

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.

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 2018 | \$3,231,864
Amount Given YTD | \$988,150
Goal for April | \$242,930
Amount after 3 Sundays | \$166,258

Attendance on April 22

Total Worship | 1,062
8:30 a.m. | 161
9:45 a.m. | 301
11:00 a.m. | 472
Online | 128
Sunday School | 331

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Ministers and Directors

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sarah@athensfirstumc.org

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linsey@athensfirstumc.org

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

8:30 a.m.

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Kenny, Mr. T.C. DeVore, and in honor of Helen DeVore by Mr. and Mrs. Mike DeVore and their children.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Benjamin Hardman by Catherine and Lam Hardman.

GATHERING SONG

“Night Has Passed (Morning Has Broken)” | arr. Arndt/Gungor

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s re-creation of a new day!

INVOCATION

Martha Aenchbacher

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” | HYMN TO JOY

*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.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71 “Glory Be to the Father”

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Josh Miles

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.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Jesus Loves Me" | arr. Latifah Phillips

Anthem Lyrics

The lyrics can be found on page 191 of the United Methodist Hymnal.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" | 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 19:13-15

p.20 NEW TESTAMENT

¹³ Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; ¹⁴ but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Jesus Loves Me! This I Know" | Betsy Butler

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 144 "This is My Father's World" | TERRA BEATA
Verses 1 and 2

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Holy Mystery that is wholly love, you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love, you are creative and self-giving, generously moving. Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ — God incarnate, the Risen Christ — who joins us together as a community of believers, striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place. In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid.

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."

We do remember. We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again. In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Loving God, who in Jesus Christ gives us our salvation, consecrate by your Holy Spirit these elements of Holy Communion. Bless us as we receive them this day that we may be your faithful people. In our Risen Savior's name we pray. **Amen.**

Receiving of the Elements

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 elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

Music During Holy Communion

“How Deep the Father’s Love” | Stuart Townend

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 144 “This is My Father’s World” | TERRA BEATA
Verse 3

This is my Father’s world. O let me ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father’s world: why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad!

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

“This Little Light of Mine” | Traditional

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

Mr. and Mrs.
Edwin R. Kenny,
Mr. T.C. DeVore,
and in honor of
Helen DeVore
by Mr. and Mrs.

Mike DeVore
and their children.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
William Benjamin
Hardman by
Catherine and
Lam Hardman.

THE PRELUDE

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” | Janzer

Praise & Thanksgiving

THE SCRIPTURE READING

9:45 a.m. | Martha Aenchbacher

11:00 a.m. | Josh Miles

Matthew 19:13-15 (NLT)

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. The disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE INTROIT

“Let the Children Come” | Mark Burrows

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Let none of God’s wonderful works keep silence – night or morning.

Let all creation break into song as we sing to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Let no one and nothing be left out;

every man, woman, and child,

every mammal, reptile, and bird—

Let everything that has life praise our Eternal God!

*THE HYMN

UMH 57 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” | AZMON

***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 SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

9:45 a.m. | “Psalm 8,” “Thank You God,” and “This Little Light of Mine”

Sung by the Music Explorers and 2s Sunday School classes

11:00 a.m. | “The Butterfly Song” by Brian M. Howard

Sung by the Joy Choir

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

9:45 a.m. | Grades 1-4 Sunday School children and families

11:00 a.m. | “God Made Everything Big and Small” by Glenn & Susan Eernisse

Sung by the Sunshine Choir

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

9:45 a.m. | Variations on “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Janis Maxwell, organ; Natalie Smith, flute

11:00 a.m. | “Hundreds and Thousands and Millions” by Joanne & Milton LeDoux

Sung by the Sunshine and Joy Choirs

***THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 HYMN**

UMH 144 “This is My Father’s World” | TERRA BEATA

Verses 1 and 2

Proclamation of the Word: In the Image

by Mark Burrows

THE INTRODUCTION

Sarah Lawing

THE SCRIPTURE

ADAPTED FROM GENESIS 1:1-2:3

“It Was Good”

Ruby Robinson, Collette Lawing, Rebecca Garbin, Lilly Ann Taylor, Molly Martin, and Anna Hartgrove; soloists

THE MESSAGE

“Created to Create”

“All Things”

“Wonder-Beautiful”

Mary Webb, Sarah Cochran, and Olivia Tucker; trio

“What Do You Suppose?”

“The Heart-Song of God”

“In the Image”

Sending Forth

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE POSTLUDE**

“Siyahamba” | South African Hymn

Note

Please allow the children to exit the sanctuary immediately following the benediction.

IN THE IMAGE

Choir: We are all made in the image of God.
We are living in the image of God.

Choir and Congregation:

The musical score is written for a choir and congregation. It consists of six staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "We are lov - ing in the im - age of God. We are lov - ing in the im - age of God. We are lov - ing in the im - age of God. In the im - age of God, we are lov - ing in the im - age of God. In the im - age of God, we are lov - ing in the im - age of God." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line.

From: *In the Image* (CGC63).

Text: South African, tr. Anders Nyberg, adapt. Mark Burrows.

Music: *SIYAHAMBA* (South African), collected and edited by Anders Nyberg, arr. Mark Burrows.

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"IN THE IMAGE" CAST

Conner Jackson (Catalyst)
Drew Martin (Environmentalist)
Annabelle Robinson (Artsy)
Lilly McNeill (Craftsy)
Mason Pilcher (Literalist)
Braydon Jackson
(MisUnderstood Creature Kid 1)
Vance Patterson (M.U.C.K. 2)
Burke Seagraves (Drummer)
Tessa Steger (Poet)
Zane Taylor (You Know)
Hudson Wilkes (Sleepy)
Charlotte Holland (Wow)

KIDS MUSIC AND ARTS LEADERS

Jennifer Golden
Kasey Yearly
Matthew Lawing
Nancy Hartgrove
Patti Pitts
Josh Luke
Rosemary Belger
Barbara McConnell
Debbie Willingham
Janis Maxwell
Sarah Lawing
Sylvia Arant
Cathy Felton
Betty Chapeau

YOUTH HELPERS

Marley Bain
Annabel Johnston
Thomas Jones

ROUTE 56 OCTANE CHOIR LEADERS

Janis Maxwell
Ksenia Kurenysheva
Lauren Covington
Jennifer Golden
Mary Howell

MUSICIANS

Natalie Smith, flute
Mason Towe, percussion
Josh Luke, percussion

MADE FOR PRAISE

Music and Arts Week

June 12-14 | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Children in grades K-4



LOOK & LISTEN

to local professional musicians who play a variety of instruments

LEARN

to play an instrument and prepare songs to share

EXPLORE

ukulele, recorder, mallet percussion, and junkyard jam

DISCOVER

the *hows* and *whys* of music, instruments, and the great beyond

CONNECT

to other kids in our own community and across the ocean



Register | athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek

Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org

Wednesday Night Meals | May 2

The meal on Wednesday, May 2, is provided by Barberitos. Join us for soft shell turkey tacos and chips. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. All are invited to attend and encouraged to spend time together during our Wednesday Night Meal. If you have difficulty ordering online, please call the church office and a staff member can help you order your meal. For more information, contact Cindy.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Senior Recognition Sunday | May 6

We look forward to recognizing the Senior Class of 2018 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 6. Please join us in celebrating our graduating seniors!

Josh Miles | josh@athensfirstumc.org

Adopt-a-Mom | May 13

The Ark, a mission partner of our church, is looking for volunteers for their annual Adopt-a-Mom. \$25 allows you to adopt a mom, who will then receive a card and flowers on Mother's Day. Visit their website for more information and to make a donation.

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

GriefShare | Begins May 22

GriefShare will meet again during the summer of 2018! This thirteen-week faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. GriefShare groups are for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. We will meet each Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

in Room 100 and be led by Martha Aenchbacher. Our group will begin May 22 and conclude August 14. Please register online so that we will have materials prepared for you. There is a \$20 fee to pay for your workbook. You may pay that fee online when you register, or bring a check with you to the group meeting.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org
678-230-9708

Exercise Your Faith

Stretch your discipleship muscles and serve with children during Vacation Bible School, June 4-7. Help complete our winning team of volunteers. We still need 15 more adults to share their gifts.

Learn more and register | athensfirstumc.org/vbs

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Shannon Dupree | shannondupreevbs@gmail.com



Summer FUNday School | June & July

Get ready for some FUN during Sunday School in June and July as we merge kids of all ages, kindergarten through grade 12! Our older students may elect to serve in leadership positions each Sunday. Our younger children will have the opportunity to learn by seeing how the big kids do it! Our mornings will include praise and worship, large and small groups, and games. Plan on a FUN Sunday morning each week! After checking in on KidCheck, drop-off will be in the youth room at 9:45 a.m. Kids can be picked up from the youth room at 10:45 a.m. Stay tuned for more details!

Robin Stewart | robinafumc@bellsouth.net

Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org

Youth Service Week | June 26-30

ONE Student Ministries will be participating in Youth Service Week on Tuesday morning, June 26, through Saturday morning, June 30. The primary goal of Youth Service Week is to have our youth in grades 7-12 more engaged with their community from a Christ-like perspective. We will pursue that goal through service projects, outreach, and visits to our neighbors in the Athens community. Registration will close on Sunday, May 6, at 11:55 p.m. For planning purposes, the sooner you register the better!

Register | athensfirstumc.org/youthserviceweek

Josh Miles | josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Supporting Our Foster Families

We currently have three families in our congregation who are serving as foster care families to children in our community, and we want to make sure we walk with them as they are the hands and feet of Jesus to these children. All proceeds from our Children's Consignment Sale on August 10 and 11 will go to help support our Foster Care Ministry. Please consider being a consignor and/or donating gently used clothing for the sale. We will gladly accept donations whenever it is convenient for you! Preview Sale will be August 9 for our consignors and volunteers. Please contact Betsy or Sarah Beth for more information.

Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org

Sarah Beth Barger | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org



Register for Summer Camps

We are excited to offer a variety of children's camp programs this summer through our recreation department!

We still have spots available for:

Volleyball Camp

June 12 - 14 & June 19 - 21

Junior Jam Basketball Camp

May 29 - June 1

& July 9 - 13

Register Online

athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps

Contact Rusty or Sarah Beth

rusty@athensfirstumc.org

sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org

This Week

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 | PSALM 22:25-31

- 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
- Youth Sunday School: First Word** YOUTH AREA
- Immanuel Project** ROOM 301
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 12:00 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts Luncheon** HANCOCK HALL
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1 Meeting** ROOM 100
- 4:30 p.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 145
- Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- Route 56 Open Road & Octane (Parent Orientation)** ROOM 120
- 5:45 p.m. **Encounter**

MONDAY, APRIL 30 | ACTS 10:44-48

- 10:00 a.m. **Connect & Grow Women's Group** ROOM 200
- 11:30 a.m. **Circle 5 Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 7:00 p.m. **Evening Community Bible Study** SANCTUARY
- Connect & Grow Group** TIMOTHY ROAD

TUESDAY, MAY 1 | ACTS 10:44-48

- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226
- Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 229
- Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:30 p.m. **Elijah Project Banquet** HANCOCK HALL
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2 | PSALM 98

- 9:30 a.m. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** ROOM 222
- 9:45 a.m. **When Godly People Do Ungodly Things** ROOM 229
- 4:30 p.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ROOM 200
- 4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 224
- 5:00 p.m. **Wednesday Night Meal** HANCOCK HALL
Lyric & Celebrate Choirs ROOM 151
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
Connect Group | Young Married ROOM 114
- 6:00 p.m. **Youth Bible Study: Engage** ROOM 119
- 6:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal SANCTUARY
- 8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

THURSDAY, MAY 3 | 1 JOHN 5:1-6

- 9:00 a.m. **Altar Guild** ROOM 100
- 10:00 a.m. **Our Daily Bread** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 8:30 p.m. **Adult Softball** BISHOP PARK

FRIDAY, MAY 4 | 1 JOHN 5:1-6

SATURDAY, MAY 5 | JOHN 15:9-17

- 10:00 a.m. **Children's Soccer** CHAPELWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
- 3:00 p.m. **Sanctuary Choir Cookout** HOME OF TOM AND SHERRY JACKSON
- 4:00 p.m. **Scouts End of Year Banquet** HANCOCK HALL

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