

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 series of connected lines. There are also solid red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

AUGUST 5, 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 | \$1,757,678

Goal for July | \$215,164

Amount after 4 Sundays | \$175,175

Attendance on July 29

Total Worship | 919

8:30 a.m. | 143

9:45 a.m. | 287

11:00 a.m. | 333

Online | 156

Sunday School | 241

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

CCLI License No.

1097803

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Ministers

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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 John W. "Skip" Thurmond Jr., Martha Jim and John Thurmond Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clement Sr., by Mrs. Jan Clement Thurmond and children, Bret, Chuck, Detra, and Wesley.

GATHERING SONG

"10,000 Reasons" | Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

Refrain

**Bless the Lord, O my soul. O my soul, worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.**

INVOCATION

Josh Miles

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 129 "Give to the Winds Thy Fears" | FESTAL SONG

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Susan Taylor

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

"You Are My Vision" | arr. Rend Collective

*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

PROVERBS 25:4-5 | p. 573 OLD TESTAMENT

SERMON

"Lose Your Baggage" | Chuck Hodges

Anthem Lyrics
The text for this anthem can be found on page 451 of your hymnal.

*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

UMH 383 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” | BEGINNINGS

Verses 1 & 5

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | A Modern Affirmation

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Here is the table of the Lord. We are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal. Come when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come when you are regretful, and be made whole. Come, old and young, there is room for all. Let us pray:

God of new beginnings, because you come among us to make us whole, we approach your table with delight and expectation: glad to be comforted, ready to be challenged, knowing your generous love for all. Amen.

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.

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. On the night...

We celebrate your love for us in Jesus Christ. As we remember Christ's sacrifice through communion, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.

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.

Anthem Lyrics

Bring your worry, grief and pain, every cause you have for shame. Lay it all down. When your cares have buried you and there's nothing left to do, lay it all down at the feet of Jesus. Carried on but your heart was tired. Feared the worst and felt the fire. Lay it all down. Filled with all those anxious thoughts, and your doubts became your god. Lay it all down at the feet of Jesus. When we've given up on better days there are memories we can't erase. Lay it all down. We've come to fear what we can't explain and there's nothing here that can ease the pain. Lay it all down at the feet of Jesus.

Music During Holy Communion
"Lay It All Down" | Will Reagan

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 383 "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" | BEGINNINGS

**Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.**

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" | Matt Limbaugh

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 John W. "Skip" Thurmond Jr., Martha Jim and John Thurmond Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clement Sr., by Mrs. Jan Clement Thurmond and children, Bret, Chuck, Detra, and Wesley.

THE PRELUDE

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" | Matt Limbaugh

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 384 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" | BEECHER

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

9:45 a.m. | Susan Taylor

11:00 a.m. | Josh Miles

**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**

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Martha Aenchbacher

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Proclamation

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Abide with Me” | arr. Mark Hayes

Callie Waller, soprano

***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 FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen

THE SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 25:4-5 | p. 573 OLD TESTAMENT

THE SERMON

“Lose Your Baggage” | Chuck Hodges

Response

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

When we gather to praise God and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to the will of God. Accepting God's power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation sings:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of 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. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. 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.

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."

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 Father, now and forever.

Congregation sings:

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Invitation

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join in God's Kingdom.

The Receiving of the Bread and Wine

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.

The Music During Communion

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” | arr. Mark Hayes

Callie Waller, soprano

The Prayer after Receiving

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*THE HYMN

UMH 382 “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” | ADELAIDE

Verses 1, 2, & 4

Sending Forth

*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

“Reprise ‘Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise’” | Matt Limbaugh

The Steeple

SUNDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to our Sunday Night Kick-off on August 12! This night will include programming for students in Route 56, the Wesleyan Youth Choir, and the Youth Ministry; including a combined dinner in the back parking lot featuring burgers and hotdogs (we will also have vegetarian options)!

Drop-off and pick-up for all students is at the Hancock Avenue entrance with the brown wooden doors. Please note that the Washington Street entrance will be closed, so plan to enter the back parking lot via Hancock Avenue for drop-off and pick-up. We ask that students bring a picnic blanket or a towel (labeled with name) for our dinner time in the back parking lot!

Route 56 Students (Grades 5-6)

Drop-off: 4:30 p.m.

Pick-up: 6:30 p.m.

Wesleyan Youth Choir Students (Grades 7-12)

Drop-off: 4:30 p.m.

Pick-up: 7:30 p.m.

Youth Ministry Students (Grades 7-12)

Drop-off: 5:45 p.m.

Pick-up: 7:30 p.m.



In Memoriam

Mary Beth Fain
July 26, 2018

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mary Beth Fain, who passed away July 26.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Gayle Blount and her family in the loss of her brother, Charles Pullen, on July 27.

A Special Invitation

You are cordially invited to a reception celebrating Bob and Evelyn Winstead's recent marriage. Join us on Sunday, August 12, at 3:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. No gifts please—they have two of everything! Hugs and warm wishes gladly received. Light refreshments will be served. No RSVP necessary.

Interfaith Service for CCSD

The Interfaith Clergy Partnership will host a service of celebration for the Clarke County School District on Sunday, August 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse at Piedmont College in Athens. Parking is free and all are welcome. Come celebrate the importance of education in our community as blessings are offered for teachers, students, administrators, and staff of the Clarke County schools. If you would like to donate some school supplies, please bring any of the following: #2 pencils, colored pencils, crayons, glue sticks, and/or markers to this event.

A Word to the Wise

Our new series, "A Word to the Wise," continues next Sunday. Join us at 8:30, 9:45, or 11:00 a.m. for part two, "The Right Word at the Right Time."

GriefShare

Join us Tuesday, August 7, as we discuss the afterlife and what heaven is like. GriefShare meets Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in room 100. Please register online so that we will

have materials prepared for you. The cost is \$20. You may pay online or in person.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare

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

Connect Group | Young Adult

Join the Young Adult Connect Group for a six-week Bible study on the book of James beginning August 9. In this study, we will engage with the challenging concept that knowing about the God of the Bible is not the same as knowing the God of the Bible. Knowing God results in a changed life—a life with real wisdom. The group will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in room 222. Study materials cost \$7. Please register online.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Katie Elder | katie@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Newcomer Orientation

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation the second Sunday of each month. Join us on August 12 in the Hospitality Room at 9:45 a.m. You can learn more about Athens First United Methodist, including ways to get involved and how to become a member.

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

Donate School Supplies

Each week our missions team goes to Bethel Homes and serves and has fellowship with our friends who live there. With the school year quickly approaching, many of our neighbors struggle to acquire adequate school supplies for their children. We would love to bless these kids with the school supply boxes sold at Kroger. These uniform and compact boxes of school supplies will allow our friends to set up their children for success this school year! We will be collecting donated Kroger boxes of school supplies now through Monday, August 13. You may drop off boxes in room 111.

For any questions, please contact Betsy Butler or Sarah Beth Barger.

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

Sarah Beth Barger | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday Night Meals will resume on August 15 with Weaver D's. Our vendors this year include Barberitos (turkey tacos and chips), Champy's (chicken fingers, baked beans, and slaw), Fresh Air BBQ (BBQ pork sandwich, macaroni and cheese, Brunswick stew, and chips), and Weaver D's (fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a roll). 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. Registration is now open for the semester option, the month of August, and August 15. For more information, contact Cindy.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

Kids Music and Arts

Registration for our Kids Music and Arts program is now open for Fall 2018! Choir and more for ages 3 (by September 1, 2018) through grade four will kick off on Wednesday, August 15, with Meet the Teacher (all classes) and Passport to Worship for kindergarten through fourth grade. Be sure to see our web page for descriptions of choirs and electives offered this year. Join us as we learn how we're "Growing with Jesus" together!

Register | athensfirstumc.org/kidsmusicandarts

Sarah Lawing | sarah@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 vital that each family account contains current information and that all communication features are enabled. Should we have an emergency or need to get in touch with you, you will receive a text and/or email message with details regarding your children. Please review your account to be sure that all your contact information is current. Additionally, adding a current photo to your account is essential in identifying a child. If you need any help, please contact Jennifer Golden.

Learn more | kidcheck.com

Jennifer Golden | jennifer@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Flag Football

Registration for children's recreation flag football league is now open for this fall. If your children are in kindergarten through grade 5 and are interested in learning the game of flag football and building athletic skills while growing in Christ, register online! The season starts Saturday, August 11. Practices and games will take place on Saturdays, excluding UGA football home games. Make-up games and practices will be the following Monday. Please contact Rusty Wood for any additional information.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/flagfootball

Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Parenting With Purpose Small Group

Mothers of preschool-aged children are invited to gather each Friday morning beginning September 14 for a time of fellowship, study, and discussion. We will begin with *Follow*, an IF:Gathering study that tackles the question "who is Jesus?" On Fridays we will meet from 9:15-10:45 a.m. to dig into our responses to the message and discuss how to apply it to our everyday lives. Childcare for young children will be available. Please register online to let us know if you will be joining us!

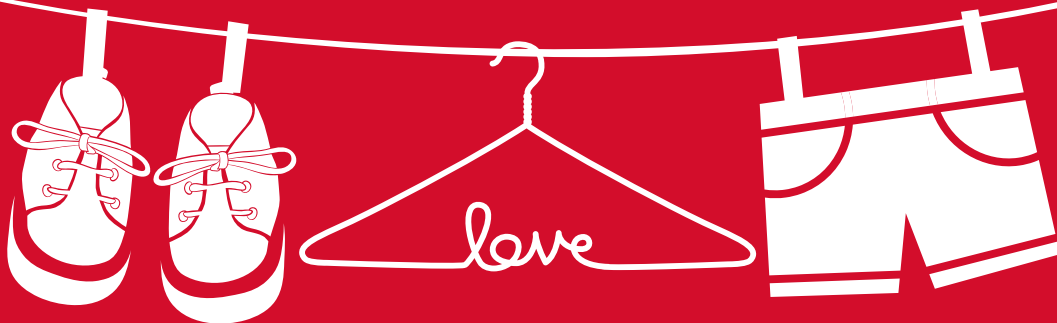
Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

Churchwide BBQ

Please note that the date and location of our annual Churchwide BBQ has changed. This year, we will meet on Sunday, October 21, at our church. Please save the date and plan to join us for this event!

Children's Consignment Sale



Come Shop!

August 10 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

August 11 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

***August 9** 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

*Preview Sale for volunteers and consignors

athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale

This Week

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5 | EPHESIANS 4:15-16

- 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
- Youth Sunday School** YOUTH AREA
- Route 56: Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School** ROOM 120
- Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground** CHAPEL
- Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill** ROOM 311 & 313
- Preschool Nursery & Sunday School** FIRST FLOOR
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 4:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR

MONDAY, AUGUST 6 | 2 SAMUEL 18:5-9

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7 | 2 SAMUEL 18:31-33

- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD
- 5:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 229
- Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:00 p.m. **GriefShare** ROOM 100
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8 | PSALM 34:1-8

- 12:00 p.m. **Kids Music & Arts Teacher Work Day** ROOM 119
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters**
- 6:30 p.m. **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9 | EPHESIANS 4:25-29

- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Consignment Preview Sale** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. **Connect Group: Young Adult** ROOM 222

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10 | EPHESIANS 4:30-5:2

- 9:00 a.m. **Children's Consignment Sale** GYM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 | JOHN 5:35, 41-46

- 8:00 a.m. **Children's Consignment Sale** GYM
- 10:00 a.m. **Youth Leader Training** ROOM 119

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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