



MISSION & VISION

- Our shared mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Our vision is to move persons from observers to participants to builders to transformers.

We attain our vision:

- By inviting observers into a welcoming community,
- By growing participants in their relationship with Christ and his people,
- By encouraging builders to become servant leaders in the life of the church,
- By sending transformers into the world as authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

I. Youth Ministry Vision

- The youth ministry at Athens First United Methodist Church is a Christ-centered community of youth and adults committed to developing disciples of Jesus Christ through study, worship, and mission so that we can be transformers.

II. Study

- **Confirmation [observers→participants→builders]**
 - Students become professing members of the United Methodist Church.
- **Sunday School [observers→participants→builders]**
 - Weekly announcements. Student-led opening words. Student engagement, activities, and hands-on learning to grow in the faith.
- **Bible Study [builders→transformers]**
 - Food. Fellowship. Focused study with middle school and high school students in different groups.

III. Worship

- **Encounter [observers→participants→builders]**
 - Sunday night youth program.
- **Wesleyan Youth Choir [builders→transformers]**
 - Youth making a joyful noise unto the Lord.
 - Sunday afternoon rehearsals for singing in Sunday morning church services, in the community, and on choir tour in summer.

- **Youth Praise Team [builders→transformers]**
 - Youth leading their peers and adults in the worship of God.
- **Youth Acolytes and Greeters [observers→participants]**
 - Students serving before and during Sunday morning worship.
- **Youth Sunday & Easter Sunrise Service [builders→transformers]**
 - Specific youth ministry led Sunday-morning worship services.
- **Youth Retreats [observers→participants]**
 - Intentional time away from the busyness of our lives to be with God and to be together as God's people.
 - Examples Include Spiritual Life Retreat, Confirmation Retreat, and Harvest Retreat.

IV. Mission

- **Meet the Need [observers→participants]**
 - Weekly service component of Sunday night Encounter as we seek to meet different needs in the church, the Athens community, and beyond.
- **Thanksgiving Ingathering [participants→builders]**
 - Youth and adult leaders delivering Thanksgiving meals to families in need in the Athens community.
- **Mission Trips [builders → transformers]**
 - Serving locally, regionally, and internationally in Jesus name.

V. Other Means of Transformation

- **Leadership Opportunities [builders→transformers]**
 - Encounter Worship Team.
 - Student-Adult Leadership Team (S.A.L.T.).
 - Meetings at the beginning, middle, and end of school year to vision, evaluate, and plan for the future.
 - Grade-Level Sponsors.
 - Adults and Students leading in Sunday School.
 - Confirmation Mentors.
 - College students in leadership with the youth.
 - Youth assigned roles to lead different parts of Wednesday night Bible studies.
 - Adult and high school leaders on retreats and in missions.
- **Prayer [participants→builders→transformers]**
 - Elijah Project Prayer Ministry.
 - Homebound Prayer Partners.
 - Confirmation Retreat prayer time(s).
 - Leader meeting and prayer time before each Sunday night program.
 - Students leading in prayer during Sunday School and Bible study.
 - Students praying over speakers at Encounter.