Athens First United Methodist Church

The Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 18, 2015
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We're glad you're here! Thank you for joining us today. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804, when our church was formed to minister to the Native American and European settlers in Athens. 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." At Athens First United Methodist, there are many ways to get involved, grow in your faith, and do good in our community.

If you are unable to attend worship in person, each Sunday our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WRFC 960 AM, and our 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services are live-streamed on our website at *athensfirstumc.org/webcast*.

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through four-year-olds on Sundays from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. The nursery area is located on the first floor of the building, off the Washington Street entrance.

Children

Worship activity bags (age appropriate for all preschool and elementary children) are available every Sunday in the narthex and by the south entrance of the sanctuary. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through second grade and follows the Children's Message during 11:00 a.m. worship all Sundays except for Communion Sundays.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for all ages, kindergarten through adult, each Sunday from 9:45–10:45 a.m. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit *athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool*.

Connect

We are blessed to have a large congregation. Because of this, we offer many programs and ministries. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to get involved. If you would like a buddy to guide you along this process, please notify a Helper. Helpers serve as part of our Welcome Ministry team. Look for them in the narthex or near the altar. You can also contact a Helper through our website *athensfirstumc.org/helper*.

Another great way to learn about the life of our church is through attending a Newcomer Orientation held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11 a.m. We also encourage you to visit our website, *athensfirstumc.org*, for information about our ministries, to register for events, and to listen to sermons from our sermon archive. Visit *athensfirstumc.org/thesteeple* to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athens_firstumc on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 706-543-1442.

The Worship of God

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

Gathering

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Comer and Virginia Whitehead by Bob Whitehead and Anne Whitehead Garner.

THE PRELUDE
"It Is Well with My Soul" | Whitsett

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER
Beth Dickinson

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

Praise & Thanksgiving

* **THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 463**
"Lord, Speak to Me" | Canonbury

* **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
by Steve Garnass-Holmes
We belong to God,
creator of all that is and all that is to come,
abundant provider of the gifts in this life
and the gifts in our own hearts.
It is God alone who gives life,
who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.
We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal,
to show us a new way of living,
with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity.
In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life.
He was crucified and buried;
yet God raised him from death,
and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.
We live by that Holy Spirit,

and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment.
As members of the church, the Body of Christ,
we devote ourselves to lives of love,
rejoicing in the power of forgiveness,
the reality of resurrection,
and the mystery of eternal life. 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.

* **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
Betsy Butler

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 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in kindergarten through second grade will go to W.O.W. in the Caravans room on the third floor. Parents are to pick up children from the Caravans room at the end of the service.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM
8:30 a.m. | Special Music

9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. | "Consecrated, Lord, to Thee"
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; music: Lloyd Larson and text: Frances Havergal
Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee. Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use every power as Thou shall choose.

Use my heart, my mind and will. Through my life Thy plans fulfill. Use my life: my talents, time, my all. May I hear Thy holy sov'reign call. Lord, take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

* THE DOXOLOGY

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 SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 3:3-10

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. 6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8 A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

THE MESSAGE

"The Most Important Sign of Love" | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION | 8:30 a.m.

Please turn to page nine in your hymnal. At Athens First United Methodist, 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. Note that all gluten-free communion elements are available at center altar station.

Sending Forth

* **THE HYMN 593**
"Here I am, Lord"| HERE I AM, LORD

* **THE BLESSING**

* **POSTLUDE**
"I Sing the Almighty Power of God" | Kerr

JANUARY USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal, Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowrey, Jim Lyons, Candler Meadors, Olan Moore, Bob Noble, Grace Rabek, Ken Reece, Keith Wilson, Michael and Sharon Broun

9:45 a.m. Chris Bostdorff, Tom Cooper, David and Jane Disney, Mark Ellison, Mark Firth, Tom Hedges, Dan Lasseter, Jim Lyons, Sharon Milton, Tom Milton, Al Rogers, Bill Trigleth, Michelle and Reeves McNeill

11:00 a.m. Lee Brinson, Nathan King, Ryan Brinson, Claude Felton, Steve Greer, Mack Furlow, John Bateman, Jim Lyons,

OFFERING STEWARDS

Bob Booth, Charlie Grimes, Jim Lyons, Nat Carmack, Henry Garrard, Nathan King, Al Hawley, Sean Rogers, Charlie Upchurch III

GREETERS

Mary and Bob Wimberly, Valerie Aldridge, Jerry Guyer, Cindy and Bill Walker, Charlotte and Hal Northrop, Mason Jones, Virginia Beth Butler, Annie Miller

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Cate Hardman, Charles Clarke, Morgan Grace

9:45 a.m Jackson Keene, Charlotte Knight, Meg Chandler

11:00 a.m. Kate McDonald, Margaret Timberlake Lili/Anna Hollis

ATTENDANCE ON JANUARY 11

Total Worship | 1,453

Sunday School | 557

8:30 a.m. | 234
9:45 a.m. | 482
11:00 a.m. | 631
Online | 106

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2014 | $2,431,008
Amount Given YTD | $3,003,476
Goal for December | $447,619
Amount after 4 Sundays | $572,468

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister
athensfirstumc.org
chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

Martha Aenchbacher Minister of Congregational Care
athensfirstumc.org/caregroups
martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship
athensfirstumc.org/studies
beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions
athensfirstumc.org/missions
betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Josh Miles Director of Student Ministries
athensfirstumc.org/youth/students
josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Robin Stewart Director of Children's Ministry
athensfirstumc.org/sundaymorning
robinafumc@bellsouth.net | 706-543-1442

Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry
athensfirstumc.org/childrensmusic
sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Stephen Mitchell Director of Music
athensfirstumc.org/adultmusicministry
stephen@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist
athensfirstumc.org/wyc
janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Lynn Bryant Director REACH International
athensfirstumc.org/reachinternational
lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries
athensfirstumc.org/recreation
rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-8193

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool
linsey@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

PARENTING W/ PURPOSE

BACK TO BASICS: PARENTING WITH LOVE AND LEADERSHIP

Speaker **JOHN ROSEMOND**

Date **FEBRUARY 8 | 5:30 P.M.**

Register ***athensfirstumc.org/pwp***

YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A MOM BRUNCH

Speaker **JOHN ROSEMOND**

Date **FEBRUARY 9 | 9:30 A.M.**

Register ***athensfirstumc.org/pwp***

Parenting with Purpose
February 8 & 9

The Children's Ministry of Athens First United Methodist Church is excited to announce our fourth Parenting with Purpose event. Nationally known author and speaker John Rosemond will join us on February 8 and 9. On Sunday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m. Rosemond will be speaking on love and leadership for parents. On Monday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m. a brunch will be held. John Rosemond will address moms with *You're More Than Just a Mom.* We hope you'll mark your calendars to join us. These events are free and open to the public. Childcare will not be provided.

Sunday's session, *Parenting with Love and Leadership* is a humorous, yet thought-provoking seminar, where family psychologist Rosemond describes the contemporary parenting conundrum in clear, compelling terms and then describes a practical, tested solution using what children need adults to provide to them: love and leadership. Rosemond will be available for a meet and greet on Sunday evening before the presentation begins (doors open at 5:00 p.m.)

On Monday morning at 9:30 a.m., mothers are invited to Rosemond's presentation of *You're More Than Just a Mom.* He will talk about the experience of raising of children as a stressful, anxiety- and perhaps even guilt-ridden process that never lets up in its uber-demands on time, energy, and emotions.

John Rosemond is one of America's most popular speakers on parenting issues. His talks are provocative, educational, empowering, and entertaining. John promises that his audiences will laugh...a lot. Since 1978, John has written a weekly nationally-syndicated parenting column that appears in more than 200 papers nationwide and is the author of seventeen best-selling books on parenting and family issues. Rosemond's common-sensical advice has gained much credibility with today's parents.

Register | *athensfirstumc.org/pwp*
Robin Stewart | *robin@athensfirstumc.org*
706-543-1442

Baptisms

On January 11, Sarah Parris Daughterty received the Sacrament of Baptism in our sanctuary. Sarah is the daughter of Catherine and Philip Daughterty.

New Arrival

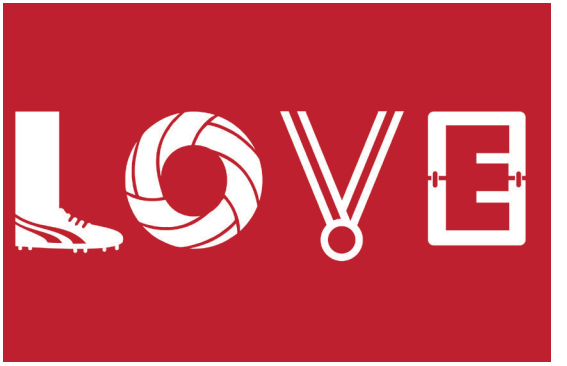
Congratulations to to Jill and Dax Weekley on their daughter, McCall Grace, on January 9.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Becky and Leonard Scarboro and family in the loss of his mother, Dorothy Scarboro, on January 6.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Penny and Bob Bignon and family in the loss of her brother, Jim Treadwell Jr., on January 9.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Robert Miles and and family in the loss of his sister, Margaret, on January 12



Mission Opportunities Newsletter

Each week, opportunities to serve in missions and upcoming service events are published in the *Mission Opportunities* newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please contact Diana Zylow to sign up.
Diana Zylow | *diana@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

weekday
PRESCHOOL
Athens First United Methodist Church

Weekday Preschool Registration for Fall 2015 Begins in January

Weekday Preschool began accepting registrations for Fall 2015 on Friday, January 10; priority registration closes Friday, January 23. Forms are available online and in hard copy at the preschool desk. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis giving priority to the groups listed below in that order. Please visit our website for more information. Priority deadlines are as follows:

- Currently Enrolled Families: registration due Friday, January 16
- Church Member Families: registration due Thursday, January 22
- General registration: due Friday, January 23
- Parents Notified of Acceptance/Class Placement by Friday, February 6

Website | *athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool*
Linsey Jarrett | *linsey@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Children's Worship Arts | January through April 2015

Following our Children's Music Ministry 2015 Kick-off party on January 7, choirs, dance, and worship arts will resume regular classes on Wednesday, January 14. From January 14 through February 18, students in grades 1 through 4 will have the opportunity to attend a visual arts class where we will be making pieces to be used for our Spring Musical and for use in the church during Lent. Beginning February 25, worship arts will be an instruments class, focusing mainly on drumming. We hope you'll come Shine Your Light with us in the new year!
Sarah Lawing | *sarah@athensfirstumc.org*

Sign up to Serve at Souper Supper

Days are going fast to serve this winter at Souper Supper! As of January 12, these Thursdays are available for groups to prepare a meal—January 22 and February 26. Souper Suppers continue through the spring, and groups to prepare the meal are needed each Thursday in March and April. Individuals and couples may also sign up at any time to offer hospitality or serve at the store.
Learn more | *athensfirstumc.org/soupersupper*

Wednesday Nights Meals | January 21

The meal for January 21 is provided by Barberitos, and the menu is Barberitos taco bar, and beverages. Meals are $5 each. Advance sign-ups are required. Sign up online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. Contact Diana

STOP HUNGER NOW™

January 30 | 5:00 p.m.

Unload the truck and set-up

January 31 | 2 shifts

Package meals

8:00 to 9:45 a.m. or
10:00 a.m. to noon.

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a fun, hands-on international mission project for all ages. This is an opportunity to an impact across the globe without leaving Athens.

First, you can pray for the hungry and for the families' hearts that can be transformed by our service. If you can't attend on January 31, pray for everyone that will be present. Pray that the Holy Spirit be present and move the hearts of everyone in Hancock Hall and everyone across the world who receives a meal.

If you can pour a bowl of cereal, you have all the skills you need to be a part of Stop Hunger Now. The fun starts Friday, January 30, with the opportunity to help unload the truck and set-up beginning at 5:00 p.m. Then on January 31 you have the opportunity to help package more than 40,000 meals during 2 shifts, 8:00 to 9:45 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org*
Learn more| *athensfirstumc.org/stophungernow*

to make a standing/regular reservation. Take-out boxes will be available if you have to eat and run, or run and then eat! You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed to help serve or clean up the meal. Those who volunteer eat for free. Please sign up online.
Diana Zylow | *diana@athensfirstumc.org*
Register | *athensfirstumc.org/registration*

Job Opening | Director of Communications

Our Director of Communications, Amelia Wilson, is getting married and moving to Atlanta. Her position as full-time Director of Communications is available. Excellent skills in communications, personal relationships, and writing are requested. Additionally, the Director of Communications must be proficient in Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, Outlook, Publisher and PowerPoint), as well as Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop) and website content management systems. Applicants should be willing to learn new technology and skills to maintain efficiency and relevance in the area of communications. All completed applications and resumes may be sent to Katherine Hodges.
Katherine Hodges | *katherine@athensfirstumc.org*
706-543-1442

Senior Fun | January 22

All individuals 55 and older are invited to the January Senior Fun Luncheon on January 22 at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Several members of the UGA Opera Group under the direction of Dr. Frederick Burchinal will perform selections from *Hansel & Gretel,* which they recently performed at UGA. Call the church office to make your reservation by Friday, January 16.
Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097
Beth Dickinson | *beth@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

COVENANT

Living the Covenant (C2) | January 25

It is not too late to join a Living the Covenant (C2) small group! A group will begin meeting on Sunday, January 25 at 5:15 p.m. and is led by Mark Graham and Beth and Keith Dickinson. The cost is $20, and please register online. Covenant Bible study consists of three modules of eight weeks each: Creating the Covenant (C1), Living the Covenant (C2), Trusting the Covenant (C3). Each module of this series builds upon itself as participants read, study, and discuss the Bible together and learn how to love God—and each other—better.
Register | *athensfirstumc.org/register*
Beth Dickinson | *beth@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Communion Guild Training January 25

This training is for current members of the Communion Guild and those interested in joining. Chuck Hodges will explain the significance of Holy Communion, along with how to prepare and serve the elements at Athens First United Methodist Church. At the conclusion of the training, we invite you to sign up to prepare or serve Communion at any of the three worship services throughout the year. Please

join us at the front of the sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 service on January 25.
Katherine Hodges | *katherine@athensfirstumc.org*
706-543-1442

Host Week for Interfaith Hospitality Network | January 25-February 1

We will be hosting Interfaith Hospitality Network January 25 through February 1. Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) provides services and coordinates temporary housing for displaced families in local host churches. During our host week volunteers are needed in a variety of ways, including driving the (IHN) van, spending time with guests (both overnight and in the evening), and providing dinner.
Sign up online | *athensfirstumc.org/serve*
Taylor Miller | *miller3750@bellsouth.net* | 404-272-0418

The Mix | February 20-22

The Mix is an annual community-wide event that brings together youth and churches from across the Athens area for high-energy worship, teaching, and breakout sessions. All students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us for a weekend of spiritual growth and a lot of fun! Registration is required; the deadline to register is February 8.
Learn more | *athensfirstumc.org/themix*
Josh Miles | *josh@athensfirstumc.org*

Wesleyan Youth Choir Variety Show March 1

Join us at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, as the Wesleyan Youth Choir hosts our church's annual Variety Show! This year's theme is "Love is in the Air." Warm and fuzzy feelings will abound as talented musical groups of all ages sing about love! Songs you know and love will be performed by friends and familiar faces- it's a night you won't want to miss! No tickets or reservations are required; a love offering will be taken to help offset the cost of the WYC's Summer Choir Tour to St. Louis. We hope to see you there!
Janis Maxwell | *janis@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

This Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Men's Tijuana Mission Trip

8:30 a.m.	**Worship Service** SANCTUARY
	Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
9:45 a.m.	**Adult Sunday School** SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BULDING
	Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
	Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
	Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
	Worship Service SANCTUARY
10:00 a.m.	**Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
11:00 a.m.	**Worship Service** SANCTUARY
	Young Professional Adult Sunday School ROOM 224
11:30 a.m.	**Children's Church** CARAVANS THIRD FLOOR
4:30 p.m.	**Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
	Route 56 | Open Road ROOM 120-122
	Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
	Teen Proofing ROOM 200
5:30 p.m.	**Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
5:45 p.m.	**One Student Ministries | Encounter** YOUTH AREA
7:00 p.m.	**Pick-up Volleyball** GYM

MONDAY, JANUARY 19 | 1 Samuel 3:11-20

Church Closed

Men's Tijuana Mission Trip

8:00 a.m.	**AFUMC Service Day in partnership with Community Connection**
9:30 a.m.	**United Methodist Women Circle 3 Meeting** WALL HOME
11:30 a.m.	**United Methodist Women Circle 6 Meeting** LANIER HOME

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 | Psalm 139:1-6

5:30 a.m.	**Fashion Fitness** GYM
8:00 a.m.	**Community Bible Study Leaders Council** YOUTH AREA
10:00 a.m.	**United Methodist Women Circle 7 Meeting** ROOM 100
1:00 p.m.	**REACH International Leadership Meeting** ROOM 226
5:30 p.m.	**Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
6:30 p.m.	**Living the Covenant | C2** ROOM 224
7:00 p.m.	**Boy Scouts | Troop 1** SAYE HUT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 | Psalm 139:13-18

7:00 a.m.	**Fashion Fitness** GYM
9:15 a.m.	**Living the Covenant | C2** ROOM 224
9:30 a.m.	**Letters of Paul | Wednesday Morning Bible Study** HULL DINING ROOM
	Beth Moore Study | Children of the Day ROOM 229
12:00 p.m.	**Teen Proofing** TRIGLETH HOME

12:30 p.m.	**Beth Moore Study | Children of the Day** ROOM 229
3:30 p.m.	**Fun Gym** GYM
4:30 p.m.	**Children's Choir Grades 1 & 2**
	Worship Arts Grades 3 & 4
	Children's Dance Class
	Parenting by the Book ROOM 226
	Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200
4:45 p.m.	**Early Book Group** ROOM 100
5:00 p.m.	**Route 56 GPS** ROOMS 120-122
	Wednesday Night Meal HANCOCK HALL
5:15 p.m.	**Jesus Calling Express Bible Study** ROOM 235
	Children's Choir 3 yr old, 4 yr old, Kindergarten, Grades 3 & 4
	Worship Arts Grades 1 & 2
5:30 p.m.	**Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 307
	Living the Covenant | C2 ROOM 229
	Sams Connect Group ROOM 301
6:00 p.m.	**One Student Ministries | Engage Bible Study** YOUTH AREA
	The Psalm Trees Connect Group ROOM 100
6:30 p.m.	**Creating the Covenant | C1** ROOM 247
	Living the Covenant | C2 ROOM 222
	Living the Covenant | C2 ROOM 224
	Allen/Anderson Connect Group ROOM 307
	Men's Study: *The Truth Project* ROOM 240
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
	Parenting by the Book ROOM 235
8:00 p.m.	**Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 | 1 Corinthians 6:2-20

5:30 a.m.	**Fashion Fitness** GYM
9:30 a.m.	**Community Bible Study**
12:30 p.m.	**Senior Fun** HANCOCK HALL
5:00 p.m.	**Souper Supper** HANCOCK HALL
5:00 p.m.	**Children's Basketball** GYM
5:30 p.m.	**Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 | 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

9:30 a.m.	**Parenting by the Book** RICHARDSON HOME
5:00 p.m.	**Children's Basketball** GYM
6:30 p.m.	**REACH International Bible Study and Dinner**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 | John 1:14-20

9:00 a.m.	**Children's Basketball** GYM
	Mobile Food Pantry SANCTUARY

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Athens First United Methodist Church

327 N. Lumpkin Street
Athens, GA 30601-2743
Telephone | 706-543-1442
Fax | 706-546-4797
Website | *athensfirstumc.org*

Postmaster

Send address changes to:
AFUMC
P.O. Box 1109
Athens, GA 30603-1109