

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outlines. Two fish are in the upper left, and one is in the lower right. They are connected by thick red lines that form a large, abstract shape. There are also two solid red circles, one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The Fifth Sunday
after Pentecost*

JUNE 28, 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 all of our 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 someone to guide you along this process, please contact Martha Aenchbacher.

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/thesteep to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athensfirstumc on Facebook and @athens_firstumc on 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 Connie
F. Branch by
Mary Jon Branch
and family.*

THE PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace” | Hustad

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Martha Aenchbacher

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

9:45 & 11:00 a.m. “Spirit of the Living God”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 57

“O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing” | AZMON

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God’s presence,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

Glorify 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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Daughter of
Ashley and
Matt King*

9:45 a.m. | Maren Elizabeth King

Maren, Maren, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Maren, Maren, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

*Daughter of
Lindsay and
Mohamad
Jammoul*

11:00 a.m. | Ava Elizabeth Jammoul

Ava, Ava, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Ava, Ava, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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.

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.

Proclamation of the Word

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 a.m. Special Music

9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Gospelfest" | arr. Kern

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

***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

REVELATIONS 3:7-13

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

“These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens: I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

THE SERMON

“Living in Challenging Times” | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

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

Please turn to page 9 in our hymnal. 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 communion elements are available at the stations in the front of the sanctuary.

Sending Forth

* THE HYMN 378

“Amazing Grace” | AMAZING GRACE

* THE BLESSING

* THE CHORAL 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.

* POSTLUDE

“Postlude on ST ANNE” | Fedak

Sermon Notes

JUNE 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 Lasseeter, Jim Lyons, Sharon Milton, Tom Milton, Al Rogers, Bill Trigleth, Michelle and Reeves McNeill

11:00 a.m. Bob Green, Nat Carmack, Marty Webb, Ben Ayers, Spence Johnson, Jim Lyons, Kyle Beeson

OFFERING STEWARDS

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

GREETERS

Kevin Brodrick, Cindy Colby, Kelli and Wayne Dean, Paula and Scott Graffin, Mason McWhorter, Mark Williams, Victor Wilson, Gale White, Jacob Hudson, Matt Moseley

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Sara Catherine Pennell, Millican Jarrett, Madeline Jackson

9:45 a.m. Annabelle Woodard, Seele Jarrett, Madison Holland, Riley Holland

11:00 a.m. Kate Williams, Elijah Bullock, Joseph Frierson

ATTENDANCE ON JUNE 21

Total Worship | 1,186

Sunday School | 355

8:30 a.m. | 242

9:45 a.m. | 321

11:00 a.m. | 521

Online | 102

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | 1,426,599

Goal for June | \$180,197

Amount after 2 Sundays | \$112,096

OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister

athensfirstumc.org

chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool

athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool

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The logo consists of a large red diamond shape. Inside the diamond, the word "REACH" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below "REACH", the words "INTERNATIONAL" and "STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS" are written in smaller, bold, white capital letters, stacked on two lines.

REACH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

New International Students Welcome

Each year, the University of Georgia welcomes hundreds of new international students. We get the exciting opportunity to welcome these world travelers with Christian hospitality and serve them as they prepare for a new semester.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

August 3

- transport students from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to Athens in church vans
- provide local transportation in church vans
- prepare and serve dinner at the church
- set up accommodations for students at the church
- prepare and serve midnight snack at the church
- assist with "Midnight Madness" activities in the gym

August 4

- serve breakfast at the church
- transport students from church to UGA campus

August 5

- serve dinner on UGA campus
- provide desserts (drop off at church)

athensfirstumc.org/reachinternational

In Memoriam

Betty Whitten
June 17, 2015

Audrey Richardson
June 18, 2015

Melissa Tyler
June 20, 2015

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Tom Henson and family in the loss of his son, Jeffrey Henson, on June 14.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Oscar Webster and family in the loss of his father, Fred Keith Webster, Jr, on June 17 in Athens, Georgia.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Kathryn Bohmer, Andy Whitten, and family in the loss of their mother, Betty Whitten, on June 17 in North Carolina.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Beth Haggard and family in the loss of her mother, Audrey Richardson, on June 18 in Athens, Georgia.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to James Kilgore and family in the loss of his father, Samuel Edward "Ed" Kilgore Sr., on June 18 in Greensboro, Georgia.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Mike Tyler in the loss of his wife and to Amelia Tyler in the loss of her mother, Melissa Tyler, on June 20.

New Members

On June 21 we welcomed Jack Brannen, Sarah and Bryan Austin, and Mary Smith to the Athens First United Methodist family.

REACH | Service Opportunities

Each fall, the University of Georgia hosts an orientation for new and transferring international students. This year, our church will have several opportunities to serve. On Monday August 3, we will have the opportunity to greet more than 80 Chinese students as they arrive in Atlanta

and prepare for orientation at the university. We will pick up these students from the airport and house them at the church overnight prior to taking them to campus for UGA's International Student Orientation. We need volunteers to assist in preparing and serving meals (dinner, midnight snack, and breakfast), and to set up bedding and accommodations for the students. Also, for sports-minded volunteers we will have a few "midnight madness" activities in the gym that night. If you would like to serve, please register online. The deadline to sign up to serve for the August 3-4 opportunities is Sunday, July 19.

On August 5, there will be an opportunity to serve dinner to new students at UGA's International Student Orientation on campus. The meal will be catered, but our church will supply homemade desserts. We are in need of 25 donations of cakes, cookies, brownies, or cobblers for this evening. The desserts can be dropped off at the church by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5. We also need six volunteers to come to campus and serve the students that evening. Please sign up online to donate a dessert, and contact Lynn if you would like to serve and greet. The deadline to register to serve and/or provide dessert for the August 5 opportunity is Wednesday, July 29.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/reachinternational
Lynn Bryant | athens1stism@aol.com | 706-202-9017



Senior Fun Trip | Deadline July 2

This is the last week to register for the Senior Fun Trip to Flat Rock, North Carolina. Register by Thursday, July 2, to join us on our visit to Flat Rock Playhouse. The play, *Gypsy*, is an all-time Broadway great. The demand for tickets and request for near-the-stage seating is so great that we need early registration to guarantee premium seating as a group. Prior to the show, we will have lunch at the delicious Bay



Summer Worship

JULY 5-26

Communion | 9:00 a.m.
Service Times | 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Breeze Seafood restaurant. Departure time is 8:00 a.m. from the Kohl's department store parking lot in Athens. The cost is \$65, plus money for lunch. Send checks to SFG President Dan Maxey. Please make checks payable to Athens FUMC, and stub them: N. C. day trip, Aug. 6, 2015. Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097
105 Manorhaven Court, Athens, GA. 30606

Summer Worship | July

For the month of July, our Sundays will look and feel a little different. We will be following our annual tradition of Summer Worship which always includes more extensive congregational singing of old favorites, ranging from "I'll Fly Away" to "I Love to Tell the Story" to "The Old Rugged Cross." Summer Worship is reminiscent of the years when United Methodists would gather under large tents out in the country and celebrate with large group fellowship, congregational hymn singing, and revival preaching. We'll keep our celebration inside where it is cool, but we're looking forward to a great time of worship as a congregation. This year we'll offer Summer Worship at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary as well as a Communion Service in the Chapel at 9:00 a.m. In addition, this year we are adding a congregational chorus to help lead hymns. If you would like to sing at either service on any or all Sundays in July, join us in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning from 9:00-9:30 to rehearse for that Sunday. No additional preparation is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Caldwell.

Julie Caldwell | jpowell@negia.net

Mercy Health Center

Mercy Health Center, a mission partner of Athens First United Methodist Church, is in need of volunteers! Through a community of volunteers, Mercy Health Center provides whole-person, quality health care in a Christ-centered environment to our under-served neighbors. The greatest needs are Prayer Partners, specifically Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., and an MD to volunteer once per month or every other month on Tuesdays (6:00 - 9:00 p.m. is the most critical need). Please contact Virginia McKenna if you would like to volunteer with this ministry. Virginia McKenna | vmckenna@msn.com | 706-338-3688



**SMART
LUNCH**
SMART KID
Action Ministries

Smart Lunch, Smart Kid | July

Please join us on Wednesdays in July to distribute sack lunches to hungry children in our community. Unlike in years past, the assembly of lunches will be handled by Clarke County schools. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Room 103 to depart and serve in the community. Please email Betsy Butler if you would like to participate.

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



Choir Tour | June 2016

The Sanctuary Choir is traveling to Spain and Portugal for a tour of singing and sight-seeing June 20-30, 2016. We will travel to Lisbon, Seville, and Granada. Church members are welcome to join us. If you are interested, please contact Stephen Mitchell. Deposits are \$500 and will be accepted through July 15, 2015. If you would like to register, please bring a check made payable to AFUMC to the church office. Stephen Mitchell | smitchell@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442



Sack Lunch Ministry

Every Sunday morning, our church is committed to assembling and distributing 40 sack lunches for the working poor and homeless individuals and families in our community. We are looking for volunteers each Sunday in July. Sack lunch items, such as sandwiches, salty snacks, sweet treats, and water can be provided. If you are interested in serving with the Sack Lunch Ministry, please contact Mary Claire.

Mary Claire Murphy | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442



The Ark | Golf Tournament

The Ark, a mission partner of our church, invites you to their 23rd Annual Fellowship Golf Challenge "Swing for Hope." The Golf Tournament will be Saturday, August 8, at the UGA Golf Course. There is a registration fee of \$100 per golfer, and mulligans are \$10 per player or \$70 per team (limit of 2 per player). All proceeds benefit The Ark. Contact Marty Webb if you have any questions.

Register | athensark.org

Marty Webb | martin_webb@bellsouth.net

ONE

STUDENT MINISTRIES

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Fall Confirmation | Register Now!

Registration for our annual fall Confirmation class is ongoing! If you are the parent of a rising grade 7 student, we encourage you to sign up your child. Confirmation is the process through which we guide and instruct students as they prepare to become professing members of the United Methodist Church. This is an exciting opportunity for us to invest in the faith journeys of both our grade 7 students and their families. We hope that your student will join us this fall! Registration will end on August 10, 2015.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/confirmation

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

Early Book Group | August 11

The Early Book Group will meet on Tuesday, August 11, for a potluck supper and planning session at 6:00 p.m. at the Kuhlman home. Interested persons who have not participated before are invited to call George and Cindy Kuhlman to attend.

Cindy and George Kuhlman | gckuhlman@charter.net
706-543-9511

Save the Date | Churchwide BBQ

Have you marked your calendar for the Churchwide BBQ? If not, go ahead and save the date for Sunday, August 30. Everyone is invited to join us at Sandy Creek Park. There will be delicious food and good music. The Churchwide BBQ is one of the few times when our entire church gathers in one place at the same time. It's a great afternoon of fun and fellowship. We hope to see you there!



Save the Date

Churchwide BBQ

August 30 | Sandy Creek Park



Children's Consignment Sale August 14-15

Preparation for our Annual Children's Consignment Sale has taken off, and we are so excited! We are accepting gently used children's clothes. Donations can be made to Mary Claire during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration for consignors is open, as well as registration to be a volunteer. Many hands are needed to help make this sale successful, and we hope you will consider volunteering or consigning with us. Please contact Mary Claire or Betsy if you have questions.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale

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

Mary Claire Murphy | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

and grow in their walk with the Lord and go deeper into community at Athens First United Methodist Church. We are currently seeking small group leaders for many of the classes we are offering this fall. Do you know someone with these characteristics: a love of the Lord, a desire to help people grow in their faith, the ability to listen, and the ability to ask questions to stimulate conversation? If so, we'd love it if you would invite them to become a part of small group ministry and be a small group co-leader! We have more than 20 small groups launching this fall and we need people to help lead. No prior experience is necessary! Contact Beth today if you would like to suggest someone... or yourself!

Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Thank You, Volunteers

Special thanks to the approximately 75 volunteers from our church who gave freely of their time and energy to make the North Georgia Methodist Annual Conference run smoothly at the Classic Center! More than 2,000 lay members were registered over a five day period. Due to the generosity of our volunteers, we were able to register members in a smooth and efficient manner.



Connect to Community

We're just beginning summer, but fall is on the horizon! Fall 2015 will launch with a bang with more than twenty small groups for every walk of life, beginning in August and September. There is a place for everyone to connect

This Week

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 | MARK 5:21-43

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
- 9:45 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Young Professional Adult Sunday School Class ROOM 224
- 11:30 a.m. **Children's Church** CHAPEL
- 2:00 p.m. **Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors Meeting** HULL DINING ROOM
- 6:00 p.m. **Volleyball Clinic** GYM

MONDAY, JUNE 29 | PSALM 48

- 6:00 p.m. **VolleyPerformance** GYM

TUESDAY, JUNE 30 | 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 9:30 a.m. **Breathe Women's Bible Study** ROOM 224
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 6:00 p.m. **Volleyball Camp** GYM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 | MARK 6:1-13

- 7:00 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 10:30 a.m. **Summer Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD ON ATLANTA HIGHWAY
- 11:30 a.m. **Smart Lunch, Smart Kids** ROOM 103
- 5:30 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 307
- 6:00 p.m. **Volleyball Camp** GYM
- 6:30 p.m. **Freeway** ROOM 226

THURSDAY, JULY 2 | 2 SAMUEL 5:1-5, 9-10

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 10:00 a.m. **Our Daily Bread** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 6:00 p.m. **Volleyball Camp** GYM

FRIDAY, JULY 3 | 2 SAMUEL 1:1, 17-27

Office is closed, no programming

SATURDAY, JULY 4 | PSALM 130

Independence Day

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

Published weekly

Periodicals Postage Paid at Athens, GA

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Vol. LVI No. 51

Postmaster

Send address changes to:

AFUMC

P.O. Box 1109

Athens, GA 30603-1109