

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.

Newcomer Orientation

We invite you to learn about the life of our church, ways you can get involved, and how to become a member by attending Newcomer Orientation, which is held the second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

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 2016 | \$2,789,339 Amount Given YTD | \$3,022,025 Goal for December | \$505,216 Amount after 1 Sunday | \$72,513

Attendance on December 11

Total Worship | 1160 8:30 a.m. | 157 9:45 a.m. | 396 11:00 a.m. | 457 Online | 150 Sunday School | 382

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Ministers and Directors

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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.

PRELUDE

"Awake My Soul, Awake My Tongue" | Benjamin Keach and Latifah Phillips

Flowers
The poinsettias on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory and honor of our loved ones.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Aenchbacher

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | P. 511 OLD TESTAMENT

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" | MENDELSSOHN

*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.

*GLORY OF GOD | 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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jane Harvey

Isaiah 7:10-16 | P. 598 old testament

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" | VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie Rogers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bob Winstead

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

"Tell Me the Story of Jesus" | Fanny Jane Crosby and John Robson Sweney

*DOXOLOGY | 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 1:18-25 | P. I New Testament

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem Lyrics Tell me the story of Jesus. Write on my heart every word. Tell me the story most precious, the sweetest that ever was heard. Tell how the angels in chorus sang as they welcomed his birth, "Glory to God in the highest. Peace and good tidings to earth!" Tell of the cross where they nailed Him, writhing in anguish and pain. Tell of the grave where they lay Him. Tell how He liveth again. Love, in that story so tender, clearer than ever I see. Stay, let me weep while you whisper, "Love paid the ransom

for me."

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Dee Shelnutt

We welcome Dr. Shelnutt this morning. The Rev. Dr. D.B. "Dee" Shelnutt Jr. is a retired elder in the North Georgia Conference.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

219 "What Child is This?" | GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

MATTHEW 26:17-19, 26-29

Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, as we come to your holy table, light our lives with your imagination. We open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Receiving of the Elements of Communion

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

Music During Communion Carols of Christmas

Prayer After Receiving Communion

*CLOSING HYMN

230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" | ST. LOUIS

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"The First Noel" | Linker

The Worship of God

9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Flowers

The poinsettias on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory and honor of our loved ones.

THE PRELUDE

"He is Born" | Behnke Rung by the Alleluia Ringers

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

"Stay Awake, the Day is Coming" | adapt. Trapp Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

240 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" | MENDELSSOHN

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

9:45 a.m. The Dupree Family 11:00 a.m. The Snowden Family

Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God.

We trust in God's extravagant love.

The Mighty One has done great things. Holy is God's name.

We trust in God's extravagant love.

Mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

We trust in God's extravagant love.

God has brought the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

We trust in God's extravagant love.

Sung:

A candle is burning a candle of love, a candle to point us to heaven above. A baby for Christmas a wonderful birth, for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT

Martha Aenchbacher

We believe in God

robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light.

We encounter God

in Jesus Christ, whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world: reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied; who was put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched.

We walk with God

guided by the light of God's loving Spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.

We wait for God

and for the fulfillment of God's promise, when the darkness will hold no fear, and the light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever. 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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

9:45 a.m. | Sterling Dockery Moore, son of Sarah and Isaac

Sterling, Sterling, 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. Sterling, Sterling, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

11:00 a.m. | Joseph Sutton Dillard, son of Kasey and Ashley

Sutton, Sutton, 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. Sutton, Sutton, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

THE WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS | 11:00 a.m.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Bob Winstead

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 | 11:00 a.m.

Leslie Rogers

At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in kindergarten through grade 2 will go to Children's Church on the third floor where they may be picked up at the end of the service.

Proclamation of the Word

Anthem Lyrics

Alleluia. See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on Earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn, sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He who throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine. thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world

as this.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"See Amid the Winter's Snow" | Forrest

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir with Rachael Fischer and Pedro Miszewski, violin; Christopher Williams, viola; Rob Sutherland, cello

This anthem has been placed in the choir library to the glory of God and in memory of Joy Moncrief by Paul, Callie, Mary Carroll, Claire, and Diana Waller.

*THE DOXOLOGY | VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25 | P. I NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Rev. Dr. Dee Shelnutt

We welcome Dr. Shelnutt this morning. The Rev. Dr. D.B. "Dee" Shelnutt Jr. is a retired elder in the North Georgia Conference.

Sending Forth

*THE HYMN

230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" | ST. LOUIS

Verses 1 - 3

*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

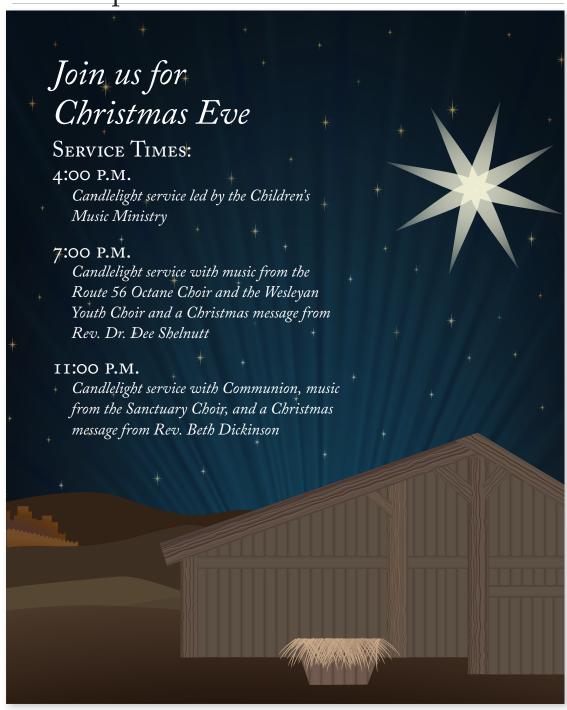
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

* THE POSTLUDE

[&]quot;The First Noel" | Linker

The Steeple





The Advent Wreath | Love

The advent wreath is a tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. The wreath is a circle of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The four colored candles represent hope, peace, joy, and love, and the center candle represents the birth of Christ. Today we light the candles for hope, peace, and joy, and add the fourth candle for love.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

In Memoriam

Mary Walton December 8, 2016

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mary Walton, who passed away on December 8.

Christmas Eve | Service Times

We will offer three Christmas Eve services this year. Our 4:00 p.m. service will be led by the Children's Music Ministry. Our 7:00 p.m. service will be led by the Route 56 Octane Choir and the Wesleyan Youth Choir. Our 11:00 p.m. service will include Communion and music from the Sanctuary Choir. All three services will include candlelight. We hope you and your family will make plans to worship with us on Christmas Eve and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Holiday Service Times

On Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1, we will offer one service time at 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes will not meet on either of these days. We hope you'll join us Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of our long-awaited Savior and again on New Years Day as we celebrate the renewal of our covenant with God at our Wesley Covenant Renewal service.

No Sunday School

On Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1, there will be no Sunday school. The church will open at 10:00 a.m. and childcare for birth through age four will be available beginning at 10:30 a.m. prior to the 11:00 a.m. service.

Christmas Community Meal | Thank You

We are grateful for our volunteers who helped make this year's Christmas Community Meal a special time. It was a wonderful night of fellowship with our neighbors and friends, and a sweet celebration of Christmas. We are blessed with a gracious church family who loves our neighbors and this community. Merry Christmas!



Give the gift of blood this Christmas!

Thursday, December 22 I 1:00-6:00 p.m. Hancock Hall



The Red Cross is in great need of blood donations during the Christmas season. Please sign up for an appointment today to donate, or if you are unable to donate, consider volunteering. Harper McCrary is a new baby in our church family, and these words are shared by her mother:

I have always been squeamish about having my blood drawn, which has kept me from donating blood in the past. However, when my daughter, Harper, was born needing immediate medical attention, I realized how vital it is. She had many blood and platelet transfusions before she was even 3 months old. Anyone who donates platelets or blood is a selfless person to offer up their time. Giving platelets takes about three hours because they have a machine that spins the platelets out of your blood. Donating blood and platelets is a great gift and saves many lives. After seeing my daughter receive many life saving transfusions, I will make sure to set aside time to give blood and platelets several times a year!

The Red Cross will be in Hancock Hall from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Contact Mary Claire to schedule a time, but walk-ins are always welcome!

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

Wednesday Night Meals

There will be no Wednesday Night Meal this week or next week. Please take time to enjoy family and friends during this special time. Wednesday Night Meals will begin again on Wednesday, January 4, with Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe.

Our vendors this year include Barberitos, Weaver D's, Dawg Gone Good BBQ, Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe, and Fox's Pizza Den. Dinner is served from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall each Wednesday. 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. We have several options to purchase meals including the

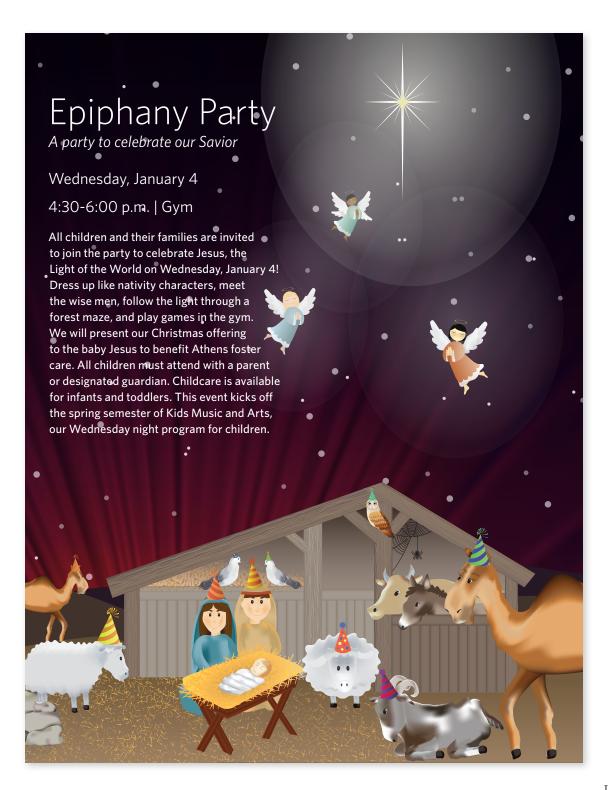
whole semester, by the month, or by the week. Registration is now open. For more information, contact Beth.

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

Connect & Grow Groups

Connect & Grow Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly at church or in homes for fellowship and prayer and sharing what God is doing in their lives. These groups are open to all and will be restarting in January. Registration is now open, so sign up today! Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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





We invite you to come serve those who are hungry in our community this winter! We host Souper Suppers every Thursday evening beginning January 12 in Hancock Hall. At this weekly event, we invite our neighbors into our church home for a warm meal and fellowship. Individuals, Sunday school classes, families, or any small group are welcome to serve in several different ways:

- Prepare a meal
- Work with children in the gym, set up the Souper Suppers Store, or greet guests at 3:30 p.m.
- Greet, help in the Souper Suppers Store, or serve as a dining room host at 4:30 p.m.
- Clean up from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Please contact Mary Claire or Betsy to get involved!

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

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

athensfirstumc.org/soupersuppers

Pickleball

Join us every Tuesday afternoon in our gym from 1:30-3:00 p.m. to play pickleball, a great sport consisting of ping pong, tennis, and badminton all in one! We enjoy fellowship while getting exercise; this is a great game for active adults. Contact Rusty for more information or just come try it out! Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Cub Scouts Pack 1 will be conducting a flag retirement ceremony in early January. If you have worn or tattered flags in need of retirement, please bring them to the church's front desk. The Cub Scouts will collect them and retire them during the ceremony.

Nat Carmack | carmacknat@gmail.com

Youth Choir Winter Workshop

The Wesleyan Youth Choir Winter Workshop will be held Saturday, January 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The Route 56 Octane Choir for grades 5-6 and Wesleyan Youth Choir for grades 7-12 will resume weekly rehearsals on Sunday, January 8, starting at 4:30 p.m. Come join us! For more information, contact Janis Maxwell.

Janis Maxwell | janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

renewal

January 1 | Wesley Covenant Renewal Service

An opportunity to renew our covenant with God

The first Covenant Service in the Methodist movement likely dates to August 11, 1755. Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as he stated, "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences. I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing." The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God. We will follow Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service and conclude with Holy Communion.

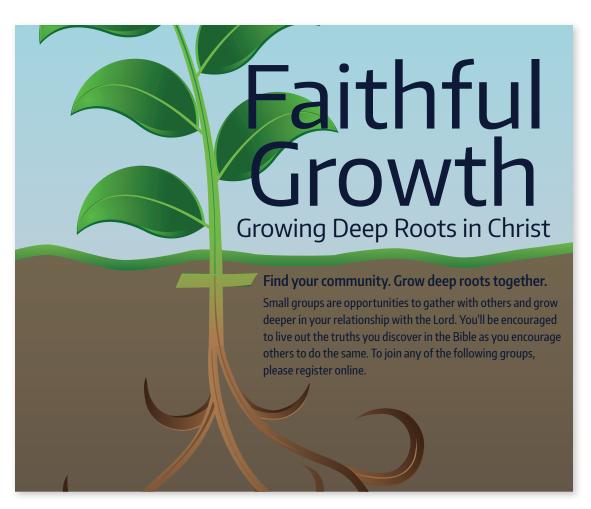
January 8 | Epiphany Sunday

Epiphany is the Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ and is most often known as the Twelfth Day of Christmas. The name Epiphany comes from the Greek word "Epiphania," and means "to show, make known, or reveal." For the Church, Epiphany represents a responsibility to reveal Jesus as the Divine Son and Savior sent by God the Father to atone for the sins of humanity. It is a time of healing and fellowship, where the Church comes together in the covenant of unity to love one another as Christ commanded.

January 15 | Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant

The day we remember our baptism

United Methodism teaches that baptism initiates people into the faith community and into a covenant relationship with God and God's people. Adam Hamilton, Sr. Pastor at Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, states "I appreciate the daily opportunity to remember that in my baptism God claimed me as his child, promised to forgive me, to fill me with his Spirit, blessed me with the church, and ordained me to a life of service in the world. My baptism is both a sign of God's gift of salvation and a sign of my desire and commitment to follow Christ." You will have the opportunity to come to the font at the front of the sanctuary, touch the water, and remember your baptism.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Led by Beth Dickinson, Wednesday Morning Bible study examines the Bible through various study books. This study meets Wednesdays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in room 222. This group resumes Wednesday, January 4, with a study of the book of Psalms. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group gathers together to knit prayer shawls. Completed shawls are prayed over by the group and given to those who are in need of comfort and prayer. This group meets on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in room 200 and on Tuesdays from 10:30-12:00 p.m. at Panera Bread on Atlanta Highway. All are welcome to join either or both

days. The Wednesday group will resume January 4 and the Thursday group will resume January 5. Please contact Dianne Morrison for more information.

Dianne Morrison | dianne.morrison@gmail.com | 706-207-5538

Disciplines Devotional Bible Study

Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions is an outstanding way to stay connected to God. Join with a small group to read scripture, share thoughts on the daily devotion, and pray together. Join this group at any time throughout the school year. The cost of the devotional is \$10, the large print option is \$12, and the optional Alive Now magazine is \$12. The group will resume Monday, January 9 at 1:15 p.m. in room 200. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson.

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

Entrusted | Women's Study

Join Susie Thrasher in Beth Moore's *Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy*. This study encourages you to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. In this journey of joy and hardship, we need each other to stay the course and live a life of faithfulness. All women are invited to join. This study will meet on Wednesday mornings, January 11-February 22, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in room 229. The cost is \$13. For more information, please contact Beth Dickinson.

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

Early Book Group

The Early Book Group meets on Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. in room 247. All are welcome. Interested persons may contact Cindy or George Kuhlman for more information. This group resumes Wednesday, January 11, with Wayne Dyer's *There*'s a Spiritual Solution for Every Problem.

Cindy and George Kuhlman | gckuhlman@charter.net

What We Need is Here

Are you seeking a deeper, more authentic experience of God? Maybe you've attended retreats, read dozens of books on spirituality, or even consulted a spiritual director and found yourself still wanting more. If so, then this is the study for you. What We Need is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality by L. Roger Owens calls you to return to seven basics of Christian spirituality. Learn those basics by joining Dianne Morrison from January 11-February 22 on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:00 p.m. in room 235. Materials cost \$10. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson.

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

Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life

Join Don Griner and Mary Lynn Lane from January 11-May 3 on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for *Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life* (part 1). This study concentrates on Old Testament writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of

John, James, Jude, and finally, the book of Revelation. The second half will be offered Fall 2017. This study will be held in room 222 and materials cost \$40. For more information, contact Beth.

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

Later Book Group

The Later Book Group meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in room 247 to discuss a book related to the Christian faith. All are invited to these wide-ranging and interesting discussions. The first book the group will be reading is *The Parables of Jesus* by William Barclay. This group will resume on Wednesday, January 11. For more information, contact April Webb. April Webb | *apriloglio@gmail.com* | 706-546-6274

Restoring an Attitude of Worship Men's Study

Join Keith Wilson in this men's study. The books of Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Malachi are viewed by Biblical scholars as the Minor Prophets, yet the insights and messages contained within these books are anything but minor. These prophets offer a unique, firsthand view of an all-powerful God who longs to intimately connect with His people. This study examines their personal stories to discover how He interacts with our world in truly amazing ways. All men are invited to join this study from January 11-March 15 on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45 p.m. in room 240. Materials cost \$8. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson.

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

Connect Group | Young Married

This group meets every other week on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in room 229. They meet for Bible and book studies, prayer, and fellowship. This group will begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 11. For additional information, contact Kayla Smith.

Kayla Smith | kscsmith@gmail.com

Israel's Mission | Women's Study

Join Therese Wilson and renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he travels through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred scriptures. Filmed on location in Israel, the *That the World May Know* DVD series transforms participants' understanding of God and challenges them to be true followers of Jesus. All women are invited to join this study from January 11-March 15 on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Hull Conference Room. Materials cost \$8. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson.

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

Connect Group | Young Adults

This group meets year-round on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in room 222. They meet for Bible and book studies, prayer, and fellowship. This group will begin meeting again on Thursday, January 12. For additional information, contact Laney Jones.

Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Disciple Fast Track | Old Testament

Disciple Fast Track Old Testament will devote 12 weeks to focus on the Old Testament. Disciple Fast Track is for busy people seeking a comprehensive Bible study in a timely manner. All are invited to join. The New Testament will be offered Fall 2017. This study will meet on Sunday evenings, January 22-April 30, from 4:45-6:15 p.m. in room 224. The cost is \$12. For more information, please contact Beth Dickinson.

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

Financial Peace University

Join Tom and Jennifer Foster for Financial Peace University, which presents biblical, practical steps to get you from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. In only nine lessons, you will learn how to get rid of debt, take control of your money, spend and save wisely, give generously, and much more! On average, families save \$2,300 and pay off \$5,700 in debt in the first 90 days!

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be offered on Tuesday nights, January 24-March 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 222. The materials for this course cost \$100; couples share one kit. Childcare is available with registration. Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Reviva1

Join us in January for an exciting new seven-week study from popular author Adam Hamilton entitled Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It. Just back from his trip to historic Wesleyan sites in England, co-leader John Campbell will share his travel experiences with the class. Co-leader and certified lay speaker Bob Dean will discuss the study guide lessons and companion video on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., from January 25 through March 15. This new study explores John Wesley's Eighteenth Century English Revival. Hamilton said that he wrote the book because he believes "...that by reclaiming the faith, heart, and practices of John Wesley and the early Methodists. we can rediscover the best parts of our own hearts and churches, and in so doing we might help spark a revival of Christianity in our time." Come join the revival! Materials cost \$10. For more information, contact Beth. Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Making Sense of the Bible

If you have a hard time reading and understanding the Bible and are always formulating questions, then this is a perfect study for you. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton looks at questions we ask about the Bible, its origins, and meaning. All are invited to join this study on Thursday evenings, February 2-March 16, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 229. The cost is \$15. Childcare is available with registration. For more information, please contact Beth. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/registration* Beth Dickinson | *beth@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

This Week

8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m.	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 MATTHEW 1:18-25 Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR Fun Gym GYM Worship Service SANCTUARY Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR Youth Sunday School: First Word YOUTH AREA Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground CHAPEL Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill ROOM 311 & 313
10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sack Lunch Ministry Hull Street Entrance Worship Service Sanctuary Preschool Nursery First Floor
12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Wesleyan Youth Choir + Octane Rehearsal SANCTUARY Children's Basketball GYM Cornerstone Christmas Party JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
1:00 p.m.	MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 ISAIAH 52:7-10 Children's Basketball GYM
5:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 PSALM 96 Fashion Fitness ROOM 120 Prayer Shawl PANERA BREAD Pickleball GYM Children's Basketball GYM Fashion Fitness ROOM 120 Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT
5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 PSALM 98 KMA Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal SANCTUARY Hospitality Room Hangout HOSPITALITY ROOM Kids Music & Arts Christmas Family Meal HANCOCK HALL Children's Basketball GYM
5:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 Isaiah 9:2-7 Fashion Fitness ROOM 120 Red Cross Blood Drive HANCOCK HALL Children's Basketball GYM Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
4:00 p.m.	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 Hebrews 1:1-12 Children's Basketball GYM
4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 Luke 2:1-20 Christmas Eve Service SANCTUARY Christmas Eve Service SANCTUARY Christmas Eve Service SANCTUARY

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