

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey and black outlines. The fish are arranged in a triangular pattern, with one at the top, one on the left, and one at the bottom. Red geometric shapes, including lines and squares, frame the fish. A red circle is located in the top left corner, and another red circle is in the bottom right corner.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

First Sunday after Christmas

DECEMBER 30, 2018
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

An updated financial report will be available on Sunday, January 6.

Attendance on December 23

An updated attendance report will be available on Sunday, January 6.

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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rusty@athensfirstumc.org

The Worship of God

11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jim T. Blasingame by Alma L. Blasingame Rhonda, Ellen, and Andrew McClure, and Becky and Jim Blasingame.

THE PRELUDE

“Toccata on ADESTE FIDELIS” | Allan Mahnke

THE WELCOME

Josh Miles

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

He came as a baby in a manger.

O come, let us adore him.

He came in a lowly stable.

O come, let us adore him.

Shepherds brought their worship.

O come, let us adore him.

Angels sang his praise.

O come, let us adore him.

Magi brought their gifts.

O come, let us adore him.

What shall we do?

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE HYMNS

UMH 234 “O Come All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

UMH 251 "Go Tell It on the Mountain" | GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching, over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.
And God send us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

UMH 240 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" | MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***THE CHRISTMAS CREED**

**We believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in
Bethlehem.**

**We believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose
spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both
large and small.**

We believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and we confess that our hearts still sometimes want to exclude Christ from our lives today.

We believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

We believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

We believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

We confess our ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

We believe in God who gives us the best of himself. We believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem that night, for us and for the world. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 HYMNS

UMH 217 "Away in a Manger" | AWAY IN A MANGER

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

UMH 250 Once in Royal David's City | IRBY

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary, loving mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jennifer Golden

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"In Judah's Land" | arr. Michael Eglin

Sung by Amy and Katie McCollum and Erin McCollum Towe

*THE DOXOLOGY | THE FIRST NOEL

**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. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

Proclamation

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

LUKE 2:41-52 | p. 55 NEW TESTAMENT

THE SERMON

"In the Blink of an Eye: From Birth to Adulthood" | Susan Taylor

Response

THE LITANY

“Jesus, Faithful Jew” | Based on LUKE 2:41-52

Congregation sings:

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**

Jesus of Nazareth, born among us, crucified and risen, we remember with gratitude the parents who raised you, the traditions that formed you, and the faith in which you lived and died:

Jesus, faithful Jew, we praise you.

Going with your family to Jerusalem, standing in the Temple courtyard, hearing the chanting of psalms, smelling the smoke of sacrifice:

Jesus, faithful Jew, we praise you.

Schooled in the practice of your faith, knowing from an early age that God is Holy, Unique, and One, and that you belonged by birth to God's own chosen people:

Jesus, faithful Jew, we praise you.

Sharing in the Passover meal, hearing and telling the story of slavery, deliverance, and covenant; learning to love Adonai God with heart and soul and mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself:

Jesus, faithful Jew, we praise you.

Learning and doing Torah, learning of Moses and Elijah; David, Ruth, and Deborah; chanting the words of the prophets, sitting among the teachers, asking and answering questions:

Jesus, faithful Jew, we praise you.

Puzzling your anxious parents by speaking of God's holy Temple as your Father's house, and honoring your father and mother by accepting their loving authority as you grew in wisdom and years:

Jesus, faithful Jew, we praise you.

Congregation sings:

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**

***THE HYMNS**

UMH 238 “Angels We Have Heard on High” | GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plain.
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strain.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing,
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

UMH 246 “Joy to the World” | ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.**

Sending Forth

***THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Away in a Manger” | AWAY IN A MANGER

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“He is Born” | André Lash

The Steeple

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Paul Tuggle and his family in the loss of his father, Harry Paul Tuggle, Jr., on December 18.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Beth Copeland and her family in the loss of her father, Jack Sullivan, Sr., on December 20.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Mary Howell and her family in the loss of her mother, Mary Huddleston, on December 21.

Wednesday Night Meals

There will be no Wednesday Night Meal this week. Please take time to enjoy family and friends. Wednesday Night Meals will start back January 9.

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

Part-time Children's Ministry Position

We are seeking people to immediately fill part-time openings on our nursery team. This team plays a vital role in the ministry of our church by providing dependable nurturing to children ages 0-4 while their families engage in worship and other church programming. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have previous experience working with children. If you or someone you know is interested in a position on our team, please contact Jennifer Golden for more information.

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

Young Professionals Sunday School

The Young Professionals Sunday School class will be studying *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, starting with *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* in January. Come encounter God in a new way through these classic stories. This Sunday school class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays in the Hull Conference Room. For more information, contact Adriane Hanson.

Adriane Hanson | amhanson9@gmail.com

Connect Group | Young Adult

Join the Young Adult Connect Group for a six-week book study on *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis beginning Thursday, January 3. In this study, we will explore the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. The group will meet in Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in room 222. For more information, contact Katie Elder.

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

Youth Choir Winter Workshop

The Wesleyan Youth Choir Winter Workshop will be held on Sunday, January 6, from 3:30-5:45 p.m. We will work on spring music, Variety Show songs and choreography, and have some "choir family" time with hot cocoa and snacks! Afterwards, our students can join the entire youth group for a movie night. No registration is required for this event.

Epiphany | January 6

Join us Sunday, January 6, for Epiphany Sunday at all three services. This day celebrates the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ and is most often known as the Twelfth Day of Christmas when the Wise Men brought their gifts to the manger. The name Epiphany comes from the Greek word "Epiphania," and means "to show, make known, or reveal." We will celebrate with the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Souper Suppers

Souper Suppers is just around corner. Beginning Thursday, January 10, we will invite our community guests to dinner at the church each Thursday. At this time, we are collecting donations of toilet paper 4-packs, bottles of dish soap, peanut butter crackers, and new or used books (from children's books to young adult). If you are interested in serving, contact Betsy Butler or Sarah Beth Barger.
Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Sarah Beth Barger | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant

Join us Sunday, January 13, at all three services for the Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant Service. United Methodism teaches that baptism initiates people into the faith community and into a covenant relationship with God and God's people. You will have the opportunity to come to the font at the front of the sanctuary, touch the water, and remember your baptism.

Meetings will take place Sundays from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in room 301, January 27-March 3. Cole Kelly, a long-time member, father of three boys, and full-time summer camp director, will lead this experience.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Cole Kelly | colekelly2@gmail.com

Weekday Preschool Registration

Preschool registration opens online January 7. Our preschool program serves families of children age nine months through Pre-K from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please note the following registration deadlines:

- Currently enrolled deadline: January 25
- Church member deadline: January 28
- Community deadline: January 30

Register | athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool

Linsey Jarrett | linsey@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

GriefShare

GriefShare will meet again during the winter and spring of 2019! This thirteen-week faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. GriefShare groups are for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. We will meet each Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in room 100 and be led by Martha Aenchbacher. Our group will begin January 16 and conclude April 10. Please register online so that we will have materials prepared for you. There is a \$20 fee to pay for your workbook. You may pay that fee online when you register, or bring a check with you to the group meeting.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

The Immanuel Project

We are excited to offer The Immanuel Project for the fourth time. This thought-provoking and interactive journey for dads and sons (in grade 8) will help start important conversations that can be otherwise difficult to begin, and everyone will benefit from a deeper knowledge of the Bible.

This Week

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 | COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE

11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY

Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 | ISAIAH 60:1-6

New Year's Eve—office closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 | MATTHEW 25:31-46

New Year's Day—office closed

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2 | PSALM 72:1-4, 10-14

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 | PSALM 72:5-7

4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

7:00 p.m. **Connect Group | Young Adult** ROOM 222

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 | EPHESIANS 3:1-4

4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 | EPHESIANS 3:5-12

9:00 a.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

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