The background features a stylized graphic design. It consists of several fish-like shapes, each with a simple eye and a curved line for a mouth, rendered in dark grey. These shapes are arranged in a circular pattern, with some overlapping. The design is framed by thick red lines that form a partial border around the central text. There are also solid red circles scattered throughout the composition, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

FEBRUARY 26, 2017
8:30, 9:45, & 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.

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 2017 | \$3,038,381

Amount Given YTD | \$472,341

Goal for February | \$227,197

Amount after 1 Sunday | \$111,226

Attendance on February 19

Total Worship | 1109

8:30 a.m. | 190

9:45 a.m. | 390

11:00 a.m. | 428

Online | 101

Sunday School | 433

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Ministers and Directors

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

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

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship
beth@athensfirstumc.org

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions
betsy@athensfirstumc.org

Bob Winstead Executive Director of Administration
bob@athensfirstumc.org

Stephen Mitchell Director of Music
stephen@athensfirstumc.org

Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist
janis@athensfirstumc.org

Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry & 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader
sarah@athensfirstumc.org

Robin Stewart Director of Children's Ministry
robin@athensfirstumc.org

April Allen Assistant Director of Children's Ministry
april@athensfirstumc.org

Leslie Rogers Director of Route 56
leslie@athensfirstumc.org

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool
linsey@athensfirstumc.org

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josh@athensfirstumc.org

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

“God Is Here Today” | Raul Galeano; arr. Sue Ellen Page

*sung by Audrey Smith, Emma Steger, Tessa Steger, Olivia Tucker, & Martha Aenchbacher;
movement by the Kids Music and Arts dance class; Hayley Vaughan & Jennifer Golden, leaders*

Flowers

The flowers on the altar
are given to the glory
of God and in loving
memory of Melba Joy
Parker by Olin Parker,
children, grandchildren,
and great grandchildren.

The flowers in the
narthex are given to
the glory of God and
in loving memory of
Margaret Gary Timm
by her daughters, Gary
Timm Preston, Cathy
Timm Green, and Harriett
Timm Anderson and
families.

Prelude Lyrics

God is here today as
certain as the air I
breathe. As certain as
the morning sun that
rises. As certain when I
sing you'll hear my song.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Winstead

BASED ON ISAIAH 1:16-18 | P. 593 OLD TESTAMENT

God is here today. Why are we here?

Not to show that we are wonderful people, but to become better people.

To strengthen our spirits as we seek to live out God's call:

Say no to wrong.

Learn to do good.

Work for justice.

Rescue the oppressed.

Defend the orphan.

Plead for the widow.

May this time of worship bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 568 “Christ for the World We Sing” | ITALIAN HYMN

*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.

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 71 "Glory Be to the Father"

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**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

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.

Anthem Lyrics

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in. To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace, singing welcome, welcome to this place, you're invited to come and know God's grace. All are welcome, the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here, all are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast, where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least, and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray.

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heav'n are one, a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem, where our mourning turns to dancing, ev'ry creature lifts its voice.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Welcome" | Mark Miller

***DOXOLOGY | 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

HEBREWS 13:1-2 | P. 213 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Love Transforms" | Betsy Butler

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 141 "Children of the Heavenly Father" | TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Martha Aenchbacher and Bob Winstead

MATTHEW 26:17-19, 26-29

Prayer of Preparation

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. 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. Gluten-free communion elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

Song Lyrics

This is the sound of one voice. One spirit, one voice. The sound of one who makes a choice. This is the sound of one voice. This is the sound of voices two. The sound of me singing with you. Helping each other to make it through.

This is the sound of voices two. This is the sound of voices three.

Singing together in harmony. Surrendering to the mystery. This is the sound of voices three. This is the sound of all of us. Singing with love and the will to trust. Leave the rest behind; it will turn to dust. This is the sound of all of us. This is the sound of one voice. One people, one voice. A song for every one of us. This is the sound of one voice. This is the sound of one voice.

Music During Communion

“One Voice” | Ruth Moody

Sung by Amy McCollum, Katie McCollum, Sarah Lawing

Prayer After Receiving Communion

*CLOSING HYMN

TFWS 2223 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” | ST. BRENDAN’S

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land: and they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Beth Rector, organ

The Worship of God

9:45 &
11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Melba Joy Parker by Olin Parker, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Margaret Gary Timm by her daughters, Gary Timm Preston, Cathy Timm Green, and Harriett Timm Anderson and families.

Prelude Lyrics Translation

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Song Lyrics

Families of all shapes and kinds, love the only tie that binds this gathering of open minds, welcome to God's love. Every person has a place in this holy, sacred space, earth's entire human race, welcome! Come and feel God's love. No proof required of your worth, a gift to you before your birth from God, who made the heavens and earth. We'll love each other and take care of every need encountered there, within God's heart there is room to spare. Come, and live God's love!

THE PRELUDE

“Benedictus” | Greg Gilpin

Sung by the combined youth choirs; Mark Ridings, director; Will Fowler, accompanist; Jodi Haskins, handbell director

THE WELCOME

Janis Maxwell

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Welcome to God's Love” | Mark Miller

Sung by the combined youth choirs; Russell Nelson, director; Mimi Ackleh, accompanist

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 139 “Praise to the Lord the Almighty” | LOBE DEN HERREN

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

Martha Aenchenbacher

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.

*THE GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71 “Glory Be to the Father”

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.

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

***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.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 11:00 a.m.

Robin Stewart

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

The text for this anthem can be found on page 448 of your hymnal.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Go Down Moses" | arr. Tom Shelton

Sung by the combined youth choirs; Kathy Fletcher, director; Will Fowler, accompanist

***THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

HEBREWS 13:1-2 | P. 213 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

"Love Transforms" | Betsy Butler

Anthem Lyrics

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long. He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us. He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long.

Song Lyrics

This is the sound of one voice, one spirit, one voice, the sound of one who makes a choice; this is the sound of one voice. This is the sound of voices two, the sound of me singin' with you. Helping each other to make it through, this is the sound of voices two. This is the sound of voices three, singin' together in harmony. Surrender to the mystery, this is the sound of voices three. This is the sound of all of us singin' with love the will to trust. Leave the rest behind; it will turn to dust. This is the sound of all of us.

THE ANTHEM

“God Is Our Refuge” | Allen Pote

Sung by the combined youth choirs; Janis Maxwell, director; Will Fowler, accompanist; Brandon Craswell and Michael Edalگو, trumpets

Sending Forth

THE BLESSING AND CHORAL RESPONSE

“One Voice” | Ruth Moody

Sung by the combined youth choirs; Janis Maxwell, director; Sarah Lawing, piano; Hans Holzen, mandolin, Lydia Murphey, signing director

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“Sonata in C” | Johann Christoph Pezel

Brandon Craswell and Michael Edalگو, trumpet; Will Fowler, organ

The Steeple



WELCOME TO GOD'S LOVE
Youth Choir Weekend

We are so grateful to have three guest youth choirs joining the Wesleyan Youth Choir to lead worship this morning. We have had a wonderful weekend of fellowship, singing, and worship together. We covet your prayers for inspiring worship this morning and safe travels home for our new friends.

Cross and Flame Youth Choir
Trinity United Methodist Church
Birmingham, Alabama
Russell Nelson, Director of Music Ministry
Jodi Haskins, Assoc. Director of Music Ministry

Youth Choir
First United Methodist Church
Buford, Georgia
Mark Ridings, Director of Music Ministry

Doxology Youth Choir
Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
Atlanta, Georgia
Kathy Fletcher, Director of Youth and Children's Music
Will Fowler, Accompanist

Wesleyan Youth Choir
Athens First United Methodist Church
Athens, Georgia
Janis Maxwell, Director of Youth Music Ministry
Mimi Ackleh, Accompanist

In Memoriam

Dr. Billups Tillman
February 15, 2017

Paula Miles
February 16, 2017

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Gina Tillman in the loss of her husband and Gay Crowe and Marie Eisenberg in the loss of their father, Dr. Billups Tillman, on February 15.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Joe Miles and his family in the loss of his wife, Paula Miles, on February 16.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Clara Waln and her family in the loss of her sister, Louise Wilcox, on February 17.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Linda and Wayne Rasch in the loss of their son and Linsey Jarrett in the loss of her brother, Brad Rasch, on February 20.

New Members

On February 19, we welcomed Jeanette Rowe and Sharon Michael to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Foster Care Sunday

Thank you for coming and worshipping with us today. We hope that, if you feel prompted by God to foster children in need or support families who are offering foster care to children in Athens, you will contact us.

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

Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, March 1, is provided by Fresh Air BBQ. Join us for barbecue pork sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, brunswick stew, slaw, and chips. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. For more information, contact Cindy. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you order your meal. Volunteers eat free. Register to volunteer online. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals
Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



New Staff Member

We would like to welcome Ron Young to the Athens First United Methodist staff. Ron is our new Director of Facilities and Grounds. We are excited to welcome him to our team. Ron is originally from Central, Alabama, but has lived in Athens for forty years. He has owned his own business, Young Enterprises Electrical Contractors, since 1982. He is married to Mary Young and has one daughter, Allison. Together, they attend Bogart Baptist Church. Ron feels blessed to be a part of the Athens First United Methodist Church team and is excited that God has called him here.

GriefShare

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. Erica Cooper, bereavement coordinator of Gentiva Hospice, will facilitate both groups. The Monday group meets at 6:30 p.m. and the Wednesday group meets at 10:00 a.m. New participants are welcome

to join at any time. There is no cost, but we ask that you register so that we can have enough materials prepared. Register | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare
Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

Souper Suppers

Souper Suppers season is off the a wonderful start. If you would like to donate to the Souper Supper Store, we are in need of Spam and toilet paper on a weekly basis. Donations can be dropped off in the basket near the front reception desk. We still have a few dates in March available for groups to sign up to prepare and serve the meal. You can sign up with your Sunday School class, small group, United Methodist Women Circle, or any other small group to prepare and serve on any Thursday. Please contact Mary Claire or Betsy for more information or to register. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/souper-suppers
Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Children's Soccer

Boys and girls ages 3-6 are invited to join us for our spring season, March through May 2017. All teams are coed. Practices and games will take place on Saturday mornings. Please visit our webpage for program information. Registration closes Tuesday, February 28. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/childrens-soccer
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Habitat for Humanity

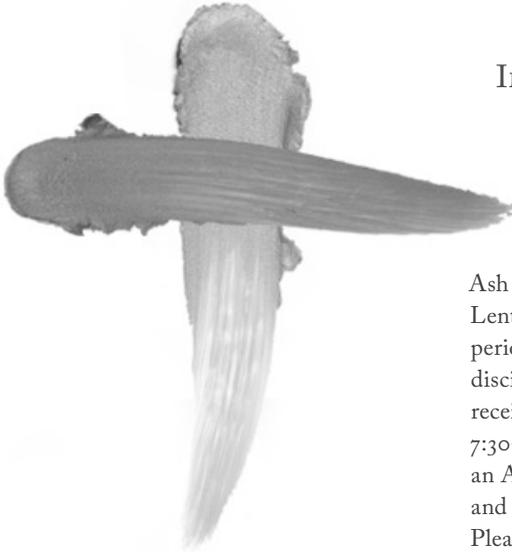
Volunteer sign-ups are open to work on our Habitat for Humanity renovation project. There are weekly opportunities for individuals and groups to serve Tuesdays and Wednesday of each week. Volunteers can sign up a week in advance to work on-site. Saturday dates are available for volunteers to register for online. Groups are limited to 12-15 persons per shift. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information, or to make a weekday appointment. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity
Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 1

IMPOSITION OF ASHES | 7:30-9:30 A.M.
SANCTUARY

WORSHIP SERVICE | 7:00 P.M.
SANCTUARY



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent—a time when we prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline. This year we will offer the opportunity to receive ashes in the morning. Ashes will be offered from 7:30-9:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. That evening we will offer an Ash Wednesday service including Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please make plans to join us for this special worship service following the Wednesday Night Meal.

Kids Music and Arts Parent Night

Kids Music and Arts will host their Parent Night on Wednesday, March 1. Come and see the children's art on display around the track and attend presentations by the children's choirs. Parents of dancers are invited to watch at 4:45 p.m. in room 151. Lyric and Celebrate Choirs will meet at 4:30 in the Chapel and will welcome visitors beginning at 5:00 p.m. for a time of prayer and singing. Cherub choir (3s) will sing for friends and family at 5:30 in their usual room on the third floor and Sonshine (4s) and Joy (K5) choirs will join together with visitors at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We hope you will be able to join us!
Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Pauses for Lent

Join Dianne Morrison for *Pauses for Lent*. In this beautifully minimalistic book, Trevor Hudson focuses on 40 single words—one for every day in the season of Lent. Each daily

reading offers you a brief meditation and a simple, doable practice that does not demand much time. As you carve out even a few minutes to spend with God, you just might find yourself listening to God in a new way. God wants to meet you in your daily life just as it is, messiness and all. This study is open to everyone. A brief orientation will take place on Wednesday, March 1, from 6:30-6:45 p.m., and the study will continue on Wednesday evenings, March 8 through April 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in John Wesley Parlor. The book is \$6. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson. Please register online.
Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Final Words from the Cross

Final Words from the Cross by Adam Hamilton is our Lenten Study this year. In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and

increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven “final words”—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves. Please join us in this study for Lent. We will be offering two different sessions. Beth Dickinson will lead on Sunday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning February 26 in room 222. Bob Winstead will lead the Wednesday evenings session from 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning March 8 in room 222. The study is free of charge. The study is also available for your small group or for your Sunday school class. For more information, please contact Beth Dickinson. Please register online to participate in the Sunday evening or Wednesday evening group.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

Prayer Service | March 12

There are times when we feel broken. Join us after worship in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, for a brief time of healing prayer together, as we seek God’s presence and ask him humbly with faith and repentance to make us whole. Clergy will be present to anoint with oil those who wish to have that means of grace, and we will all offer up our prayers to God for one another.

The Armor of God | Women’s Study

Join Susie Thrasher in Priscilla Shirer’s *The Armor of God*. This study encourages you to become “armed” with God’s love to protect everything that matters to you: your heart, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. All women are invited to join. This study will meet on Wednesday mornings, March 15 – May 3, from 9:45-11:30 a.m. in room 229. The cost is \$13. For more information, please contact Beth Dickinson. Please register online.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

Great Day of Service & Celebration Brunch

“Love Transforms” and we hope to transform Athens on April 22, with our hands and feet. You are invited to join us to share God’s love through service as we offer hope to those in need. If you would be willing to lead a project, or

if you know of a need in Athens that we can meet, please contact Betsy Butler. Some ideas we have are to provide a local neighborhood a basketball goal for their playground; there will be a project at Bigger Vision; and we are seeking recommended projects from members within our church family. Another project on Saturday morning will be to prepare the meal for the Brunch on Sunday. Funds raised from the Celebration Brunch and Basket Auction will be donated towards our next Habitat project.

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

Sack Lunch Ministry

Our ongoing Sunday morning Sack Lunch Ministry meets every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to distribute 40 lunches to our neighbors in the community. We are in need of more volunteers for the months of March and April. If you’d like to volunteer to prepare and pass out these lunches, register online or contact Betsy, Mary Claire, or Mary Young.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry

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

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

Mary Young | young.macy@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will take place June 5-8, 2017. We hope that you will save the date and plan to join us that week! Vacation Bible School is for children age 3 (by September 1, 2016) through those who have completed grade 4. There is also a special version of VBS for our children in grade 5. We have many opportunities for adults and youth to volunteer. Registration is now open for volunteers and children. Reserve your spot today!

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/vbs

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Recreation Summer Camps

We are excited to offer a variety of camp programs this summer through our recreation department: Vacation Bible School Day Camp, Junior Jam Basketball Camp, and Volleyball Camp. Register online for your children to attend these camps, as spots will fill quickly!

Register | athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps

Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Music and Arts Week

June 13-15

Registration opens March 1!

Music and Arts Week is a fun-filled, three-day camp held June 13-15, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Children currently in Kindergarten through grade 4 will be involved in all aspects of producing the musical "Heroes of the Faith."

athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek

This Week

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | MATTHEW 17:1-9

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word YOUTH AREA
Route 56: Fuel ROOM 120
Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground CHAPEL
Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill ROOM 311 & 313
Immanuel Project ROOM 103
Connect & Grow Group ROOM 200
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 12:00 p.m. **Youth Choir Weekend Lunch** HANCOCK HALL
- 1:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scouts Meeting** HANCOCK HALL
- 4:15 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
- 4:30 p.m. **Route 56: Open Road** ROOM 120
Carillons Ringers ROOM 150
- 4:45 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 200
Disciple Fast Track | Old Testament ROOM 224
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. **Encounter** ROOM 119
- 6:00 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
Parenting with Purpose Small Group ROOM 226
- 6:30 p.m. **Final Words from the Cross** ROOM 222

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | GENESIS 2:15-17

- 10:00 a.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 222
- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Trustees Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 6:30 p.m. **GriefShare | Monday Group** ROOM 247
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | GENESIS 3:1-7

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 10:00 a.m. **Our Daily Bread** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl** PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **UMW Circle 4 Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 6:30 p.m. **Financial Peace University** ROOM 222
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT
Connect & Grow Group ROOM 229
Connect & Grow Group TIMOTHY ROAD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 | PSALM 51:1-17

Ash Wednesday

- 7:30 a.m. **Imposition of Ashes** SANCTUARY
- 9:30 a.m. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** ROOM 222
- 10:00 a.m. **GriefShare | Wednesday Group** ROOM 100
- 1:00 p.m. **Israel's Mission | Women's Study** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 4:30 p.m. **Lyric and Celebrate Choirs | Grades 1-4** CHAPEL
- Dance** ROOM 151
- Prayer Shawl** ROOM 200
- 4:45 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Parent Night** (PLEASE SEE ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 9 FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS)
- Early Book Group** ROOM 247
- Parenting with Purpose** ROOM 226
- 5:00 p.m. **Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120
- Wednesday Night Meal** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:15 p.m. **Cherub Choir | Age 3** ROOM 314 & 324
- Sonshine Choir | Age 4** ROOM 325
- Joy Choir | Kindergarten** ROOM 320
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 6:00 p.m. **Engage Bible Study** ROOM 119
- 6:30 p.m. **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
- Revival | Faith As Wesley Lived It** ROOM 100
- 7:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday Service** SANCTUARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 | ROMANS 5:12-19

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 9:00 a.m. **Altar Guild Meeting** 100
- 9:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study** SANCTUARY
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:00 p.m. **Souper Supper** HANCOCK HALL
- Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:30 p.m. **Making Sense of the Bible** ROOM 229
- 7:00 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Adult)** ROOM 222

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 | MATTHEW 4:1-4

- 12:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 | MATTHEW 4:5-11

- 8:00 a.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

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