

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 around a central red geometric structure that resembles a stylized cross or a series of connected lines. There are also solid red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 24, 2019  
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

# Welcome

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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*

Budget for 2019 | \$3,338,442  
Amount Given YTD | \$458,847  
Goal for February | \$229,607  
Amount after 2 Sundays | \$143,841

## *Attendance on February 17*

Total Worship | 1,186  
8:30 a.m. | 161  
9:45 a.m. | 284  
11:00 a.m. | 326  
Online | 415  
Sunday School | 413

## *Contact Us*

Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Facebook: @Athens First United Methodist Church  
[athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## *CCLI License No.*

1097803

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## *Ministers*

**Martha Aenchbacher** Minister of Congregational Care  
[martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org) | 678-230-9708

**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions  
[betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org)

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister  
[chuck@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:chuck@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-206-5529

**Josh Miles** Minister of Student Life  
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**Susan Taylor** Minister of Discipleship  
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## *Directors*

**Katie Elder** Director of Route 56  
[katie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:katie@athensfirstumc.org)

**Jennifer Golden** Assist. Director of Children’s Ministry  
[jennifer@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:jennifer@athensfirstumc.org)

**Linsey Jarrett** Director of Weekday Preschool  
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**Laney Jones** Assistant Director of Student Ministries  
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**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children’s Music Ministry & 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader  
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**Janis Maxwell** Director of Youth Music & Organist  
[janis@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org)

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[stephen@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:stephen@athensfirstumc.org)

**Robin Stewart** Director of Children’s Ministry  
[robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org)

**Bob Winstead** Executive Director of Administration  
[bob@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:bob@athensfirstumc.org)

**Rusty Wood** Director of Recreation Ministries  
[rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org)

# The Worship of God

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8:30 a.m.

## GATHERING SONG

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” | ASSAM

**I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back.**

OPENING PRAYER | Susan Taylor

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, People of the Risen King” | AZMON

**Come, people of the Risen King, who gladly bring Him praise;  
come all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace.**

**From shifting shadows of the earth we lift our eyes to Him,  
where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.**

Refrain: **Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!**

**Come, those whose joy is morning sun, those weeping through the night;  
Come, those who tell of battles won, those struggling in the fight.**

**His perfect love will never change, His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days With the certain hope of peace.** Refrain

**Come, young and old from every land, all you who love the faith;  
come, those with full or empty hands, find the riches of His grace.**

**O'er all the world, His people sing, from shore to shore they call  
the truth that cries through every age: “Our God is all in all”!** Refrain

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**Let us bear with one another and forgive each other, as the Lord forgave us. And over all these virtues, let us put on love, which binds us together in perfect unity. May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since as members of one body, we were called to peace. May the message of Christ dwell among us richly as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs of the spirit, singing to God**

**with gratitude in our hearts. And whatever we do, whether in word or deed, let us do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** | Katie Elder

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Josh Miles

**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**

**"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"** | David Haas

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" | 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.**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**

EPHESIANS 2:8-10 | p. 181 NEW TESTAMENT

**THE SERMON**

**"One Purpose"** | Chuck Hodges

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

UMC 581 "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" | BEACH SPRING

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Christ invites to the table all who love him and who seek to be in unity with God and one another. When we gather together, the Spirit of the Lord meets us, and through grace, brings us into a community of love, hope, and peace. Let us pray.

**Almighty God, in the abundance of your many gifts, grant us grace to fill one another's lives with love. Redeem, restore, and remold us until we are made new. Transform our daily bread into the bread of life, and**

*Anthem Lyrics*  
Will you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too. We are pilgrims on the journey. We are travellers on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ light for you in the night time of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the the peace you long to hear. I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

**the cup that we drink into the cup of salvation. We pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Creator God, holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He prayed that we might be one as he is one with you, and he asked that we might be known by the love we have for one another. On the night...

We celebrate God's love for us in Jesus Christ. As we remember Christ's sacrifice through our communion, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come to us, Spirit of love, and let the bread and drink before us bear your life to our life, nourish a vision of hope, and unite us in one body of peace.

**Amen.**

## RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

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

## MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

"In the Fields of the Lord" | Audrey Assad and Isaac Wardell

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

TFWS 2223 | "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" | ST. BRENDAN'S

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,**

**And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;**

**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love**

**\*POSTLUDE**

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" | Robert Powell

### *Lyrics*

In the fields of the Lord,  
our work is rest. He is  
moving in our hands  
and feet to bless. In  
the fields of the Lord  
our work is rest. In the  
vineyards of the Lord  
our work is light. He  
is tending every leaf  
and every vine. In the  
vineyards of the Lord  
our work is light. In the  
garden of the Lord our  
work is sound. He is  
weaving every thorn  
into a crown. In the  
garden of the Lord our  
work is sound. At the  
harvest of the Lord the  
fields are white. He will  
wipe away the tears  
from ev'ry eye. At the  
harvest of the Lord the  
fields are white.

# The Worship of God

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9:45 &  
11:00 a.m.

## *Gathering*

### *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Margaret Gary Timm by Gary Timm Preston and Harriet Timm Anderson and their families.

### THE PRELUDE

“A Thousand Ages” | Julie Turner

*Rung by the Alleluia Ringers*

### THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“We Are Called” | Haas; arr. Hayes

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

### THE PRAYER

Martha Aenchbacher

**God of love, bring us back to you. Send your Spirit to make us strong in faith and active in good works. Fill us with your gifts and make us always eager to serve you in faith, hope, and love. Unite your church in the Holy Spirit that we may serve with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## *Praise & Thanksgiving*

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 581 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” | BEACH SPRING

### \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 11:00 a.m.

Sutton Eleanor-Grace Cummins, daughter of Carrie Savage and Dustin Cummins

**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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

9:45 a.m. Betsy Butler & 11:00 a.m. Josh Miles

**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.

Katie Elder

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

### *Anthem Lyrics*

Rejoice with the rejoicing, and weep with those who mourn. Be patient and forgiving, repair what has been torn. Remember the forgotten; invite the stranger in. Serve each other faithfully until I come again. Love as I have loved you. Serve as I have served. Give as I have given. Be my church. Be my hands and body moving in the world. Live your life in blessings. Be my church. The outcast, the beloved; the powerful, the weak; the ones caught up in battle, and those who sleep in peace; the thriving and the struggling; the greatest to the least: my child, they are my children, so love each one of these.

## THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Be My Church” | David Lantz III

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Lisa Bartholow, flute*

### \*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

EPHESIANS 2:8-10 | p. 181 NEW TESTAMENT

## THE SERMON

“One Purpose” | Chuck Hodges

# Response

### \*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**Let us bear with one another and forgive each other, as the Lord forgave us. And over all these virtues, let us put on love, which binds us together in perfect unity. May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since as members of one body, we were called to peace. May the message of Christ dwell among us richly as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs of the spirit, singing to God with gratitude in our hearts. And whatever we do, whether in word or deed, let us do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him.**

**\*THE HYMN**

TFWS 2243 “We All Are One in Mission” | AURELIA

**We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single, great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together, that all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

## *Sending Forth*

**\*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“We All Are One in Mission” | AURELIA

**Now let us be united and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” | Robert Powell



# The Steeple

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THERE IS ONE **BODY** AND ONE **SPIRIT**, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE **HOPE** WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE **LORD**, ONE **FAITH**, ONE **BAPTISM**; ONE **GOD** AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL. • THERE IS ONE **BODY** AND ONE **SPIRIT**, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE **HOPE** WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE **LORD**, ONE **FAITH**, ONE **BAPTISM**; ONE **GOD** AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL. • THERE IS ONE **BODY** AND ONE **SPIRIT**, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE **HOPE** WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE **LORD**, ONE **FAITH**, ONE **BAPTISM**; ONE **GOD** AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL. • THERE IS ONE **BODY** AND ONE **SPIRIT**, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE **HOPE** WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE **LORD**, ONE **FAITH**, ONE **BAPTISM**; ONE **GOD** AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL. • THERE IS ONE **BODY** AND ONE **SPIRIT**, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE **HOPE** WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE **LORD**, ONE **FAITH**, ONE **BAPTISM**; ONE **GOD** AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL. • THERE IS ONE **BODY** AND ONE **SPIRIT**, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE **HOPE** WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE **LORD**, ONE **FAITH**, ONE **BAPTISM**; ONE **GOD** AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL. • **THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE HOPE WHEN YOU WERE CALLED; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM; ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS OVER ALL AND THROUGH ALL AND IN ALL.**

EPHESIANS 4:4-6



# SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

## MARCH 22-24

ONE Student Ministries will be doing our very own Spiritual Life Retreat (SLR) this March for youth in grades 7-12. SLR begins on Friday evening, March 22, and ends on Sunday afternoon, March 24. We'll venture to the Athens Y Camp Retreat Center in Tallulah Falls, Georgia, for worship, small groups, team-building, and enriching opportunities for spiritual growth. Our theme is "One in Christ" (Ephesians 4:1-6). We are capping this retreat at 36 total students, so the earlier you register, the better. Registration is open until Sunday night, March 17. Please visit our webpage for more information and to register.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/spiritualliferetreat](http://athensfirstumc.org/spiritualliferetreat)  
Josh Miles | [josh@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:josh@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Ivette Bledsoe and her family in the loss of her mother, Rosa Lopez, on February 13.

## New Members

On February 17, we welcomed Lindsey Morris, Lori Hammer, Claire Plymel, Beth Wray, Jan Hunnicutt, Dustin Cummins, and Carrie Savage to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

## WYC Variety Show | Tonight

Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall, take a walk down memory lane as we reminisce about old Variety Shows. We will be performing numbers and skits from the past nine years of shows! Expect to see some former youth choir members (and others) reprising past roles!

## Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, February 27, is provided by Champy's. Join us for fried chicken fingers (3 per person), baked beans and slaw. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals](http://athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals)

Cindy McKay | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## GriefShare

We have two GriefShare groups meeting this semester! Our Wednesday morning group meets from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Room 119. Our Tuesday men's group meets from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Room 100. This faith-based curriculum is for those grieving the death of a friend or family member. New participants are welcome to join either group at any time. Please register online; there is a \$20 cost to cover the workbook.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/griefshare](http://athensfirstumc.org/griefshare)

Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442



## Souper Suppers

Join us as we open our doors and hearts to love and serve our neighbors by inviting them into our church for a warm meal and fellowship. We host Souper Suppers in Hancock Hall every Thursday until the end of April. Individuals, Sunday school classes, UMW Circles, families, or any small group are welcome to serve in several different ways:

- Prepare a meal to feed our neighbors.
- Work with children in the gym or at our Kaleidoscope music program at 3:30 p.m.
- Greet community members, help in the Souper Suppers Store, or serve in our dining room at 4:30 p.m.
- Serve with our cleanup crew at 5:30 p.m.

If you are interested in serving or preparing a meal, please contact Betsy or Sarah Beth to get involved!

Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Sarah Beth Barger | [sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442

## Senior Fun Luncheon | February 28

This month's Senior Fun Luncheon is on Thursday, February 28, at 12:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Cynthia Graubart, food writer, acclaimed cookbook author, and former cooking show television producer, will lead the program. She will share her passion for food and love for her home state's abundant produce. Isaiah Feken, a gifted baritone and doctoral candidate in opera performance at UGA, will perform four solos. The luncheon cost is \$6. All who are over 50 are encouraged to register now by calling the church office. Reservations should be placed by 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 27. Call the church office to register.

For questions, please contact Dan Maxey.

Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097

Church Office | 706-543-1442



## Congregational Care Ministry

### Congregational Care Interest Meeting

There will be a Congregational Care interest meeting on Sunday, March 3, at 4:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. We have the blessing of being a large church and want everyone to discover more ways we can care for one another. Please come and learn about what we are currently doing and hear about new ministry opportunities as well. This meeting is for everyone, and everyone is needed.

Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

### Adult Sunday School Classroom Moving Day | March 3

Some of our Adult Sunday School classes are moving classrooms next Sunday, March 3. Visit our website for more details regarding the changes or if you would like to learn more about the Adult Sunday School class opportunities.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool](http://athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool)  
Susan Taylor | [susan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:susan@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

### A Journey Through Lent | Yin Yoga

Join Susan Taylor as we prepare for Lent with Yin Yoga along with prayer and meditative readings. Yin Yoga offers a much deeper access to the body when practicing the asanas (yoga postures). Postures are held for three to five minutes so that there is also time for meditation. Yin Yoga is for every "body" and for novice, beginner, intermediate, and advanced yoga practitioners. Participants will need to bring a yoga mat, a yoga blanket/small throw or a large thick beach towel, a sturdy, firm pillow to use to sit on, and

wear comfortable, loose clothing. This six-week workshop will meet on Monday evenings beginning March 4, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 301. The following five sessions will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](http://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

Susan Taylor | [susan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:susan@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

### Children's Soccer | Register Now

Boys and girls ages 3-8 are invited to join us for our spring soccer season, March 16 through May 18. Practices and games for these co-ed teams will take place on Saturday mornings. If you are interested in signing up your child, registration is available online or you can contact Rusty Wood. Registration is open through March 1.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/childrenssoccer](http://athensfirstumc.org/childrenssoccer)

Rusty Wood | [rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

### Because of This I Rejoice Lenten Study

Join Lee & Heather Robinson and Scott & Tiffany Anderson for the Lenten study entitled *Because of This I Rejoice* by Max Vincent. This is a 6-week study of Philippians which explores what Paul teaches about joyfully practicing spiritual disciplines. The intent of these disciplines is to help us focus less on ourselves and more on God. Vincent invites us to engage in the same spiritual practices as a way to grow closer to God and allow joy to flow through our lives. This study will meet on Sunday mornings, beginning March 10 through April 14, from 9:45-10:45 a.m., in room 301. Register online. For more information, contact Susan or Cindy.

Susan Taylor | [susan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:susan@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

### Entering the Passion of Jesus | Lenten Study

Join David Roberts for a Lenten study entitled *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader and how we all face risk in

our Christian experience. The study will meet on Tuesday mornings, March 12-April 16, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in room 224. The book cost is \$12.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](https://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

Susan Taylor | [susan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:susan@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Lent for Everyone | Lenten Study

Join Don Griner in N.T. Wright's *Lent for Everyone* study. This study presents readers with an inspirational guide through the Lenten season. Wright provides his own Scripture translation, brief reflection, and a prayer for each of the days of the season, helping readers ponder how the text is relevant to their own lives today. This study will meet on Wednesday evenings, March 13-April 24, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in room 200. The book cost is \$11.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](https://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

Susan Taylor | [susan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:susan@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens

The week of March 10 - 17, we will partner with the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens to host displaced families in our community in need of temporary housing. There are numerous ways to serve throughout the two weeks we will have guests in our church. These opportunities include driving the IHNA van, preparing a meal, spending time hosting our guests in the evening and overnight, and helping with set-up and take-down at the beginning and end of the host week. There is a place for everyone to be involved with this wonderful ministry! For more information and detailed descriptions of these volunteer opportunities, please visit our webpage or contact Betsy Butler or Sarah Beth Barger.

Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Sarah Beth Barger | [sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442

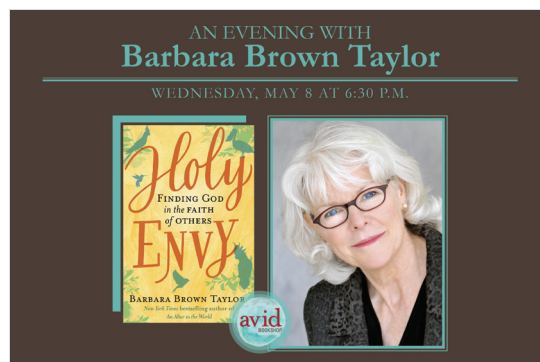
## Oberammergau Passion Play Trip

Join us for this one-of-a-kind trip and experience the Oberammergau Passion Play in July 2020. After the Black Plague, which had been rampant across Europe, left

their small village, the grateful people of Oberammergau promised God that they would show their gratitude by putting on a passion play. More than 380 years later, they are still upholding this promise by performing the Passion Play once every ten years! In addition to Oberammergau, Germany, the trip will include stops in Innsbruck and Salzburg, Austria, and Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, Germany. The trip dates are July 13-21, 2020. For more information and pricing, contact Stephen Mitchell. Don't miss this once in a lifetime trip! This trip will be led by Stephen Mitchell and Chuck Hodges. Guests and non-church members are welcome to join.

Stephen Mitchell | [smitchell@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:smitchell@athensfirstumc.org)

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## An Evening with Barbara Brown Taylor

Join us for an evening with Barbara Brown Taylor on Wednesday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Her latest book, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, will be released in March. Barbara will discuss "holy envy" as a peaceful way to engage and live in community with people of religious differences. *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, along with a few more of her books, will be available for sale that evening by Avid Bookshop. After the program, she will be signing copies of her book.

A boxed dinner will be offered from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at a cost of \$6.00. Childcare will be provided. Register online. There is limited seating, so register today!

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/register](https://athensfirstumc.org/register)

Susan Taylor | [susan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:susan@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# This Week

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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | LUKE 6:32-38

- 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  
**Youth Sunday School** YOUTH AREA  
**Immanuel Project** ROOM 301  
**Route 56: Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School** ROOM 120  
**Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground** CHAPEL  
**Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill** ROOM 311 & 313  
**Preschool Nursery & Sunday School** FIRST FLOOR
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY  
**Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 1:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 4:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 5:00 p.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Varsity Show** HANCOCK HALL

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | EXODUS 34:29-35

- 10:00 a.m. **Connect & Grow | Women's Group** ROOM 200
- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 6:30 p.m. **Evening Community Bible Study**  
**Junior Girl Scouts Meeting** SAYE BUILDING
- 7:00 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group**

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | EXODUS 15:12-20

- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders' Council** YOUTH AREA
- 10:00 a.m. **The Quest | Women's Bible Study** ROOM 222
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD  
**Parenting with Purpose: Are My Kids on Track?** ROOM 200
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 4:00 p.m. **Route 56: Grade 5 Girls Small Group** DAIRY QUEEN IN WATKINSVILLE  
**Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group**  
**GriefShare | Men's Group** ROOM 100  
**The Truth Project Bible Study** ROOM 229
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | PSALM 99

- 9:30 a.m. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** ROOM 222  
**GriefShare** ROOM 119  
**Seamless | Women's Bible Study** ROOM 229

- 4:30 p.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ROOM 200  
**Lyric Choir | Grades 1-2** ROOM 151  
**Celebrate Worship Arts | Grades 3-4** ROOM 301  
**Dance | Age 4-Kindergarten** ROOM 145
- 4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 224
- 5:00 p.m. **Route 56 Wednesday Nights** ROOM 120  
**Wednesday Night Meal** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:10 p.m. **Celebrate Choir | Grades 3-4** ROOM 151
- 5:15 p.m. **Sonshine Choir | Age 4** ROOM 325  
**Joy Choir | Kindergarten** ROOM 325
- 5:20 p.m. **Music & Movement | Age 3** ROOM 314  
**Lyric Worship Arts | Grades 1-2** ROOM 301
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters**  
**Connect Group | Young Married** ROOM 114
- 6:00 p.m. **Youth Bible Study** ROOM 119
- 6:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224  
**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
- 7:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | CORINTHIANS 4:1-2**

- 9:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study** SANCTUARY
- 12:00p.m. **Senior Fun Luncheon** HANCOCK HALL
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:00 p.m. **Souper Suppers** HANCOCK HALL

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | LUKE 9:28-36**

- 9:30 a.m. **Parenting with Purpose Small Group** ROOM 119
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2 | LUKE 9:28-43A**

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

# **Worship Bulletin (614-280)**

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