

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outlines. Two fish are in the upper left, and one is in the lower right. They are connected by thick red lines that form a large, abstract shape resembling a cross or a stylized 'A'. Small red circles are placed at the top left and bottom right corners of the design.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Summer Worship

JULY 5, 2015
9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We're glad you're here! Thank you for joining us today. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804, when our church was formed to minister to the Native American and European settlers in Athens. Over the past two centuries our congregation has changed, but our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to "do all the good you can, in all the ways you can." At Athens First United Methodist, there are many ways to get involved, grow in your faith, and do good in our community.

If you are unable to attend worship in person, each Sunday our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WRFC 960 AM, and all of our services are live-streamed on our website at athensfirstumc.org/webcast.

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through four-year-olds on Sundays from 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. The nursery area is located on the first floor of the building, off the Washington Street entrance.

Children

Worship activity bags (age appropriate for all preschool and elementary children) are available every Sunday in the narthex and by the south entrance of the sanctuary. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through second grade and follows the Children's Message during 11:00 a.m. worship all Sundays except for Communion Sundays.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for all ages, kindergarten through adult, each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool.

Connect

We are blessed to have a large congregation. Because of this, we offer many programs and ministries. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to get involved. If you would like someone to guide you along this process, please contact Martha Aenchbacher.

Another great way to learn about the life of our church is through attending a Newcomer Orientation held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11 a.m. We also encourage you to visit our website, athensfirstumc.org, for information about our ministries, to register for events, and to listen to sermons from our sermon archive. Visit athensfirstumc.org/thesteeples to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athens_firstumc on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 706-543-1442.

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able.

The congregation speaks or sings the text in **bold type**.

Gathering

*The flowers on
the altar today
are given to the
Glory of God and
in loving memory
of Robert C. Wall
by Mrs. Robert C.
Wall and family.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Beth Dickinson

Praise & Thanksgiving

*HYMN MEDLEY

“Do Lord”

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh do remember me.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh do remember me.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh do remember me,

Way beyond the blue.

I’ve got a home in glory land that outshines the sun.

I’ve got a home in glory land that outshines the sun.

I’ve got a home in glory land that outshines the sun,

Way beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too.

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too.

I took Jesus as my Savior, you take him too,

Way beyond the blue.

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it, mount of Thy unchanging love.

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; Here there by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.**

“America the Beautiful”

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

“How Great Thou Art”

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!”**

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Proclamation of the Word

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Fill My Cup, Lord" | R. Blanchard

Sung by the Worship Team

Like the woman at the well I was seeking for things that could not satisfy; And then I heard my Savior speaking: "Draw from my well that never shall run dry." Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord! Come and quench this thirsting of my soul; Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more. Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole! There are millions in this world who are craving the pleasures earthly things afford; but none can match the wondrous treasure that I find in Jesus Christ my Lord. So, my brother, if the things this world gave you leave hungers that won't pass away, my blessed Lord will come and save you, if you kneel to Him and humbly pray.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

THE SERMON

"A Holy Experiment" | Martha Aenchbacher

Response to the Word

***CLOSING HYMN MEDLEY**

“Spirit Song”

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.**

Refrain:

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

**Oh, come and sing the song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. Refrain**

“My Hope Is Built”

Refrain:

**On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Sending Forth

***THE BLESSING**

GOING FORTH MUSIC

JULY USHERS

9:45 a.m. Chris Bostdorff, Tom Cooper, David and Jane Disney, Mark Ellison, Mark Firth, Tom Hedges, Dan Lasseeter, Jim Lyons, Sharon Milton, Tom Milton, Al Rogers, Bill Trigleth, Michelle and Reeves McNeill

11:00 a.m. Mark Graham, Mike McCord, Charlie Upchurch III, Allan Hixon, Mason McWhorter, Gene Deal, Jim Lyons

OFFERING STEWARDS

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

GREETERS

Joye and Jerry Baker, Mary and Henry Folsom, Cyndy Harbold, Jane Harvey, Judy Hill, Sonya and Al Pileggi, Donna Weekley, Annie Miller, John Cunningham

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

9:45 a.m Riley and Madison Holland, Anna Marian Block

11:00 a.m. Abbi Merhar, Greer Moseley, Tommy Chambers

ATTENDANCE ON JUNE 28

Total Worship | 1,019

Sunday School | 267

8:30 a.m. | 180

9:45 a.m. | 311

11:00 a.m. | 416

Online | 112

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$1,474,815

Goal for June | \$180,197

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$160,135

OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister

athensfirstumc.org

chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

Martha Aenchbacher Minister of Congregational Care

athensfirstumc.org/congregationalcare

martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship

athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies

beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions

athensfirstumc.org/missions

betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Josh Miles Director of Student Ministries

athensfirstumc.org/youth

josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Robin Stewart Director of Children's Ministry

athensfirstumc.org/elementary

robinafumc@bellsouth.net | 706-543-1442

Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry

athensfirstumc.org/childrensmusicministry

sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Stephen Mitchell Director of Music

athensfirstumc.org/adultmusic

stephen@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist

athensfirstumc.org/wesleyanyouthchoir

janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Lynn Bryant Director of REACH International

athensfirstumc.org/reachinternational

lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries

athensfirstumc.org/recreation

rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-8193

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool

athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool

linsey@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

2015 Annual Conference Delegation Report

For the 16th time in 17 years, the Athens-Elberton District and Athens First United Methodist Church hosted the North Georgia Annual Conference at the Classic Center June 16-19. Our thanks go to the many volunteers who participated in the host committee, registration, and other means of service to our nearly 3,000 guests. For some, it was the 16th year serving in support of the conference.

The Methodists of North Georgia have come to know, love, and greatly appreciate the hospitality of our members. So much so, that they voted to extend the contract with the Classic Center through the year 2021! The conference has a long history with our church. In fact, prior to 1999, when it returned to Athens, the Annual Conference had last been in Athens in the 1950s when the conference met in our sanctuary. By the end of this new contract, the conference will have been in Athens 22 of the last 23 years.

Under the theme “We are God’s people connected: A focus on global health,” the conference highlighted its “Imagine No Malaria” program throughout the week with videos, speakers, and an offering which, when coupled with those sent in by our church and others throughout the conference, totaled \$673,088.

There was stirring worship each day, ordination of new clergy, recognition of retirees, and a memorial service for those who passed on during the last year. A key function was to elect the 11 lay and 11 clergy delegates who will represent North Georgia at next year’s General Conference, which writes and revises the Discipline of the church, and another 22 lay and clergy who will join them for next year’s Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, at which bishops are elected. Bishop Michael Watson announced that the coming year will be his last before retirement, so North Georgia will receive a new bishop next year.

For the seventh consecutive year, the conference adopted a reduced budget from the year before, down next year by 4.4 percent to \$22.075 million. Our church was among the 80% of churches paying 100% of their apportionments, which has long been a priority for this congregation. North Georgia membership declined some 2,000 members this past year. The one-half of one percent decrease is the first membership loss in decades, but at 361,329 members, our conference remains the largest conference in United Methodism.

Delegates finalized disposition of the Simpsonwood property, the former conference and retreat center located along the Chattahoochee River in Gwinnett County which also served as headquarters for the bishop and conference staff. With the property sold to Gwinnett County for recreational space, the conference decided to lease new offices at Century Center

on Clairmont Road at I-85, and also voted not to underwrite the expense of moving the Simpsonwood Chapel off the property. With the proceeds from the Simpsonwood sale, the long-standing conference pension liability should be fully funded by next year, five years ahead of goal.

A resolution seeking to have General Conference consider revising the definition of marriage from being between one man and one woman to that of being between “two consenting and loving adults” lost by a 70-30 percent vote, reaffirming the conference’s position on this issue as it has many times over the past two decades. Resolutions seeking support for action to remove the church’s ban on ordination of gay clergy and prohibiting clergy and churches from conducting same-sex marriage ceremonies failed by similar margins.

Throughout Thursday and Friday, Bishop Watson and delegates expressed their heartbreak and concern over the mass shooting at a Methodist sister church, Emmanuel AME in Charleston, S.C. The conference asked the bishop to send a letter to Emmanuel expressing our concern and condolences, and immediately sent a delegation of volunteers to Charleston to bring comfort to the membership there. The bishop’s full statement is available online at www.ngumc.org.

On the final day, as delegates considered Athens’ invitation to host the conference for another four years, the pastor of United Methodist churches at Colbert and Comer moved from the floor that the conference send a letter to the Athens-Clarke County government urging them to reconsider the local government’s opposition to a proposal from the International Rescue Committee to establish a refugee resettlement program in Athens. With little discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote with no opposition expressed.

At the closing session, it was our great pleasure to hear the reappointment of our four clergy to our church for another year. Ours remains a significant and prominent church in what is clearly one of the strongest conferences in all of United Methodism. It is our great privilege to serve you as your delegates. Full details of conference actions are at ngumc.org or you may contact any of us individually for further information.

In Christ,

Arlyn Hawley
Tom Jackson
Mike McCord
Claire Swann



Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Elizabeth Ann Burkhart and family in the loss of her sister, Catherine Burkhart Healey, on June 2 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Suzanne Carter and family in the loss of her brother, Chuck Carter, on June 26 in Athens, Georgia.

Baptism

Ava Elizabeth Jammoul received the Sacrament of Baptism on June 28 in our sanctuary. Ava is the daughter of Lindsay and Mohamad Jammoul.

Maren Elizabeth King received the Sacrament of Baptism on June 28 in our sanctuary. Maren is the daughter of Ashley and Matthew King and is the granddaughter of Leigh and Chris Holland.

New Member

On June 28 we welcomed Matthew King to the Athens First United Methodist family.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Michael and Jennifer Broun on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Kathleen, on June 23. Charlotte is the granddaughter of Sharon and Mike Broun.

Congratulations to Kate and Louis Timberlake on the birth of their son, John Felder, on June 29. Felder is the grandson of Robin and Greg Stewart and Allyn and Jim Timberlake.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Alli Harper and Jack Brannen who were married on June 27 in Athens, Georgia.

Congratulations to Carey Stewart who married Patrick Jansen on June 13 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Carey is the daughter of Robin and Greg Stewart.

Summer Worship | July

Summer Worship will continue throughout the month of July. Please make plans to join us next Sunday at either the 9:45 or 11:00 a.m. service. We are also offering a special Communion service each Sunday in July at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel. In addition, this year we are adding a congregational chorus to help lead hymns. If you would like to sing at either service on any or all Sundays in July, join us in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning from 9:00–9:30 a.m. to rehearse for that Sunday. No additional preparation is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Caldwell. We look forward to worshipping together and enjoying more of our favorite hymns as Summer Worship continues.

Julie Caldwell | jpowell@negia.net



Newcomer Orientation | July 12

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation on Sunday, July 12, in the Hospitality Room (on the Adult Sunday School hallway). Two sessions are offered, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. You can learn more about Athens First United Methodist, including ways to get involved and how to become a member.

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Mercy Health Center

Mercy Health Center, a mission partner of Athens First United Methodist Church, is in need of volunteers! Through a community of volunteers, Mercy Health Center provides whole-person, quality health care in a Christ-centered environment to our under-served neighbors. The greatest needs are Prayer Partners, specifically Tuesdays and



Summer Worship

JULY 5–26

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

Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m., and an MD to volunteer once per month or every other month on Tuesdays (6:00-9:00 p.m. is the most critical need). Please contact Virginia McKenna if you would like to volunteer with this ministry. Virginia McKenna | vmckenna@msn.com | 706-338-3688



Smart Lunch, Smart Kid | July

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

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



Choir Tour | June 2016

The Sanctuary Choir is traveling to Spain and Portugal for a tour of singing and sight-seeing June 20-30, 2016. We will travel to Lisbon, Seville, and Granada. Church members are welcome to join us. If you are interested, please contact Stephen Mitchell. Deposits are \$500 and will be accepted

through July 15, 2015. If you would like to register, please bring a check made payable to AFUMC to the church office. Stephen Mitchell | smitchell@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Sack Lunch Ministry

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

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



The Ark Golf Tournament | August 8

The Ark, a mission partner of our church, invites you to their 23rd Annual Fellowship Golf Challenge "Swing for Hope." The Golf Tournament will be Saturday, August 8, at the

UGA Golf Course. There is a registration fee of \$100 per golfer, and mulligans are \$10 per player or \$70 per team (limit of 2 per player). All proceeds benefit The Ark. Contact Marty Webb if you have any questions.

Register | athensark.org

Marty Webb | martin_webb@bellsouth.net



REACH | Service Opportunities

Our church will have several opportunities to serve new international students to UGA. On Monday, August 3, we will have the opportunity to greet more than 80 Chinese students as they arrive in Atlanta and prepare for orientation at the university. If you are interested in serving with transportation, food preparation, or setup on August 3 or 4, please register online. The deadline to sign up to serve for the August 3-4 opportunities is Sunday, July 19.

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

Register | athensfirstumc.org/reachinternational

Lynn Bryant | athens1stism@aol.com | 706-202-9017

New Church Directory

We're excited to announce that we are creating a new membership directory! The directory is a family photo album of all those in our church family and a great resource for everyone. While many members of our congregation utilize social media to stay connected with one another, there is a large demographic that relies on our church directory to stay connected with the congregation at large. Our directory is an aid for putting someone's name with their face and is particularly helpful for new members to become acquainted with the congregation. It also helps facilitate congregational care.

In order for this tool to be a reliable source of information about our members, we are aiming for 100% participation from each member of our congregation. Our goal is to provide you with a comprehensive directory that you may turn to for information about our members. Registration to have your photo taken begins July 19 at the table in the library. Each family who has their photo taken will receive a free 8x10 photo and a directory. Photos will be taken in late August through September. We don't want you to miss out on being a part of this family album!

We need greeters to help greet and check people in during photography times! Contact Diana if you would be willing to share your time and be a greeter.

Diana Zylow | diana@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Fall Confirmation | Register Now!

Registration for our annual fall Confirmation class is ongoing! If you are the parent of a rising grade 7 student, we encourage you to sign up your child. Confirmation is the process through which we guide and instruct students as

they prepare to become professing members of the United Methodist Church. This is an exciting opportunity for us to invest in the faith journeys of both our grade 7 students and their families. We hope that your student will join us this fall! Registration will end on August 10, 2015.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/confirmation

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

Early Book Group | August 11

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

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



Children's Consignment Sale August 14-15

Please register to volunteer and help make our Children's Consignment Sale a success! Here are the ways you can serve:

- Volunteer Coordinator Committee (organize the event)
- Set-Up Team (prepare gym for sale)
- Screen Committee (organize sale items)
- Cashier Leader Shifts (instructing cashiers)
- Cashier Shifts (great sitting job during sale)
- Hospitality (greet during the sale)
- Floor Coordinator Team (manages the sale)

Please visit our webpage for more information, and be sure to register online! If you have any questions, please feel free

to call Mary Claire or Betsy.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale

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

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



Wanted: Small Group Leaders

Do you know someone with these characteristics: a love of the Lord, a desire to help people grow in their faith, the ability to listen, and the ability to ask questions to stimulate conversation? If so, we'd love it if you would invite them to become a part of small group ministry and be a small group co-leader! We have more than 20 small groups launching this fall and we need people to help lead. No prior experience is necessary! Contact Beth today if you would like to suggest someone...or yourself!

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

This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 5 | 2 SAMUEL 5:9-10

- 9:00 a.m. **Communion Service** CHAPEL
9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School GYM
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
9:45 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Young Professional Adult Sunday School Class ROOM 224

MONDAY, JULY 6 | EPHESIANS 1:3-8

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

TUESDAY, JULY 7 | EPHESIANS 1:9-14

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
9:30 a.m. **Breathe Women's Bible Study** ROOM 224
10:00 a.m. **College Prep Volleyball Camp** GYM
3:00 p.m. **Tagging Tuesdays** ROOM 103
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
6:00 p.m. **Volleyball Camp** GYM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 | PSALM 24

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

THURSDAY, JULY 9 | MARK 6:14-29

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
10:00 a.m. **College Prep Volleyball Camp** GYM
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
6:00 p.m. **Volleyball Camp** ROOM 224
Wesleyan Way GYM

FRIDAY, JULY 10 | 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
1:00 p.m. **Adult Pick-up Basketball** GYM
5:30 p.m. **REACH International Bible Study & Dinner** YOUTH AREA

SATURDAY, JULY 11 | PSALM 130

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Athens First United Methodist Church

327 N. Lumpkin Street

Athens, GA 30601-2743

Telephone | 706-543-1442

Fax | 706-546-4797

Website | *athensfirstumc.org*

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