

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outlines. Two fish are in the top-left corner, and one is in the bottom-right corner. A large red geometric shape, resembling a stylized 'L' or a corner of a square, frames the central text. A red dot is located in the top-left corner, and another red dot is in the bottom-right corner.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Summer Worship

JULY 26, 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.

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 are given
to the glory of God
and in loving
memory of Eunice
and Harold Hawk
and Jane Harris
by Beth and Tom
Hawk and children.*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Woke Up This Morning with My Mind”

“Down to the River to Pray”

GATHERING MUSIC

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Do Lord”

Children are invited to come forward and join in leading this song.

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.

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Betsy Butler

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Daughter of

Rachel and

Kevin Florence

11:00 a.m. | Kate Marie Florence

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

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.

*HYMN MEDLEY

"Blessed Assurance"

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above,
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

Refrain

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

Refrain

“Because He Lives”

**God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!**

Refrain:

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living, just because He lives!**

**And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know**

“In the Garden”

**I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.**

Refrain:

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.**

**I'd stay in the garden with him though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe his voice to me is calling.**

Refrain

“Jesus Loves Me”

Children are invited to come down for Children's Message during this song at the 11:00 service.

**Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.**

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

Robin Stewart, Director of Children's Ministry

Sarah Lawing, Director of Children's Music Ministry

Proclamation of the Word

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)" | Hillsong United

Ellen McDowell, soloist

You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail, and there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep my faith will stand. I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves. When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace, for I am Yours and You are mine. Your grace abounds in deepest waters. Your sovereign hand will be my guide where feet may fail and fear surrounds me. You've never failed, and You won't start now. Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders. Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

THE SERMON

"We're All in the Same Boat" | Martha Aenchenbacher

Response to the Word

***CLOSING HYMN**

"It Is Well with My Soul"

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,

when sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,

"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, o, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,

praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;

The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,

even so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

“Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;

‘tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

Sending Forth

***THE BLESSING**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away!

To a home on God’s celestial shore: I’ll fly away!

Refrain:

I'll fly away, oh Glory, I'll fly away.

When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away!

Summer Worship Band

Chris Enghauser, double bass; Hans Holzen, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, tenor; Julie Caldwell, guitar, alto; Sarah Lawing, clarinet, soprano; Janis Maxwell, piano, alto; Matthew Lawing, guitar, tenor; Mason Towe, percussion, baritone; Stan Jackson, Joe Wyrick, Steven Ricks, guitar; Deana Jones, soprano; Steven Jones, tenor; Thomas Jones, cello, boy soprano, Rich Burn, banjo.

Sermon Notes

JULY USHERS

9:45 a.m. Chris Bostdorff, Tom Cooper, David and Jane Disney, Mark Ellison, Mark Firth, Tom Hedges, Dan Lasseater, 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

Susan and Don Crews, Joy and Jack Davis, Jerry Guyer, Robin Hardin, Dan Harper, Duke Lindsay, Mary and Bob Wimberly, Parissa Shedd, Virginia Beth Butler

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

9:45 a.m. James and Glynn Chesser, Margaret Timberlake

11:00 a.m. Reagan Grace, Georgia Laster

ATTENDANCE ON JULY 19

Total Worship | 670

Sunday School | 354

9:45 a.m. | 217

11:00 a.m. | 366

Online | 87

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$1,598,045

Goal for July | \$170,070

Amount after 2 Sundays | \$81,144

OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

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chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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PROMOTION

SUNDAY

It's time to move UP!

AUGUST 2

2 (by 9/1) | Room #134

3 (by 9/1) | Room #140

4 (by 9/1) | Room #141

Kindergarten | Room #313

Grades 1-4 | Drop off in chapel on 2nd floor. Pick up on the 3rd floor.

Grades 5-6 | Room #120

Grades 7-12 | Room #119

Baptisms

On July 19 John Henry Greer, “Jack,” received the Sacrament of Baptism in our sanctuary. Jack is the son of Kelly and Michael Greer and the grandson of Susan and Steve Greer.

On July 19 Josephine McKenna Saunders received the Sacrament of Baptism in our sanctuary. Josie is the daughter of Emily and Andrew Saunders.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Gayle Blount and family in the loss of her mother, Pearl Pullen, on July 14.

New Members

On July 19 we welcomed Eric and Lindsay Atkinson, Joy Kitchen, and Debbie Loftiss to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Promotion Sunday | August 2

On August 2, Promotion Sunday, all children age 2 (on or before September 1) through students in grade 12 will move to their new grade/age level. Room locations will be posted in the galleria, youth hallway, and third floor for reference on Sunday. Children under age 2 by September 1 promote developmentally throughout the year.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/promotionsunday

Summer Worship | July

Today is the last Sunday in our Summer Worship series. We hope that you have enjoyed this time of worship through some of our favorite hymns. We look forward to Summer Worship again next year. Worship will return to our standard 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. service times next Sunday. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend.

Kids Music and Arts

“Come and Follow Me” to Kids Music and Arts this year! This Wednesday night program is choir and more for children age 3 through grade 4. Every child who is 3 years old by September 1, 2015 through fourth grade is invited

to participate. This year we will learn about trusting and following God through singing, ringing, moving, playing, acting, and creating. Registration is now open online and families will receive an information packet in the mail. Information and registration cards will also be available at the Kids Hub in the Galleria and on the third floor children's Sunday School bulletin board.

Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Holy Ground | August 2

We are excited to announce a new Sunday morning routine for grades 1-4. Beginning August 2, children in grades 1-4 should be dropped off in the Chapel. Children will participate in a unique faith experience in community through singing, creating, and learning how the Bible can come alive in their world. After Holy Ground, children will walk to the third floor with their shepherds. Parents should pick up their 1-4 grade students from the third floor.

Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

You Are Our Family

We are creating a family photo album of everyone in our church family...that means you! Our goal is to provide you with a comprehensive directory that you may turn to for information about our church body. Our directory is an aid for putting someone's name with their face and is particularly helpful for new members to become acquainted with our church family. There is a large demographic that relies on our church directory to stay connected with the congregation at large, and 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 person in our congregation.*

You can register for a photo session 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 sessions. Contact the church office if you would be willing to share your time as a greeter.

Cookie Daniel | 706-543-1442



Churchwide BBQ

August 30 | 5:00 p.m.

Sandy Creek Park

Churchwide BBQ | August 30

If you've enjoyed the worship this past month during Summer Worship, you won't want to miss the Churchwide BBQ. We will enjoy more excellent music along with great barbecue and fellowship with our church family. We hope you've marked your calendar to join us August 30 at 5:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park.

Smart Lunch, Smart Kid | July

This is the final week for Smart Lunch, Smart Kid. 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

REACH | Service Opportunities

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

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

Children's Consignment Sale August 14-15

Preparation for our Annual Children's Consignment Sale has taken off, and we are so excited! We are accepting gently used children's clothes. Donations can be made to Mary Claire during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please register online. Please contact Mary Claire or Betsy if you have questions.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale

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

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

Disciple 3: Remember Who You Are

This class is the third of four phases in the Disciple Bible Study series. It is not necessary to have completed Disciple 1 and 2 to take Disciple 3. Disciple 3, "Remember Who You Are," looks at the major and minor Old Testament prophets and the apostle Paul as they continually called people back to their God and to a sense of who they were as a people "set apart." The Disciple series goes deep into the word of God, and as small group members journey together, they develop deeper relationships with God and one another. The cost of the workbook is \$40. This study will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning August 26, and is led by Don Griner and Mary Lynn Lane. You can preview Disciple 3 on August 19 at Wednesday Night Kick-off.

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

Freeway

Freeway: A Way to be Free is an eight-week coed experience that is built upon God's amazing grace, conversations with friends, and a personal exploration of our life story. Past participants rave about this study that takes them on a grace-filled journey toward the life God dreams for them. Freeway will be a great place to connect with others if you have not found a place to connect at Athens First United Methodist Church. This study will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning August 26. The cost of this study is \$20. Please register online to facilitate planning and ordering materials. If you are interested, plan to preview this class and others on August 19.

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

Living Fully, Dying Well

Led by Dianne Morrison, this study will guide participants to learn how to face openly and unafraid the benefits and limitations of aging and end-of-life decisions. The group will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the John Wesley Parlor beginning August 26. The cost of the book is \$11. This group and many others will be available to preview on August 19. Make plans to join us for more information.

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

Experiencing God

Experiencing God is a classic Bible study that looks at what it is to know and do the will of God. As a small group, participants will examine Biblical and contemporary illustrations to understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. This study meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. beginning on August 26 and is led by Alan Cannon. The cost of the participant book is \$17.

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

Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be offered Tuesday nights this fall, September 1 through October 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Materials for this course cost \$100; couples share one set of materials. Childcare is available with registration. This group will meet in room 222. Please join us for Wednesday Night Kick-off, August 19, to preview Financial Peace University.

Joy and Jack Davis | joydavis1561@gmail.com and pjackdavis53@gmail.com

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 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

New Staff Members

We would like to welcome two new staff members to the Athens First United Methodist staff. Rachel Skinner is our new Data Manager and Administrative Assistant to Adults. Katie Winters is our Administrative Assistant to Children. We are excited to welcome them both to our church family.



Rachel Skinner

Rachel was born and raised in Watkinsville, Ga. She graduated from Georgia Gwinnett College with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Rachel loves coffee and people. She has a heart and passion for women who are victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She loves to dance and make people laugh, even if it's at her own expense. Rachel is thankful to be a part of the Athens First United Methodist team and feels that God has blessed her by placing her here.



Katie Winters

Katie was born in Sacramento, California. She has moved throughout her life as her father is in the Air Force. She has lived all over the United States including California, Colorado, and Georgia and even for a time in England. Katie attended the University of Alabama and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations. She enjoys playing basketball. Katie is excited to join the Athens First United Methodist family and is looking forward to applying her education to help families as they introduce their children to our loving God.

This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 26 | JOHN 6:16-21

- 9:00 a.m. Communion Service CHAPEL
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY
- Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BULDING
- Elementary Sunday School GYM
- Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel GYM
- Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
- Newcomer Orientation HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 10:00 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 27 | 2 SAMUEL 11:26-12:13a

TUESDAY, JULY 28 | PSALM 51:1-12

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 3:00 p.m. Tagging Tuesdays ROOM 103
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 119

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 | PSALM 44

- 7:00 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 10:30 a.m. Summer Prayer Shawl Ministry PANERA BREAD ON ATLANTA HIGHWAY
- 11:20 a.m. Smart Lunch, Smart Kids ROOM 103
- 5:30 p.m. Men's Prayer Group ROOM 307

THURSDAY, JULY 30 | JOHN 6:24-35

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 119
- 6:00 p.m. Wesleyan Way ROOM 226

FRIDAY, JULY 31 | LUKE 10:38-42

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 1:00 p.m. Adult Pick-up Basketball GYM
- 6:30 p.m. REACH International Bible Study & Dinner YOUTH AREA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 | EPHESIANS 4:1-10

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