

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. There are also small red circles: one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Epiphany Sunday

JANUARY 3, 2016
8:30, 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, children age 2 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/thesteep to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athensfirstumc on Facebook and @athens_firstumc on 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 Dr. and Mrs.
R.P. Stephens,
Mr. and Mrs.
Howell Erwin, Jr.,
and Mr. Howell
Erwin III by Chad
Erwin; Lucy and
Buddy Allen and
their children; and
Steve and Debbie
Erwin and their
children.*

THE PRELUDE

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "What Child Is This?" | Behnke

THE WELCOME

Beth Dickinson

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Behold, the nations have come to witness God's light.

Kings have come to behold Christ's brightness.

Lift your eyes and look around.

The glory of the Lord has come!

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 254

"We Three Kings" | KINGS OF ORIENT

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives. Illumined by your Word and sacrament, may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

*THE GLORIA PATRI

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Chuck Hodges

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 OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 A.M. "He Was, He Is, He Will Always Be" | Julie Caldwell

Sung by the Worship Team

The root of Jesse, life from a stump. A branch budding, redemption has begun. Born of a virgin, Isaiah's promised one. Hope from destruction, from the darkness, sun. The one to deliver. The one to redeem. The one to rescue us from our unbelief. He was, He is, He will always be. Wrapped, in a manger, visited by kings. Surrounded by shepherds and all the lowly things. Joy of the angels, wonder of a star. A threat to powers, as good things often are. The one to enliven. The one to explain. The one to show us the way to live again. He was, He is, He will always be. Eating with sinners and the man up in the tree. Stopping the stoning of the woman in adultery. Calling the simple, shaming the wise. Offering the bread of life, opening our eyes. Making the lame to walk and the blind to see. Healing the lepers and people just like you and me. The one to offer. The one to sacrifice. The one to hang upon a tree that we may have new life. He was, He is, He will always be. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. Holy One, Lamb of God. Light of the World, Bread of Life. Saving grace, Jesus Christ. Messiah and King, Wonderful.

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Walk in the Light" | arr. Thomas

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world. Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world; "Glory to the new-born King," Jesus, the Light of the world. Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the Light of the world; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world. Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world. Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Noel, Noel, Noel Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Proclamation of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 62:2-3

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

THE SERMON

“A New Name for a New Year” | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Beth Dickinson & Betsy Butler

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or your hand formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

At Athens First United Methodist, 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 with the acolytes.

THE MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Mark Maxwell, guitar

Sending Forth

*THE HYMN 245 | STANZAS 1-3

“The First Noel” | THE FIRST NOEL

* THE BLESSING

* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” | ST. LOUIS

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

* THE POSTLUDE

“The March of the Three Kings” | McCluskey

Sermon Notes

JANUARY USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal, Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowrey, Jim Lyons, Candler Meadors, Olan Moore, Bob Noble, Grace Rabek, Ken Reece, Keith Wilson, Michael and Sharon Broun

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. Lee Brinson, Nathan King, Ryan Brinson, Claude Felton, Steve Greer, Mack Furlow, John Bateman, Jim Lyons

OFFERING STEWARDS

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

GREETERS

Kelli and Wayne Dean, Don and Nicki Godwin, Jim Lewis, Adam Scarboro, Brad Bowling, Shirley Jaeger, Joy Bailey

ATTENDANCE ON DECEMBER 20

Total Worship | 1294

Sunday School | 446

8:30 a.m. | 215

9:45 a.m. | 372

11:00 a.m. | 594

Online | 113

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$2974,049

Goal for December | \$487,002

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$245,360

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

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Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry

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Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist

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Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries

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rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-8193

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool

athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool

linsey@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Julie Caldwell 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

julie@athensfirstumc.org | 706-540-0042

The Manger Project

What Can I Give?

Epiphany Party

Wednesday, January 6 | Gym

4:30-6:00 p.m.

All children and their families are invited to join the party to celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, at our Epiphany Party this Wednesday, January 6, at 4:30 p.m. Dress up like nativity characters, meet the wise men, follow the light through a forest maze, and play games in the gym. We will also participate in a group mission project during the party. All children must attend with a parent or designated guardian. Childcare is available for infants and toddlers. This event concludes The Manger Project and kicks off the spring semester of Kids Music and Arts, our Wednesday night program for children.

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



In Memoriam

Willa Deane Birchmore
December 20, 2015

Anne Tabor
December 21, 2015

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Michael and Alison Finnerty on the birth of their daughter, Collier Anne Finnerty, on December 20.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Ernest McClure and family in the loss of his brother, Jon McClure, on December 19.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Danny Birchmore and family in the loss of his mother, Willa Deane Birchmore, on December 20.

New Members

On December 20, we welcomed Marge and Andy Biggs to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, January 6, is Barberitos. Join us for soft shell turkey tacos with toppings and chips. Meals are \$6 each. Advance dinner orders are required. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. Take-out boxes will be available if you have to eat and run, or run and then eat! You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal, and volunteers eat free! EA Whorton | edithann@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals

Communion Guild Training

Members of our church are invited to join us next Sunday, January 10, for the annual Communion Guild training session. Chuck Hodges will explain the significance of Holy Communion and what it means to provide this holy

sacrament to our congregation. This is also an opportunity for the Communion Guild leaders to introduce themselves and show how to prepare and serve the elements at our church. At the conclusion of the training, we invite you to sign up to serve and/or prepare communion at any of the three worship services throughout the year. We will meet at the front of the sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 service on January 10 for 30 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Hodges.

Katherine Hodges | katherine@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Newcomer Orientation | Next Sunday

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation on Sunday, January 10, 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



Weekday Preschool Registration

Preschool registration opens for the 2016-2017 school year online on January 5. Our preschool program serves families of children age 9 months through Pre-K from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please note the following registration deadlines:

- Currently enrolled deadline: January 15, 2016
- Church member deadline: January 20, 2016
- Community deadline: January 22, 2016

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

Sack Lunch

Each Sunday morning the Sack Lunch Ministry prepares and distributes 40 sack lunches to those in need in our community. This is a great opportunity to serve as a family or small group. We need a volunteer for every single Sunday this year. Please check our sign-up list online to see available dates to serve.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry

Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a hands-on international mission project that is fun for all ages! This is an annual churchwide mission project and a wonderful opportunity to impact people across the globe without leaving Athens. There are several ways to be involved:

1. Pray: We ask for prayers for all those who will receive the meals and those who will serve at this event.
2. Contribute: 29 cents makes a meal.
3. Serve: There will be two opportunities to serve on January 23 (8:30 or 10:30 a.m.).

Register online to sign up to serve, or contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more details.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/stophungernow

Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org

Souper Suppers

We invite you to come prepare and serve a meal for those who are hungry in our community. We will host Souper Suppers every Thursday evening beginning January 7 in Hancock Hall. At this weekly event, we invite our neighbors into our church home for a warm meal and fellowship.

Individuals, Sunday school classes, families, or any small group of people are welcome to sign up to serve. Please register online or feel free to contact Mary Claire, AmyLou Reynolds, or Suzanne Carter with questions.

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

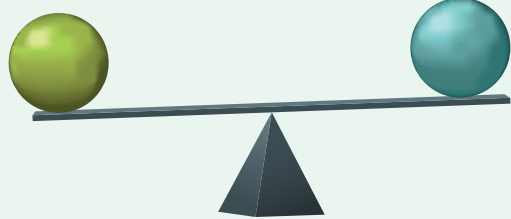
AmyLou Reynolds | scottandamylou@charter.net

Suzanne Carter | suzannecarter52@hotmail.com

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

PARENTING WITH PURPOSE

Finding Balance in an Unbalanced World



Parenting with Purpose

The Children's Ministry invites moms to a refreshing, humorous, and Godly series inspired by the words of Jen Hatmaker. Through this small-group discussion, busy moms will discover practical solutions for setting priorities for our families, helpful strategies for allocating our limited resources, and spiritual discernment for what matters most.

Beginning the week of January 10-16, each group will meet for three sessions, each lasting approximately an hour and a half. All groups will meet for a fourth and final session on Sunday, January 31, at 7:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Groups will read selections from Jen Hatmaker's book *For the Love*. Participants are encouraged to purchase the book before the class begins. Please register by Thursday, January 7.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/parentingwithpurpose

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org

Meeting at our church:

Sundays, January 10, 17, 24 | 4:45 p.m.

Mondays, January 11, 18, 25 | 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, January 13, 20, 27 | 5:15 p.m.

Fridays, January 15, 22, 29 | 9:15 a.m.

Meeting in private homes:

Tuesdays, January 12, 19, 26 | 12:00 p.m. (Athens)

Tuesdays, January 12, 19, 26 | 7:00 p.m. (Oconee Cty)

Thursdays, January 14, 21, 28 | 10:00 a.m. (Athens)

Fridays, January 15, 22, 29 | 9:30 a.m. (Oconee Cty)

connect to community

small groups: where community develops and growth occurs

New small-group opportunities are coming in the new year. There is a place for everyone to grow in their walk with the Lord and connect to community at Athens First United Methodist Church. We believe that connecting to our church family and finding community here is an integral part of our faith development. On the following pages, a brief description of the upcoming small groups is listed. For more information about any of the following small groups listed, contact Beth. Register online to join any of these groups.

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

athensfirstumc.org/connecttocommunity

Disciplines Devotional Bible Study

This is an ongoing Bible study group that is open to everyone. This group reads scripture passages from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Psalms, as well as from a devotional. This group will begin meeting on January 4 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. in room 200. Register and purchase class materials online.

Before Amen

In *Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer*, Max Lucado explores the very heart of Biblical prayer by offering distilled, hope-filled prayers that will help you turn your heart towards the One who longs to speak with you. Thankfully, we aren't the first followers of Jesus to struggle with prayer. The disciples did too. In response to their questions, Jesus gives them, and us, a simple, beautiful example to follow. This group will meet on Wednesdays beginning January 13 at 6:30 in room 222.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

All are welcome to join a group of expert, novice, and beginning knitters and crocheters as they create prayer shawls. Completed prayer shawls are prayed over by the group and given to those who are grieving or have special needs. This group meets weekly in room 200 on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. This group will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

Esther

We will be offering *Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman*, a study by Beth Moore, on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in room 229 beginning January 13. This study is a very personal examination of the Old Testament story of Esther, peeling back the layers of history and showing how very contemporary and applicable the story is to our lives today. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into

situations that seemed overpowering, we hope you will join us. This study will be led by Susie Thrasher. The cost is \$16 for the participant workbook; please register online so we may order the correct number.

Early Book Group

The Early Book Group resumes January 6 with Harvey Cox's *The Future of Faith* from 4:45-5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays in Room 247. *The Future of Faith* is being released to coincide with Cox's retirement: it charts the three major periods in the history of Christianity and the shift that is taking place today away from religious beliefs and dogma to an emphasis on spirituality and social justice. Please purchase the book prior to the first meeting. Contact Cindy Kuhlman for more information.

Cindy Kuhlman | gckuhlman@charter.net

Women's Study

Join this new women's small group Bible study led by Jennifer Foster on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. beginning January 13 in room 229. The study will be reading Kelly Minter's *The Fitting Room: Putting on the Character of Christ*. This group will meet in room 229.

Unanswered | Men's Study

We live in a radically skeptical age. Tough questions are being asked about Christianity, and most believers are ill-equipped to provide the answers our culture and communities desperately need. Many in today's church do not know the Bible as well as they should and they struggle with their own "big questions" about the faith. Join other men as we study *Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions* by Jeremiah Johnston. This eight-week study will be led by Keith Wilson and will meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 13.

A Woman's Heart

A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place, a study by Beth Moore, will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in room 229 beginning January 13. Explore the fascinating account of the building of the Old Testament tabernacle, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for your walk with God today. This study will be led by Therese Wilson. The cost is \$16 for the participant workbook; please register online so we may order the correct number.

The Way of Prayer

The Way of Prayer from the Companions in Christ series expands on our knowledge of prayer through an eleven-week exploration of different forms of prayer practices. Led by Frank Sweezy and Alan Cannon, members will embark on a journey of discovery—the discovery of different dimensions of God's grace and love. Prayer is explored through music, dance, gazing, silence, or acts of service. *The Way of Prayer* teaches us how to respond to God's invitation into the divine Presence, and it brings a deeper sense of spiritual vitality and encouragement to seek out new ways to pray. This study will begin Wednesday, January 13, from 6:30-8:30 in room 224.

Making Sense of the Bible

Matthew Lawing will begin a Bible study based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Making Sense of the Bible*, on January 24 from 4:45-6:15 p.m. This study invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as how and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? Is the Bible ever wrong? In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton examines often misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving. The books will be handed out to participants on January 24.

A Heart Set Free: A Charles Wesley Study

A new study group led by Bob Dean and Kasey Darley on Mondays beginning January 25. Join us for some fun and fellowship in celebration of our Methodist heritage and the life and hymns of Charles Wesley. Learn about the Founders of the Methodist Church, and sing some of the great old hymns of Charles Wesley in a new seven-week original study. This group meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 100.

Later Book Group

The Later Book Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in room 247. Join Mary and April Webb in January for Karen Armstrong's *Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time*. Everyone is welcome to this group where lively discussions are encouraged. Later Book Group will resume January 13.

This Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 | GALATIANS 4:4-7

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- 12:15 p.m. **Venture Crew Meeting** ROOM 125

MONDAY, JANUARY 4 | LUKE 2:22-40

- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class** SANCTUARY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 | PSALM 72:1-7

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 | ISAIAH 60:1-6

- 9:30 a.m. **New Testament Letters** ROOM 222
- 3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 4:30 p.m. **Epiphany Party** GYM
Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200
- 4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 100
- 5:00 p.m. **Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120
Wednesday Night Meal HANCOCK HALL
- 5:45 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226
- 6:00 p.m. **Engage Bible Study** YOUTH AREA
- 6:30 p.m. **Disciple 3** ROOM 229
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 | MATTHEW 2:1-12

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- Souper Supper HANCOCK HALL
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 119
- 7:00 p.m. Connect Group (Young Adult) ROOM 222

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 | GENESIS 1:1-5

- 5:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 | ACTS 19:1-7

- 9:00 a.m. Wesleyan Youth Choir Winter Workshop ROOM 103
- Children's Basketball GYM

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