

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

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

JANUARY 31, 2016
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804. Over the past two centuries our congregation has changed, but our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to “do all the good you can, in all the ways you can.”

Newcomer Orientation

We invite you to learn about the life of our church, ways you can get involved, and how to become a member by attending Newcomer Orientation, which is held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school for children age 2 through adult each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Children

At Athens First United Methodist Church, we invite families to worship together. Children’s Church is held for children in kindergarten through grade 2 most Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Financial Report

Budget for 2016 | \$2,763,539

Amount Given YTD | \$211,430

Goal for January | \$258,690

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$211,430

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Wills, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Garrard, Jr., by Carolyn and Henry Garrard.

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Julie Caldwell 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader
julie@athensfirstumc.org

Contact Us

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Find us on Facebook at Athens First United Methodist Church.

athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

THE GATHERING MUSIC

***THE CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

400 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” | NETTLETON

Verse 1

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***THE GLORY OF GOD | 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 WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Betsy Butler

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

April Allen, Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

***THE HYMNS OF PRAISE**

98 “To God Be the Glory” | TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Verses 1, 3

156 “I Love To Tell the Story” | HANKEY

Verses 1, 2, 4

371 “I Stand Amazed in the Presence” | MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

Refrain: **How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love for me.**

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 AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Gift of Love” | Hal Hopson

Sung by Catherine Warner, soprano

Anthem Lyrics

Text can be found on
page 408 of the hymnal.

***THE DOXOLOGY | 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

1 JOHN 4:7-12 | p. 226

THE SERMON

“Back to Basics” | Chuck Hodges

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

419 “I Am Thine, O Lord” | I AM THINE

Verses 1, 3

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29

The Prayer of Preparation

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Receiving of the Elements of Communion

At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“We Receive Your Blessing”

We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

*THE POSTLUDE

“The Gift of Love” | Hal Hopson

Sermon Notes

The Worship of God

9:45 &
11:00 a.m.

Gathering

THE PRELUDE

“Daybreak” | Gary Davidson

Greg Kirby, organist

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

THE WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Betsy Butler

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | BEECHER

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11:00 a.m. | Anna Madisen and Jacob Paul Liebowitz, children of Kimberly and Ryan

Children, children, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree children of God you'll always be. Children, children, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 11:00 A.M.

April Allen, Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

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.

Anthem Lyrics

Hail, gladdening Light,
of his pure glory poured,
who is the immortal
Father, heavenly blest;
Holiest of Holies, Jesus
Christ our Lord! Now are
we come to the sun's
hour of rest; the lights of
evening round us shine,
we hymn the Father, Son
and Holy Spirit divine.
Worthiest art thou at all
times to be sung, with
undefiled tongue, Son
of our God, Giver of life,
alone! Therefore in all
the world thy glories,
Lord, they own.

Proclamation of the Word

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Hail Gladdening Light" | Charles Wood

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Erin McCollum, Wynter Bishop, Cameron Stahl, Isaiah Feken, soloists

***THE DOXOLOGY | 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.

Anthem Lyrics

Send out thy light,
O send thy truth, that
they may lead me to thy
holy hill. My soul shall
trust in God the Lord,
for I will yet give thanks
to God, who is the help
of my countenance,
and my God.

THE ANTHEM

“Send Out Thy Light” | ed. David Cherwin

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

THE SCRIPTURE READING

1 JOHN 4:7-12 | p. 226

THE SERMON

“Back to Basics” | Chuck Hodges

Sending Forth

*** THE HYMN**

121 “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy” | WELLESLEY

*** THE BLESSING**

*** THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“We Receive Your Blessing”

We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“Triumphant Finale” | Thomas Bliss

Sermon Notes



*Ash Wednesday
Service*

FEBRUARY 10 | 7:00 P.M.

SANCTUARY

In Memoriam

Marguerite Heery
January 24, 2016

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Muriel Turner and family in the loss of her son-in-law, Daniel Aaron Summer, on January 14.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Rusty Heery and family on the loss of his mother, Margurite Heery, on January 24.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Patrick Haggard and family in the loss of his mother, Nira Haggard, on January 25.

Connect Group (Moms)

Join with a group of moms for support and encouragement on Sundays from 4:45–6:15 p.m. in room 224. Led by Amy Parrish, the group meets during Route 56 and Wesleyan Youth Choir rehearsal and is a perfect opportunity for moms of kids of all ages. This group will be using Jen Hatmaker's book *For the Love* as part of their discussion. Contact Beth Dickinson with questions.

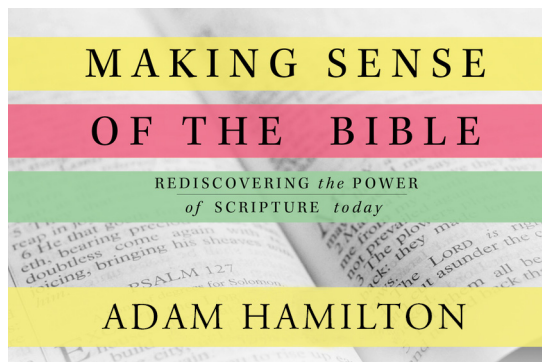
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, February 3, 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



Making Sense of the Bible

Matthew Lawing is leading a Bible study based on Adam Hamilton's book *Making Sense of the Bible* on Sundays 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. Books are available for purchase at the church office.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

This We Believe

What do United Methodists believe? Find out by joining the Wednesday Morning Bible study group starting Wednesday February 3 at 9:30 a.m. as we delve into *This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice* by Bishop William H. Willimon. We will begin by learning about the life of John Wesley and then move on to key Wesleyan tenets of faith, so that you will have a fresh way to hear God's voice, share

in God's grace, and become more like Jesus Christ. This group will meet in room 222.
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Connect Group (Young Adults)

Join with a group of other young adults to explore issues of race using the book *Under Our Skin* by former Georgia Bulldog and social-media commentator Benjamin Watson. Part memoir and part social commentary, this study offers a look at both sides of the race debate and appeals to the power and possibility of faith as a step toward healing. Watson explains, "It's a bold new path for us to follow as we come together to talk about the truths, myths, and realities of racial conflict. For so many people, the racial divide is an argument, a political position, a debate on TV, but keeping our distance isn't working. It's not an option anymore. This is about you and me. It's about our neighbors, our children, and our world." This group will begin *Under Our Skin* on Thursday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m in room 222. Books will be available for purchase at the first meeting for \$16. Please contact Beth Dickinson with questions.
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Scout Sunday | Next Sunday

Athens First United Methodist Church charts four scouting units that provide leadership development, outdoor skills, and faith support to youth ages 5-20. Next Sunday, February 7, is Scout Sunday. During each worship service there will be a representative from the scouting units providing a praise report to our congregation on the growth and impact of scouting this school year!
Josh Miles | josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Kids Music and Arts Parent Night February 10

Save the date for our spring semester Parent Night on February 10. Parent Night will feature presentations from all of the Kids Music and Arts classes, including an art show and a prayer service led by our oldest children. More information regarding times and locations to follow.
Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Children's Soccer | Register Today!

Boys and girls ages 3-6 are invited to join us for our spring season, March through May 2016. All teams are coed. Practices and games will take place on Saturday mornings. Please visit our webpage for program information and to register! Registration will take place February 1-29.
Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/childrensoccer
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Forgiveness

Lent is a season of reflection and spiritual housecleaning. Dianne Morrison will lead this Lenten study using *Forgiveness* by Marjorie Thompson on Wednesdays from 6:45-8:00 p.m., beginning February 10. The group will meet in room John Wesley Parlor. Forgiveness is central to the Christian faith. Jesus offers forgiveness. He tells parables about it. Jesus tells Peter that one must forgive anywhere from seventy-seven times to seventy times seven times. Yet for many of us, offering and receiving forgiveness can be difficult. Please note the first meeting on February 10 will be from 6:30-6:50 p.m.
Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

GREAT DAY OF SERVICE



BUILDS COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 16

John

Beth Dickinson and Ben Morrison will lead this study on Wednesdays, beginning February 17. The Gospel of John is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." During this Lenten season, experience a time of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in this six-week series of Adam Hamilton's *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. You'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. This group will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in room 222.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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



2016 WYC Variety Show

Join us at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, as the Wesleyan Youth Choir hosts our church's annual Variety Show! This year's theme is "From Sea to Shining Sea." We will be featuring songs about travel, the fifty states, and our patriotic spirit as we sing and dance our way to this year's tour destination: San Francisco! This event is free and will be followed by a dessert reception. We will take a love offering to support our choir tour in June. Thank you for your support of the Youth Music Ministry!

Janis Maxwell | janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Souper Suppers

These are some of our most immediate needs:

Prepare a Meal | February 18, March 10, and March 31
(dates available in April as well)

Stock the Store | dish soap, toilet paper, and spam
Serve in the Dining Room | set up, host a table, clean up
Contact Mary Claire for more details.

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



Youth Spiritual Life Retreat

ONE Student Ministries is taking on Spiritual Life Retreat (SLR) this February for youth in grades 7-12. SLR begins on Friday evening, February 26, and ends on Sunday morning, February 28. This retreat takes place at Camp Glisson, in Dahlonega, Ga., and includes worship, small group discussions, and enriching opportunities for spiritual growth. We are capping this retreat at 50 total students, so the earlier you register, the better. Registration is open until February 3. Please visit our webpage for more information and to register.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/spiritualliferetreat
Josh Miles | josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

2016 Great Day of Service

We are in need of team leaders for the Great Day of Service projects on Saturday, April 16, 2016, and Brunch and Basket Auction on Sunday, April 17, 2016. If you are interested in serving on our leadership team, please contact Betsy Butler for details. Projects will include indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. We are very excited that this opportunity allows us to love our neighbors through sharing the love of Christ.

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

This Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 | JEREMIAH 1:9-10

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
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
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1** ROOM 100
- 3:45 p.m. **Agapé Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
Youth Worship Team Rehearsal ROOM 119
- 4:30 p.m. **Route 56: Open Road** ROOM 120
Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
Carillons Ringers ROOM 150
- 4:45 p.m. **Making Sense of the Bible** ROOM 229
Connect Group (Moms) ROOM 224
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. **Encounter** YOUTH AREA
- 7:00 p.m. **Parenting with Purpose** HANCOCK HALL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | EXODUS 34:29-35

- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 6:30 p.m. **A Heart Set Free** ROOM 100
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Evening Class**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | PSALM 27:7-14

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 | PSALM 99

- 9:30 a.m. **This We Believe** ROOM 222
Esther ROOM 229
- 1:00 p.m. **A Woman's Heart** ROOM 229
- 3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 4:00 p.m. **The Fitting Room | Women's Study** ROOM 229
- 4:30 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Dance Class** ROOM 145

Kids Music and Arts: Lyric Choir Grades 1-2 ROOM 151
Kids Music and Arts: Grades 3-4 Worship Arts ROOM 314
Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200

4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 247
5:00 p.m. **Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120
Wednesday Night Dinner HANCOCK HALL
5:10 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Celebrate Choir Grades 3-4** ROOM 151
5:15 p.m. **Parenting with Purpose Small Group** ROOM 226
Kids Music and Arts: Cherub Choir Age 3 ROOM 321
Kids Music and Arts: Sonshine Choir Age 4 ROOM 325
Kids Music and Arts: Joy Choir Kindergarten ROOM 320
5:20 p.m. **Kids Music and Arts: Grades 1-2 Worship Arts** ROOM 314
5:30 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Married Couples)** ROOM 301
5:45 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226
6:00 p.m. **Engage Bible Study** YOUTH AREA
Connect Group (Young Married Couples) ROOM 307
6:30 p.m. **Disciple 3** ROOM 229
Before Amen ROOM 222
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
Men's Study | Unanswered ROOM 240
7:30 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 | 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-16

5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
9:00 a.m. **Altar Guild Meeting** ROOM 100
9:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study** HANCOCK HALL
12:00 p.m. **Children's Council Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
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, FEBRUARY 5 | 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-4:2

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 | LUKE 9:28-34

9:00 a.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
Sanctuary Choir Winter Retreat ROOM 148

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