

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 pattern that suggests movement or a school of fish. The design is framed by thick red lines that form a partial border around the central text. There are also solid red circles scattered throughout the composition, adding to the graphic's visual interest.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

JULY 31, 2016
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.”

Attendance

Please let us know of your attendance this morning by completing the pew pad.

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 | \$2,789,339
Amount Given YTD | \$1,703,446
Goal for July | \$180,306
Amount after 3 Sundays | \$134,906

Attendance on July 24

Total Worship | 824
Communion Service | 51
Sunday School | 282
9:45 a.m. | 292
11:00 a.m. | 394
Online | 87

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Ministers and Ministry Directors

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister
chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

Martha Aenchbacher Minister of Congregational Care
martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship
beth@athensfirstumc.org

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions
betsy@athensfirstumc.org

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josh@athensfirstumc.org

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robin@athensfirstumc.org

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stephen@athensfirstumc.org

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janis@athensfirstumc.org

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries
rusty@athensfirstumc.org

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool
linsey@athensfirstumc.org

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

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Gerald and Doris Firth by Mark and Jan Firth and family.

GATHERING MUSIC

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

378 “Amazing Grace” | 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!**

**Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!
Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!
Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!
Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!**

*THE WELCOME

Betsy Butler

*THE HYMN MEDLEY

Sing the first and last stanza of each of the following hymns:

TFWS 2282 “I’ll Fly Away” | I’LL FLY AWAY

585 “This Little Light of Mine” | LATTIMER

527 “Do Lord” | DITMUS

504 “The Old Rugged Cross” | THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

77 “How Great Thou Art” | HOW GREAT THOU ART

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE | 11:00 a.m.

Robin Stewart, Director of Children's Ministry

THE MORNING PRAYER

Martha Aenchbacher

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

“In That Great Gettin’ Up Mornin’” | Traditional

Sung by Mark Graham, Tom Jackson, Steven Jones, and Julie Caldwell

THE SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 15:15-16a | p. 103 NEW TESTAMENT

THE SERMON

“The Perfect Choice” | Martha Aenchbacher

*THE CLOSING HYMN

526 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” | CONVERSE

*THE BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Amazing Grace”

**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 first begun.**

* GOING FORTH

The Steeple

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Lalla Barron and her family in the loss of her brother, Joe "Bud" Farmer, Jr., on July 19.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Dennis Bullock and his family in the loss of his mother, Irene Bullock, on July 22.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Laura Meeks and her family in the loss of her father, Noel Gladson, on July 22.

New Members

On June 26, we welcomed Alan and Laci Zielinski to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

On July 17, we welcomed Rob and Patti Pitts, Cundy Bryson and Scott Corbett, Jody Boling, and Jay Boling to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Caroline Lewis and Taylor Schmidt, who were married in our sanctuary on July 23.

Summer Worship Concludes Today

Today is the last Sunday of Summer Worship. Next Sunday, August 7, we will resume our traditional worship schedule with services in the sanctuary at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.

Smart Lunch, Smart Kids

We are so grateful for all who helped with this summer's Smart Lunch, Smart Kid program. It was a wonderful time of ministry and fellowship! Your help brought food, joy, and God's love to children in our community. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Promotion Sunday | Next Sunday

On August 7, Promotion Sunday, all children age 2 through those who have completed grade 11 will move to their

new age/grade level. Children younger than 2 will change rooms as they grow and develop throughout the year. Room locations will be posted in the galleria, youth hallway, and third floor. A complete list of ages and room locations can be found on our website.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/promotionsunday
Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org
April Allen | april@athensfirstumc.org

Holy Ground | Resumes Next Sunday

We are excited to resume our Sunday morning routine for grades 1-4 this fall! Beginning August 7, children in grades 1-4 should be dropped off in the chapel between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. for a special time together. Parents should pick up their children in grades 1-4 from the third floor at 10:45 a.m.

Give a Hymnal

Quite a few of our hymnals in the sanctuary are showing wear and tear and need replacing. If you would like to give a hymnal in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete our online form or contact Stephen Mitchell. Every hymnal purchased will receive an honorarium/memorial bookplate on the inside cover. The cost is \$25 per hymnal.
Place order | athensfirstumc.org/musicministries
Stephen Mitchell | smitchell@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Early Book Group | Potluck

The Early Book Group will have a potluck on Monday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m. at Cindy and George Kuhlman's home. This gathering is a time for the group to fellowship, plan their meetings, and select books as a group. All are welcome! Please contact Cindy Kuhlman if you would like to attend or if you have any questions.
Cindy Kuhlman | gckuhlman@charter.net | 706-543-9511
145 Orchard Circle Athens, GA 30605

Children's Consignment Sale

Would you like to help with this year's Children's Consignment Sale? Register online to volunteer during the week of the sale (August 8-13). We have several different

teams, including the following: Set-Up Team, Cashier Team, Greeters/Stock Replenishers, Receiving Team, and the Clean-up Crew. All help is greatly appreciated, including inviting your friends! Donations are still being accepted. Register | athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale
Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Men's Softball

Come join our men's adult softball team! We play with the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services church league from August 18-October 27. Games are on Thursday evenings at Bishop Park and the cost is \$25. Please visit our webpage to register by August 12, and contact Rusty or Mary Claire if you have any questions.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/adultrecreation
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Grades 5-12 Sunday Schedule Resumes

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to join us as we resume our Sunday evening schedule on Sunday, August 14. Youth (grades 7-12) are invited to join the Wesleyan Youth Choir, which meets in room 148 from 4:30-5:45 p.m., as well as Encounter, which meets in room 119 from 5:45-7:30 p.m. Students in grades 5-6 are invited to join Route 56's Open Road and Octane in room 120 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for fun, food, missions, and music.

Open Church | August 17

Please join us for Open Church on Wednesday, August 17! Come explore our fall opportunities! We will offer a FREE preview of Wednesday Night Meals with all five of our vendors. You'll also have a chance to see all of the adult small group opportunities being offered this fall. Children will begin Wednesday night programming with the familiar Kids Music and Arts schedule. Parents and children in Kindergarten through grade 4 are invited to a behind-the-scenes exploration of the sanctuary to learn more about worship and our worship space through the "Passport to Worship" milestone event. Children in grades 5-6 and youth will begin regular schedules of Route 56's GPS, and ONE Student Ministry's Engage on August 17 as well. Adult choir rehearsals will also meet that evening. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you there!

Children's Flag Football

Our flag football league will be August 20-October 22 for boys and girls in Kindergarten through grade 2. Games and practices will be held on Saturdays (no games or practices will be held on UGA home games). The teams will be co-ed and led by volunteer coaches. Children will learn the fundamentals of football while growing together in a Christian atmosphere that is both fun and competitive. All games and practices will be held at Chapelwood UMC. For more information, contact Rusty or Mary Claire.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/flagfootball
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Pickleball

Please join us in a fun, new program called pickleball! Pickleball is a great sport that consists of ping pong, tennis, and badminton all in one. Instructors will teach the game. This is a great game for adults, young and old. Pickleball will take place Tuesday afternoons beginning August 23 from 1:30-3:00 p.m., and will be free for anyone interested. Contact Rusty or Mary Claire if you have questions. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/adultrecreation
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Churchwide BBQ | August 28

You don't want to miss the Churchwide BBQ! We will enjoy excellent music, great barbecue, and fellowship with our church family. We hope you've marked your calendar to join us Sunday, August 28 at 5:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park.

Girls' Volleyball this Fall

Our fall volleyball clinic will be August 29-October 24. This league is open to girls in grades 5-8. The program will teach the fundamentals of volleyball in a positive atmosphere and will include technique and game play in our gym. Please visit our webpage or contact Rusty or Mary Claire for more information.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/youthvolleyball
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 31 | LUKE 12:16-21

- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- Families on the Fifth** HANCOCK HALL
- 9:15 a.m. **Communion Service** CHAPEL
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Adult Sunday School** SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
- Preschool Nursery & Sunday School** 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
- 12:00 p.m. **Connect & Grow Groups Info Meeting** ROOMS 222

MONDAY, AUGUST 1 | ISAIAH 1:1

- 11:00 a.m. **Pilot Connect & Grow Groups** ROOMS 222 & 224

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 | ISAIAH 1:10-20

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 | PSALM 50:1-8, 22-23

- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters | Women's Bible Study** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 5:45 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226
- 6:30 p.m. **Pilot Connect & Grow Groups** ROOMS 222 & 224

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 | HEBREWS 11:8-16

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 10:00 a.m. **Our Daily Bread** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
- 10:30 a.m. **Summer Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 | HEBREWS 11:1-3

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 | LUKE 12:32-40

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