

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 stylized 'A' or a cross. Small red circles are placed at the top left and bottom right corners of the design.

# ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Epiphany*

JANUARY 8, 2017  
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

# Welcome

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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 the 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*

An updated financial report will be available on Sunday, January 15.

## *Attendance on December 25*

An updated attendance report will be available on Sunday, January 15.

## *Table of Contents*

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## *Ministers and Directors*

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister

[chuck@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:chuck@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-206-5529

**Martha Aenchbacher** Minister of Congregational Care

[martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org) | 678-230-9708

**Beth Dickinson** Minister of Discipleship

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**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions

[betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org)

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**Janis Maxwell** Director of Youth Music & Organist

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**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children’s Music Ministry &

8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

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**Robin Stewart** Director of Children’s Ministry

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[leslie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:leslie@athensfirstumc.org)

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[josh@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:josh@athensfirstumc.org)

## *Contact Us*

Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Facebook: @Athens First United Methodist Church  
[athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# The Worship of God

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8:30 a.m.

## PRELUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings” | Traditional

### *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar  
are given to the glory  
of God and in loving  
memory of Mrs. Lucile  
Mars Bridges by her  
grandchildren, Roger and  
Renee Alexander, Ivan  
Renka and David  
and Elisabetta Renka.

## INTROIT

“Jesus, Light of the World” | George D. Elderkin

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Butler

ISAIAH 60:1-6 | P. 649 OLD TESTAMENT

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

249 “There’s a Song in the Air” | CHRISTMAS SONG

## \*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.**

## \*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.**

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Bob Winstead

**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.**

*Anthem Lyrics*

In your heart you know  
it's true though you  
hold no expectation.  
In the deepest part of  
you there's an open  
hesitation. But it's true,  
kingdoms and crowns, a  
God who came down to  
find you. It's true angels  
on high sing through the  
night, "Alleluia." Heard  
it told you, think it's odd,  
the whole thing fraught  
with complication. The  
play begins with baby  
God and all His blessed  
implications.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"It's True" | Sara Groves

\*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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sarah Lawing

SCRIPTURE READING AND PROCESSION OF THE STAR

MATTHEW 2:1-12 | P. 1 NEW TESTAMENT

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

254 "We Three Kings" | KINGS OF ORIENT

At each pause in the reading of the scripture, please sing the printed response.

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still processing, guide us to thy perfect light.**

SERMON

"Home by Another Way" | Bob Winstead

HYMN OF PREPARATION

219 "What Child is This?" | GREENSLEEVES

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Beth Dickinson and Betsy Butler

MATTHEW 26:17-19, 26-29

Prayer of Preparation

God with us, God revealed in us,

**God come to us, Emmanuel:**

Long hidden within our heart's barren womb;

Too often explained away by our mind's idol of reason;

and so many moments kept captive in our soul's chains of doubt.

**Show forth among us, Bread of Life!**

**Be manifest here this day, Cup of Salvation!**

Great God of the Epiphany, this day reveal your salvation  
to the poor who hunger for your nourishment,  
to the seekers who travel across deserts for your drink,  
to us gathered here, who desire you.

**Great God of the Epiphany, this day reveal your salvation  
Through the one who saves us, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

### 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.

### *Song Lyrics*

Those magic men the  
Magi, some people call  
them wise travelers,  
even kings. Well anyway,  
those guys, they visited  
with Jesus, they sure  
enjoyed their stay. Then  
warned in a dream of King  
Herod's scheme, they  
went home by another  
way. Yes, they went home  
by another way, home  
by another way. Maybe  
me and you can be wise  
guys too and go home  
by another way. We can  
make it another way, safe  
home as they used to  
say. Keep a weather eye  
to the chart on high and  
go home another way.  
Home is where they want  
you now, you can more  
or less assume that you'll  
be welcome in the end.  
Mustn't let King Herod  
haunt you so or fantasize  
his features when you're  
looking at a friend. Steer  
clear of royal welcomes,  
avoid a big to-do. A king  
who would slaughter the  
innocents will not cut a  
deal for you. But Herod's  
always out there, he's got  
our cards on file. It's a  
lead pipe cinch, if we give  
an inch, old Herod likes to  
take a mile.

### Music During Communion

"Home By Another Way" | James Taylor

### Prayer After Receiving Communion

### \*CLOSING HYMN

206 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" | HOUSTON

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

### \*BLESSING

### \*POSTLUDE

"Fanfare" | Helman

# The Worship of God

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9:45 &  
11:00 a.m.

## Gathering

### *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar  
are given to the glory  
of God and in loving  
memory of Mrs. Lucile  
Mars Bridges by her  
grandchildren, Roger and  
Renee Alexander, Ivan  
Renka and David  
and Elisabetta Renka.

### *Introit Lyrics*

Shepherds, called by  
angels, called by love and  
angels: No place for them  
but a stable. My Lord has  
come. Sages, searching  
for stars, searching for  
love in heaven; No place  
for them but a stable. My  
Lord has come. His love  
will hold me, his love  
will cherish me, love will  
cradle me. Lead me, lead  
me to see him, sages and  
shepherds and angels; No  
place for me but a stable.  
My Lord has come.

### THE PRELUDE

“Improvisation on ‘I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light’” | Manz

### INTROIT

“My Lord Has Come” | Will Todd

*Sung by the Chamber Ensemble*

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Burke Seagraves

## Praise & Thanksgiving

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

206 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” | HOUSTON

### \*THE THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Betsy Butler

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Thanks and praise to you, O God, for the gift of your glorious light—  
shining at the dawn of creation,  
guiding us through the wilderness,  
leading us to the land of promise.  
You sent Jesus, light of the world,  
to be our way of truth and life.

Help us to follow him each day and rest in him each night  
until at last we come to dwell in your realm of endless light;  
through Christ our Lord, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, O God, now and always.

**Amen.**

## THE SCRIPTURE AND THE PROCESSION OF THE STAR

Beth Dickinson and Martha Aenchbacher

ISAIAH 60:1-6 | P. 649 OLD TESTAMENT

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Sung:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

MATTHEW 2:1-2 | P. 1 NEW TESTAMENT

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Sung:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

MATTHEW 2:3-6 | P. 1 NEW TESTAMENT

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Sung:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

MATTHEW 2:7-9 | P. 2 NEW TESTAMENT

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Sung:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

MATTHEW 2:10-12 | P. 2 NEW TESTAMENT

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sung:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

EPHESIANS 3:5-6 | P. 182 NEW TESTAMENT

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Sung:

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bob Winstead

**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.

Sarah Lawing

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*

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. Hail the heav'n-  
born Prince of Peace! Jesus,  
the Light of the world;  
Christ, the everlasting  
Lord! Jesus, the Light of  
the world.

## THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Walk in the Light" | Andre Thomas

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

### \*THE DOXOLOGY | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## *Proclamation of the Word*

### THE SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12 | P. 1 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### THE SERMON

"Following Yonder Star" | Bob Winstead

### THE PRAYER

## *Sending Forth*

### \*THE HYMN

173 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" | RATISBON

### \*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Arise! Shine! Your light has come!

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Now go in peace, beloved people of God, to walk in the light of the Lord.  
The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

All exchange signs of peace

### \* THE POSTLUDE

"Fanfare" | Helman

# The Steeple



## WELCOME TO GOD'S LOVE

### Youth Choir Weekend

Keep on loving  
each other as brothers and sisters.  
Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers,  
for some who have done this have  
entertained angels without realizing it!

Hebrews 13:1-2

Save the Date for Youth Choir Weekend! The Wesleyan Youth Choir will be hosting four visiting youth choirs for a fun weekend full of fellowship, singing, and worship. You will not want to miss the Talent Show on Saturday night, February 25, or worship on Sunday morning, February 26, at the 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

#### Guest Youth Choirs:

Trinity United Methodist Church | Birmingham, AL  
Peachtree Road United Methodist Church | Atlanta, GA  
First United Methodist Church | Buford, GA  
First Baptist Church | Athens, GA

We welcome the help of volunteers as we host our friends and share hospitality with our brothers and sisters for the weekend. If you would like to help provide a meal, please contact Janis Maxwell.

Janis Maxwell | [janis@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Wednesday Night Meal

Did you know that every Wednesday some of your local favorites bring a delicious meal? Our vendors this year include Barberitos, Weaver D's, Dawg Gone Good BBQ, Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe, and Fox's Pizza Den. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with your church community. You and your family, friends, and small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. Meals are \$6 each. Advance dinner orders are required. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal each week, and volunteers eat free! If you have any questions, or if you'd like to volunteer, contact Beth Dickinson.

**The meal on Wednesday, January 11, is provided by Fox's Pizza Den. Join us for a baked spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread.**

Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals](http://athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals)

## Communion Guild Orientation | Today

Members of our church are invited to join us today for the annual Communion Guild orientation. This is an opportunity to learn what it means to provide this holy sacrament and for the Communion Guild leaders to show how to prepare and serve the elements. 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 today at the front of the sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service for 30 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine.

Katherine Hodges | [katherine@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:katherine@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## GriefShare

GriefShare groups will meet again in the winter and spring of 2017! This thirteen-week faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. GriefShare groups are for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. We welcome Erica Cooper, bereavement coordinator of Gentiva Hospice, who will facilitate both groups beginning the week of January 23 in Room 100. Groups will meet through the week of April 17. The Monday group will meet at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 23, and the Wednesday group will meet at 10:00

a.m. beginning January 25. New participants are welcome to join at any time; each lesson is "self-contained," so you do not need to attend in sequence. There is no cost to join a GriefShare group, but we ask that you register so that we can have enough materials prepared. Please contact Martha Aenchbacher for more information.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/griefshare](http://athensfirstumc.org/griefshare)  
Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)  
678-230-9708

## Weekday Preschool Registration

Preschool registration opens for the 2017-2018 school year online on January 9. 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 20
- Church member deadline: January 25
- Community deadline: January 27

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool](http://athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool)  
Linsey Jarrett | [linsey@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:linsey@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Habitat for Humanity

Volunteer sign-ups are officially open to work on our Habitat for Humanity renovation project! There are many

opportunities for individuals and groups to serve Tuesday through Saturday of each week until the project is complete. We are working with the Habitat volunteer coordinator to identify weekly needs; please contact Betsy or Mary Claire for information.

Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442

## Souper Suppers

We host Souper Suppers every Thursday evening beginning January 12 in Hancock Hall for hungry members of our community. 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 groups are welcome to serve in several different ways:

- Prepare a meal
- Work with children in the gym, set up the Souper Supper Store, or greet guests at 3:30 p.m.
- Greet, help in the Souper Supper Store, or serve as a dining room host at 4:30 p.m.
- Clean up from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Please contact Mary Claire or Betsy to get involved!

Learn More | [athensfirstumc.org/soupersuppers](http://athensfirstumc.org/soupersuppers)

Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442

## Stop Hunger Now

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11, for Stop Hunger Now! This is a meal packaging churchwide mission opportunity that impacts our neighbors across the globe without leaving Athens. We will package 40,000 meals in a single shift beginning at 10:00 a.m. Register online to let us know you will be coming; shifts are available Friday for set-up and Saturday for meal packaging and clean-up. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire with any questions.

Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442



## Faithful Growth

Small groups are opportunities to gather with others and grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord. You'll be encouraged to live out the truths you discover in the Bible as you encourage others to do the same. Unless otherwise noted, please contact Beth for more information. To join any of the following, please register online.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies](http://athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies)

Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

### Connect & Grow Groups

Connect & Grow Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly at church or in homes to share what God is doing in their lives. These groups are open to all and are restarting now. Registration is now open, so find the day and time that works for you and sign up today!

### Disciple Fast Track | Old Testament

*Disciple Fast Track Old Testament* will devote 12 weeks to focus on the Old Testament. *Disciple Fast Track* is for busy people seeking a comprehensive Bible study in a timely manner. All are invited to join. The New Testament will be offered Fall 2017. This study will meet on Sunday evenings, January 22 through April 30, from 4:45-6:15 p.m. in room 224. The cost is \$12.

### Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life

Join Don Griner and Mary Lynn Lane from January 11 through May 3 on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for *Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life* (part 1). This study concentrates on Old Testament writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, the book of Revelation. The second half will be offered Fall 2017. This study will be held in room 222 and materials cost \$40.

## Entrusted | Women's Study

Join Susie Thrasher in Beth Moore's *Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy*. This study encourages you to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. In this journey of joy and hardship, we need each other to stay the course and live a life of faithfulness. All women are invited to join. This study will meet on Wednesday mornings, January 11 through February 22, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in room 229. The cost is \$13

## What We Need is Here

Are you seeking a deeper, more authentic experience of God? Maybe you've attended retreats, read dozens of books on spirituality, or even consulted a spiritual director and found yourself still wanting more. If so, then this is the study for you. *What We Need is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality* by L. Roger Owens calls you to return to seven basics of Christian spirituality. Learn those basics by joining Dianne Morrison from January 11 through February 22 on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:00 p.m. in room 235. Materials cost \$10.

## Restoring an Attitude of Worship | Men's Study

Join Keith Wilson in this men's study. The books of Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Malachi are viewed by Biblical scholars as the Minor Prophets, yet the insights and messages contained within these books are anything but minor. These prophets offer a unique, firsthand view of an all-powerful God who longs to intimately connect with His people. This study examines their personal stories to discover how He interacts with our world in truly amazing ways. All men are invited to join this study from January 11-March 15 on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45 p.m. in room 240. Materials cost \$8.

## Israel's Mission | Women's Study

Join Therese Wilson and renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he travels through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred scriptures. Filmed on location in Israel, the *That the World May Know* DVD series transforms participants' understanding of God and challenges them to be true followers of Jesus. All women are invited to join this study from January 11 through

March 15 on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Hull Conference Room. Materials cost \$8.

## Parenting with Purpose

Parenting with Purpose small groups will begin again on Friday morning, January 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the youth area. Our discussion topics and study will focus on parenting and all the opportunities that accompany it. We will meet every other Friday through the month of April. Please register online. If you have any questions, please contact April Allen. Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](http://athensfirstumc.org/registration)  
April Allen | [april@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:april@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Financial Peace University

Join Tom and Jennifer Foster for Financial Peace University, which presents biblical, practical steps to get you from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. In only nine lessons, you will learn how to get rid of debt, take control of your money, spend and save wisely, give generously, and much more! On average, families save \$2,300 and pay off \$5,700 in debt in the first 90 days! Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be offered on Tuesday nights, January 24 through March 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 222. The materials for this course cost \$100; couples share one kit. Childcare is available with registration.

## Revival

Join us for an exciting new seven-week study from popular author Adam Hamilton entitled *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*. Just back from his trip to historic Wesleyan sites in England, co-leader John Campbell will share his travel experiences with the class. Co-leader and certified lay speaker Bob Dean will discuss the study guide lessons and companion video on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., from January 25 through March 15. This new study explores John Wesley's Eighteenth Century English Revival. Hamilton said that he wrote the book because he believes "...that by reclaiming the faith, heart, and practices of John Wesley and the early Methodists, we can rediscover the best parts of our own hearts and churches, and in so doing we might help spark a revival of Christianity in our time." Come join the revival! Materials cost \$10.

# This Week

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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 | MATTHEW 3:13-17

- 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  
**Youth Sunday School: First Word** YOUTH AREA  
**Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground** CHAPEL  
**Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill** ROOM 311 & 313  
**Newcomer Orientation** HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY  
**Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR  
**Newcomer Orientation** HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 12:00 p.m. **Communion Guild Orientation** SANCTUARY  
1:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM  
**Venture Crew Meeting** ROOM 125
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1** ROOM 100  
3:45 p.m. **Agapé Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148  
4:30 p.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148  
**Route 56 Destination Unknown** ROOM 120  
**Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150  
**Awaiting the Already** ROOM 229
- 4:45 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 200  
5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150  
5:45 p.m. **Encounter** ROOM 119  
6:15 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR

## MONDAY, JANUARY 9 | ISAIAH 49:1-4

- 10:00 a.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 222  
1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200  
4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM  
5:30 p.m. **Staff-Parish Relations Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 | ISAIAH 49:5-7

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120  
8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**  
10:00 a.m. **Circle 2 Meeting** THE HOME OF INA HOPKINS  
10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl** PANERA BREAD  
1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM  
4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM  
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120  
7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT  
**Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 229  
**Connect & Grow Group** TIMOTHY ROAD

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11 | PSALM 40:1-5

- 9:30 p.m. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** ROOM 222  
**Beth Moore's Entrusted | Women's Study** ROOM 229
- 1:00 p.m. **Israel's Mission | Women's Study** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 4:30 p.m. **Celebrate Worship Arts | Grades 3-4** ROOM 301  
**Dance** ROOM 145  
**Lyric Choir | Grades 1-2** ROOM 151  
**Hospitality Room Hangout** HOSPITALITY ROOM  
**Prayer Shawl** ROOM 200
- 4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 247
- 5:00 p.m. **Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120  
**Wednesday Night Meal** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:10 p.m. **Celebrate Choir | Grades 3 & 4** ROOM 151
- 5:15 p.m. **Cherub Choir | Age 3** ROOM 314 & 324  
**Sonshine Choir | Age 4** ROOM 325  
**Joy Choir | Kindergarten** ROOM 320
- 5:20 p.m. **Lyric Worship Arts | Grades 1 & 2** ROOM 148 & 301
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
**Connect Group (Young Married)** ROOM 229
- 6:00 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Married)** ROOM 114  
**Engage Bible Study** ROOM 119
- 6:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224  
**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** SANCTUARY  
**Later Book Group** ROOM 247  
**Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life** ROOM 222
- 6:45 p.m. **What We Need is Here** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 7:30 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM  
**Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
- 8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 | PSALM 40:6-11

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 9:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:00 p.m. **Souper Supper** HANCOCK HALL  
**Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Adult)** ROOM 222

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13 | I CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

- 9:00 a.m. **Parenting with Purpose Small Group** ROOM 120
- 12:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224
- 4:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 | JOHN 1:29-34

- 8:00 a.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

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