



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. During June and July, the orientation will be held the second Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Schedule in June and July

We will offer two service times, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes will meet at 10:00 a.m. In addition, we will offer Holy Communion in the chapel at 8:30 a.m.

Financial Report

Budget for 2017 | \$3,038,381 Amount Given YTD | \$1,470,062 Goal for June | \$205,685 Amount after 2 Sundays | \$126,110

Attendance on June 18

Total Worship | 1098 Holy Communion Service | 45 9:00 a.m. | 406 11:00 a.m. | 517 Online | 130 Sunday School | 321

Table of Contents

- 1 Order of Worship
- 6 The Steeple
- 9 Calendar

Ministers and Directors

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

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Betsy Butler Minister of Missions betsy@athensfirstumc.org

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Contact Us

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Facebook: @Athens First United Methodist Church *athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

Gathering

Flowers The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Connie F. Branch by Mary Jon Branch and family. **THE PRELUDE** "Prelude on ST ANNE" | Fedak

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Shout for Joy" Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

***THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "As We Gather at Your Table" | beach spring

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Martha Aenchbacher

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

***THE GLORIA PATRI** имн 71 "Glory Be to the Father"

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 PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Betsy Butler

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

April Allen

9:00 a.m. | Children in Kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to leave the sanctuary at the end of the Children's Message for a time of connecting with faith and friends in the Route 56 room (room 120). Parents should pick up children at the conclusion of the service.

11:00 a.m. | After participating in the Children's Message, children will return to their seats to worship with their families.

Proclamation of the Word

Anthem Lyrics The text for this anthem can be found on page 589 of your hymnal.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM "A Song of Community" | John Ferguson Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

***THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" | 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.

THE SCRIPTURE READING MATTHEW 26:26-30 | p.28 NEW TESTAMENT The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON "Offering the One Cup" | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

When we gather to praise God and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to the will of God. Accepting God's power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

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. 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, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. 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 full of 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. 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. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. 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, he 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." 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."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. 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 Father, now and forever. **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 PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Sustain us with the presence of Christ who meets us in this feast, and fill us with the power of the Spirit to carry your good news into the world through our words and our actions. Amen.

Sending Forth

*THE HYMN имн 620 "One Bread, One Body" | one bread, one body

*THE BLESSING AND CHORAL RESPONSE "Irish Blessing" | Philip Stopford

* THE POSTLUDE

"Finale from Symphony No. 3" | Saint-Saens/Zabel

Song Lyrics May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

327 N. Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA 30601



706-543-1442 athensfirstumc.org

Good morning,

On June 13-15, Athens First United Methodist Church joined the Athens-Elberton District in hosting the North Georgia Annual Conference at the Classic Center for the 18th time in 19 years. Again, our volunteers were at the forefront staffing registration desks, welcome stations, and information posts. The Methodists clearly love Athens and the Classic Center—they will return June 10-14, 2018, and already have voted to return each year through 2021.

This was the 151st annual meeting of the conference. Presiding this year for the first time was North Georgia's first female bishop, Sue Haupert-Johnson. A native of Lake Wales, Florida, who earned both bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Florida, Bishop Sue was a federal law clerk and litigator before answering her call. She attended Emory's Candler School of Theology and at the time of her election as bishop was superintendent of the North Central District in the Florida Conference. "My only agenda, in this whole thing, is to see the Holy Spirit in full force in every person and every church," she said. With a video presentation, she emphasized that "there is more that unites us than divides us."

Her conference theme of "Show Your Work: Excellent Worship that Inspires Action" was taken from those math teachers we all loved in grade school. Throughout the week, panels took the stage to dissect how the various worship sessions were put together, because prayer and scripture combined with intentional preparation yields excellent worship. The takeaway was that excellence in our churches does not just happen—it requires communication, creativity, and collaboration. With intentional planning, execution, and evaluation we can find that "church has broken out"—it rarely breaks out accidentally.

Music varies widely at Conference just as it does among our various churches, but there was a notable modern and praisemusic bent this year. It included a rousing rap welcome to the bishop performed by a group of talented clergy and laity.

Moving moments included the ordination service, where our own Allison Griner was ordained as deacon. A wonderful reunion of our youth group from 15 years ago helped her celebrate. We joined in remembering the clergy, spouses, and lay leaders of the conference who passed away this year, among them our own Annette Stephens, wife of former associate pastor Wesley Stephens. Our outgoing District Superintendent Gary Whetsone was among the honored retirees. Tribute also was paid to former church member Tom Cook upon his retirement as conference chancellor (attorney) after 22 years.

The 2016 General Conference delegation was elected by acclamation to represent North Georgia at the called General Conference in 2019. Five constitutional amendments were voted on, mostly having to do with elections of bishops and delegates in areas outside the US. Those results are not immediately reported, as passage requires a two-thirds majority across the church. Responsibility for properties of closed churches and their associated cemeteries was transferred from district boards of trustees to the conference board of trustees, which will engage a realty management firm.

A conference budget of \$22.02 million is 0.5 percent lower than the previous year's and the eighth budget decrease in the last nine years. 85 percent of churches paid 100 percent of their apportionments, and one district, Athens-Elberton, saw every church pay 100 percent. North Georgia's total membership is down 0.3 percent over the past year, but ours remains the largest conference in Methodism.

The conference closed with a Holy Communion service and the fixing of the ministerial appointments for the coming year. We were pleased to receive formal appointment of our new District Superintendent Brian Clark and our new Minister of Discipleship Susan Martin Taylor, along with reappointment of Chuck Hodges, Martha Aenchbacher, and Betsy Butler for their 10th, 14th, and 5th years with us, respectively.

It was our great privilege to represent Athens First United Methodist Church, clearly a significant leader in one of the strongest conferences. Space does not permit listing the many successes, but we urge you to review the full report of the conference at *ngumc.org*. If you have questions beyond the information on the website, please contact any of us directly.

In Christ,

Arlyn Hawley Claire Swann Hank Huckaby Keith Wilson Tom Jackson

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Lillie Brooks and her family in the loss of her mother, Marlise Harrell, on June 14.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Al Rogers and his family in the loss of his mother, Betty Rogers, on June 17.

Summer of Celebration

We have much to give thanks to God for. Please note that throughout the months of June and July, we will offer two service times at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes will meet at 10:00 a.m. In addition, we will offer Holy Communion in the chapel at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. We pray that each of us will embrace this opportunity to come together with our community of faith, to link arms with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to celebrate the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on us during this time. We look forward to worshipping with each of you this summer.

Worship in July

Come and join the band for July worship! If you play an instrument and would like to play some bluegrass-gospel music with us this summer, please contact Sarah Lawing. We will rehearse at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings and play at the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services during the month of July.

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

Tijuana Mission Team | June 24-30

Please be in prayer for the mission team as they are currently serving in Tijuana, Mexico, June 24-30. There are 16 high school students and six adult leaders seeking to encounter Jesus, love others in Jesus's name, and bring back what we learn and experience into how we live our lives at home in the Athens community. We are grateful for the prayers and support of our church family!

Smart Lunch, Smart Kid | Wednesday

We hope you will join us as we partner with Action Ministries to help to ensure that children in our community who participate in the free or reduced-price lunch are fed in the summer months. We gather in room 100 at 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday in June and July, and from there two teams are sent to two neighborhoods to play, encourage, and build relationships! Contact Betsy or Mary Claire if you have any questions and sign up online to let us know you will be there.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/smartlunchsmartkid Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

Consignment Sale | Donations

Consider donating your gently used children's items to the Children's Consignment Sale: baby equipment (car seats and cribs excluded), children's clothing (all seasons), school uniforms, toys, and books. All proceeds from this year's sale will go to support the United Methodist Children's Home Foster Care Ministry in Athens and surrounding communities. Please contact Betsy or Mary Claire if you would like to bring your donated items to the church during office hours or on the weekend! Learn More | *athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale*

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

GriefShare

Join us Wednesday, June 28, to learn why being honest with God is an expression of faith. The GriefShare group will meet this summer through August, led by Martha Aenchbacher. This faith-based curriculum for those grieving the death of a friend or family member features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. New participants are welcome to join at any time. Please register online; there is a \$20 cost to cover the workbook. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/griefshare* Martha Aenchbacher | *martha@athensfirstumc.org*

706-543-1442

Pickleball | Summer Schedule

Just a reminder that there is no pickleball this week. Join us in July on July 18, 20, 25, and 27. Rusty Wood | *rusty@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Consignment Sale | Volunteers

As we prepare for the Children's Consignment Sale, we have many needs for volunteers! Tagging Tuesdays are every Tuesday in July (excluding July 4) and are a time where we sort, organize, and tag donations to prepare for the sale. Volunteer needs the week of the sale, July 31- August 5 include set-up, cashiers, inventory control, and clean up. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire with questions and sign up online to volunteer!

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/consignmentsalevolunteer Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

Habitat for Humanity

Our unit is almost completed and we are thrilled; don't miss your chance to help out with this project! There are still a few Saturdays left for folks to work on the unit and we hope you will join us as we help the Habitat construction crew finish up. Register online for the Saturday that works with your schedule. If you would like to work on a weekday, you can make an appointment by contacting Betsy or Mary Claire.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

Interfaith Hospitality Network

This summer, from July 9-23, we will partner with the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens to host displaced families in our community in need of temporary housing. There are numerous ways to serve throughout the two weeks we will have guests in our church. These opportunities include driving the IHNA van, preparing a meal, spending time hosting our guests in the evening and overnight, and helping with set-up and take-down at the beginning and end of the host weeks. There is a place for everyone to be involved with this wonderful ministry! For more information and detailed descriptions of these volunteer opportunities, please visit our webpage or contact Betsy or Mary Claire. Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/ihn

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

Mission Blitz | July 9-23

We will be participating in a two-week "mission blitz" this summer by serving together near and far. Mission opportunities will include: Local: Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Children's Consignment Sale

Mobile Food Pantry

Sack Lunch Ministry

Regional:

Prayers for our youth on the Epworth Mission Trip Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information. Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | *maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org* 706-543-1442

Flag Football This Fall

Registration for this year's Children's Flag Football league is now open! Flag Football is for children in kindergarten through second grade, and is made up of coed teams. Children will learn the fundamentals of football while growing together in a fun and competitive Christian environment. All games and practices will be held at Chapelwood UMC. For more information, contact Rusty Wood and visit our webpage to register your child today! Register | *athensfirstumc.org/flagfootball* Rusty Wood | *rusty@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Consignment Sale | Consignors

We invite you to consign with our Children's Consignment Sale! For a consignor fee of \$10, consignors can sell as many items as they would like, while making sixty percent of all earnings. The remaining forty percent goes towards supporting foster care in Athens and surrounding counties. This is a great way to make extra money, clean out closets, and support a great cause! All consignors are invited to shop at our preview sale, Thursday, August 3. If you would like to consign at this year's sale, please register online to receive your tags and begin preparing for the sale. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

This Week

8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	SUNDAY, JUNE 25 ROMANS 6:1b-11 Holy Communion Service CHAPEL Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR Adult Sunday School Second FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR Youth Sunday School: First Word youth AREA Children's Sunday School (Kindergarten through Grade 6) GYM Sack Lunch Ministry HULL STREET ENTRANCE Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	MONDAY, JUNE 26 GENESIS 22:I-7 Junior Jam Basketball Camp GYM Junior Jam Basketball Camp-Extended GYM
9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	TUESDAY, JUNE 27 GENESIS 22:8-14 Junior Jam Basketball Camp GYM Prayer Shawl Ministry PANERA BREAD Junior Jam Basketball Camp-Extended GYM Fashion Fitness ROOM 120 Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT Connect & Grow Group ROOM 229
8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 PSALM 13:1-2 Senior Fun Trip DEPARTING FROM KOHL'S PARKING LOT Junior Jam Basketball Camp GYM Seamless Women's Study ROOM 229 Smart Lunch, Smart Kid ROOM 100 Junior Jam Basketball Camp-Extended GYM 66 Love Letters HULL CONFERENCE ROOM GriefShare ROOM 100 Questions God Asks US ROOM 222
9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	THURSDAY, JUNE 29 PSALM 13:3-6 Junior Jam Basketball Camp GYM Junior Jam Basketball Camp-Extended GYM Fashion Fitness ROOM 120 Connect Group (Young Adult) ROOM 222
9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	FRIDAY, JUNE 30 ROMANS 6:12-14 Junior Jam Basketball Camp GYM Junior Jam Basketball Camp-Extended GYM SATURDAY, JULY 1 ROMANS 6:15-23

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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Athens First United Methodist Church

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