

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 2, 2017
9:00 & 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. 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 | \$1,506,407
Goal for June | \$205,685
Amount after 3 Sundays | \$162,455

Attendance on June 25

Total Worship | 1143
Holy Communion Service | 37
9:00 a.m. | 473
11:00 a.m. | 513
Online | 142
Sunday School | 277

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Ministers and Directors

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chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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leslie@athensfirstumc.org

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linsey@athensfirstumc.org

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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 | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

Flowers

The flowers on the altar
are given to the glory
of God and in loving
memory of Robert C.
Wall by Mrs. Robert C.
Wall and family.

Prelude Lyrics

Mine eyes have seen the
glory of the coming of
the Lord. He is trampling
out the vintage where
the grapes of wrath are
stored. He hath loosed
the fateful lightning of
the His terrible swift
sword, His truth is
marching on. I have
read a fiery gospel writ
in burnished rows of
steel: "As ye deal with
My contemners, so
with you my grace
shall deal." Let the
Hero, born of woman,
crush the serpent with
His heel, since God
is marching on. Glory,
Glory Hallelujah; His
truth is marching on.
In the beauty of the
lilies Christ was born
across the sea with a
glory in His bosom that
transfigures you and
me. As He died to make
men holy, let us live to
make men free while
God is marching on.

PRELUDE

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" | Julia Ward Howe

OPENING PRAYER

Susan Taylor

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN MEDLEY

UMH 697 "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" | AMERICA

Verses 1 & 4

UMH 696 "America the Beautiful" | MATERNA

*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 TO GOD

"I Will Praise the Father"

**I will praise the Father. I will praise the Son. I will praise the Spirit, all
three in one. Singing, "Alleluia."**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 11:00 a.m.

Sophie Shouse, daughter of Katherine and Kevin

Emily Rose Adams, daughter of Jennifer and Michael

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

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 end 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S 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.

OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Wayfaring Stranger" | Traditional

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 3:11-21 | p.182 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Freedom to Choose" | Betsy Butler

*HYMN

UMH 733 "Marching to Zion" | MARCHING TO ZION

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Old Time Religion" | Traditional

Anthem Lyrics

I'm just a poor wayfaring
stranger traveling through
this world of woe, yet
there's no sickness, toil nor
danger in that bright land
to which I go. I'm going
there to see my Father. I'm
going there no more to
roam. I'm only going over
Jordan. I'm only going over
home. 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. I know
dark clouds will gather
'round me. I know my way
is rough and steep, yet
beauteous fields lie out
before me where God's
redeemed, their vigils keep.
I'm going home to see
my Savior, who spilled his
precious blood for me. I'm
only going over Jordan; I'm
only going over home.

In Memoriam

Pete Argo
June 21, 2017

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Annette Nelson and her family in the loss of her mother, Nancy Ancherico, on June 12.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Betty Argo in the loss of her husband and Patrice Nelson in the loss of her father, Pete Argo, on June 21.

Summer of Celebration

Please note that throughout 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.

New Minister

We would like to welcome Susan Taylor to the Athens First United Methodist staff. Susan is our new Minister of Discipleship. She and her husband, Larry, are both native Atlantans and live in Flowery Branch in Hall County. Susan worked as a Public Service and Outreach faculty member of the University of Georgia from 1986 until 1998 when she left to go to seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Susan and Larry have five adult children and three grandchildren. Amsterdam, Hampton, Peachtree Corners, and Jacksonville are cities that they have connections to—be sure to ask them about these connections to learn more about them and their family. Susan is feeling blessed to be appointed to Athens First UMC and excited about getting to know the people and ministries here.

Habitat for Humanity

Please join us on Saturday, July 8, to help clean up and prepare our properties for their new tenants. Habitat hopes to have a ribbon cutting ceremony very soon; we will keep you posted. Sign up online or contact Betsy or Mary Claire. Register | athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity
Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

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 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

Pickleball | Summer Schedule

Just a reminder that there is no pickleball this week. Join us this month 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

GriefShare

Join us Wednesday, July 5, to learn how to deal with false guilt. 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

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

Next Sunday, July 9, we will begin a two-week "mission blitz" by serving together locally and regionally through the following projects: Sack Lunch Ministry; Interfaith Hospitality Network; Smart Lunch, Smart Kid; Children's Consignment Sale; Mobile Food Pantry; and praying for the Epworth mission trip for youth. We invite you to join in the fun! Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information.

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

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

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

Sack Lunch Ministry

Our ongoing Sunday morning Sack Lunch Ministry meets every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to distribute 40 lunches to our neighbors in the community. This July, we are in need of volunteers for this wonderful ministry. If you'd like serve by preparing and/or distributing lunches this summer, register online or contact Mary Young or Betsy.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 2 | MATTHEW 10:40-42

8:30 a.m. **Holy Communion Service** CHAPEL

Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR

9:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY

Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR

10:00 a.m. **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

11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY

Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR

MONDAY, JULY 3 | GENESIS 24:34-38

TUESDAY, JULY 4 | GENESIS 24:42-49

Independence Day — office is closed

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 | GENESIS 24:58-67

11:30 a.m. **Smart Lunch, Smart Kid** ROOM 100

5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM

6:00 p.m. **GriefShare** ROOM 100

THURSDAY, JULY 6 | SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-13

5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120

7:00 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Adult)** ROOM 222

FRIDAY, JULY 7 | ROMANS 7:15-25a

SATURDAY, JULY 8 | MATTHEW 11:16-19

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