

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outlines. Two fish are in the top-left corner, and one is in the bottom-right corner. A large red geometric shape, resembling a stylized 'L' or a corner of a square, is positioned in the top-left and bottom-right. A red dot is located in the top-left corner, and another red dot is in the bottom-right corner. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

# ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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JULY 23, 2017  
9:00 & 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.

## *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 | \$1,703,607

Goal for July | \$192,268

Amount after 2 Sundays | \$115,819

## *Attendance on July 16*

Total Worship | 797

Holy Communion Service | 49

9:00 a.m. | 339

11:00 a.m. | 319

Online | 90

Sunday School | 229

## *Table of Contents*

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## *Ministers and Directors*

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

**Martha Aenchbacher** Minister of Congregational Care

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**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children's Music Ministry & 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

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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](http://athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# The Worship of God

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## *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar  
are given to the glory  
of God and in loving  
memory of Eunice and  
Harold Hawk and Jane  
Harris by Beth and Tom  
Hawk and children.

## *Prelude Lyrics*

I've got a home in  
gloryland that outshines  
the sun. You took my  
feet, you took my hands,  
you wipe them clean,  
Lord. When air feels  
thin, we hardly breathe,  
you fill our lungs, Lord.  
Bursting through the  
sky with glory, our  
Savior comes to save  
the saints. Redemptive  
eyes, we see your mercy.  
We made a choice, you  
took our place. I've got a  
home in gloryland that  
outshines the sun. I've  
got a home in gloryland  
that outshines the  
sun. I've got a home in  
gloryland that outshines  
the sun, way beyond  
the blue. Do Lord, O, do  
Lord, O do remember  
me, do Lord, O, do Lord,  
O do remember me,  
do Lord, O, do Lord, O  
do remember me, way  
beyond the blue.

## PRELUDE

“Song of the Saints”/“Do Lord” | Gatlin Elms/Traditional

## OPENING PRAYER

Susan Taylor

**O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.**

## \*HYMN MEDLEY

UMH 310 “He Lives” | ACKLEY

Verse 1

UMH 314 “In the Garden” | GARDEN

Verse 1

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

**I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene,  
and wonder how he could love me, a sinner, condemned, unclean.**

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

**When with the ransomed in glory his face I at last shall see,  
'twill be my joy through the ages to sing of his love for me.**

Refrain

## \*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" (3x). Singing praise to the Lord.**

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 11:00 a.m.

Harper Leslie McCrary, daughter of Jessica and Les McCrary

**Harper, Harper, 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. Harper, Harper, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Linsey Jarrett

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

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” | Traditional

## SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 51:16-17 | p.493 OLD TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Going Through the Motions” | Chuck Hodges

### *Anthem Lyrics*

I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,  
let me walk close to Thee.  
Just a closer walk with Thee.  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

**\*HYMN**

UMH 555 “Forward Through the Ages” | ST. GERTRUDE

**\*BLESSING**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Oh Happy Day” | Traditional

# The Steeple

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## FAMILIES ON THE FIFTH

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We will conclude our "The Heat is On" July series on Sunday, July 30, with a Families of the Fifth opportunity in the gym at 10:00 a.m. Families of children in kindergarten through grade 6 are invited to join in games together as we enjoy another Families on the Fifth experience.

Just like Paul had to overcome many obstacles to spread the message of Christ, families will participate in several physical and intellectual challenges as we strive to build the church. The challenges are comprised of "minute to win it" games, Bible hunts, and more. Come enjoy family, fun, and fellowship on Sunday, July 30.

## In Memoriam

Helen Taylor  
July 7, 2017

## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Helen Taylor, who passed away on July 7.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Gary Hudson and his family in the loss of his father, Hugh Hudson, on July 11.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Sue DeMersseman and her family in the loss of her mother, Clarice Robertson, on July 12.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Robin Barnes Hardin and her family in the loss of her father, Russell Barnes, on July 16.

## New Arrival

Congratulations to Kelly and Michael Greer on the birth of their daughter, Lillian Jane, on July 17. Lillian is the granddaughter of Steve and Susan Greer.

## New Members

On July 16, we welcomed Patrick, Stephanie, Tarryn, Kaitlyn, and Julia Ballard; Josh, Nancy, Anna, and Liam Hartgrove; and Bryan and Maggie Parker to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

## Summer of Celebration

Our Summer of Celebration is drawing to a close. Please note that throughout the rest of 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. Beginning in August, we will return to three services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m., with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.

## Meet the Band

The 8:30 band leads worship throughout the year and you've seen and heard them in July during our "camp-meeting" style worship services. Our church employs local musicians in worship in an effort to partner with the thriving music community in Athens. In May of this year the band recorded an EP entitled "Songs for Tirreno." They hope through this project they will be able to do good in the community as they seek to promote music education through our church and local entities. This record will be made available to the church and community in the coming weeks. In the meantime, you are invited to visit our website to find out more about the band members and the project.



## Mission Blitz Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone who has participated in the Mission Blitz this past week! Your help preparing for the Consignment Sale, feeding hungry neighbors, and serving families in need through Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens has blessed many.

## Smart Lunch, Smart Kid | Wednesday

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, July 26, to assemble and distribute sack lunches to hungry children in our community. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. in the youth hallway to assemble the lunches, meet in room 100 at 11:30 to divide into teams, and at 11:45 a.m. the two teams will head out. Please email Betsy if you plan to come to assemble, distribute, or both!

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/smartlunchsmartkid](https://athensfirstumc.org/smartlunchsmartkid)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Pickleball | Summer Schedule

Join us this Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m. for a game of pickleball in the gym.

Rusty Wood | [rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Volunteers Needed | Consignment Sale

As the Consignment Sale quickly approaches, we are in need of volunteers to help us the week of the sale (July 31-August 3) and during the sale (August 3-5). If you would like to be a greeter/help with inventory control, be a cashier, or help with clean up after the sale, there is a place for you to serve! Remember, volunteers get to shop at the Preview Sale on August 3. If you would like to sign up to volunteer, please visit our webpage or contact Betsy Butler. If you are unable to help the week of the Consignment Sale, please consider helping us prepare the week of July 24!

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/consignmentsalevolunteer](http://athensfirstumc.org/consignmentsalevolunteer)

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

## GriefShare

Join us Wednesday, July 26, as we explore why going to church can be so difficult. The GriefShare group will meet this summer through August in room 100. 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](http://athensfirstumc.org/griefshare)

Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## Habitat for Humanity

Please join us on Saturday, July 29, 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 Butler.

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

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

## Consignment Sale | Donations

We are still receiving donations for this year's sale! We accept 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 bring items to room 125 and contact Betsy if you have any questions.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale](http://athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale)

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



## Promotion Sunday

On August 6, Promotion Sunday, all children age 2 through grade 11 will move to their new age/grade level for the 2017-2018 school year. Children younger than 2 will change rooms as they grow and develop throughout the year. You should have received an email with information regarding these changes over the summer. Room locations will be posted in the galleria, youth hallway, and third floor for reference.

We are excited to continue our Sunday morning routine for grades 1-4 where we hope they will discover God's love for them! Beginning August 6, children in grades 1-4 should be dropped off in the Chapel between 9:30-9:45 a.m. for a

# Open CHURCH

*Save the Date!*

AUGUST 23

Open church is an invitational experience to explore fall opportunities here at Athens First United Methodist Church. We hope you'll come and see all that we have to offer and find new ways to participate in the life of our church. This annual preview night allows you to taste and see all that Wednesday nights have to offer. From local food vendors to small group Bible studies, from Sanctuary Choir to Kids Music and Arts, we have a place for you to plug in, find community, and grow this fall.

special time of praise and worship together before walking with their shepherds to the classrooms on the third floor. During the Sunday school hour, children will continue to develop their knowledge of God's word through stories, crafts, games, cooking, and more! Parents should pick up their children in grades 1-4 on the third floor at 10:45 a.m. A complete list of ages and room locations can be found on our website.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/promotionsunday](https://athensfirstumc.org/promotionsunday)  
Robin Stewart | [robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Katie Elder | [katie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:katie@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Sanctuary Choir | Join this Fall!

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 9. The fall is a perfect time for new members to join us! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 148. We would love for you to be a part of our choir family! For more information contact Stephen Mitchell. Stephen Mitchell | [smitchell@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:smitchell@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## Sack Lunch Ministry

This August and September, consider volunteering to prepare and distribute sack lunches on Sunday mornings with our Sack Lunch Ministry! This is a great way to serve our community with your family or friends. Please contact Mary Young or Betsy Butler for more information and available dates.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry](https://athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
May Young | [young.macy@gmail.com](mailto:young.macy@gmail.com)

## 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](https://athensfirstumc.org/flagfootball)  
Rusty Wood | [rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Parenting with Purpose | Save the Date

Parents, you are invited to a presentation by the Moms on Call team on Friday, September 15, at 9:30 am in Hancock Hall. Join us for a humorous and helpful presentation about toddler behavior and discipline. Moms on Call is an Atlanta-based Christian organization known for providing parents with tools of hope and encouragement. More details will be available soon, so mark your calendars for this great opportunity!

## KidCheck

Is your KidCheck account up to date? Maybe your family has grown, maybe you have moved or just joined our church, or maybe your phone number has changed. These are all good reasons to visit the website and update your information before Promotion Sunday on August 6. We would love for you to add pictures as well, so we can get to know you and your family better!

As most of you are aware, KidCheck is the system our church uses to enhance security for children from birth through grade 12 while they are in programs in our building. It is important that each family account contains current information and that you have enabled all communication features. Should we have an emergency or need to get in touch with you, you will receive a text and/or email message with details regarding your children. If you need any help or clarification, please contact Katie Elder.

Learn more | [kidcheck.com](https://kidcheck.com)  
Katie Elder | [katie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:katie@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# This Week

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## SUNDAY, JULY 23 | MATTHEW 13:36-43

*Interfaith Hospitality Network Week*  
*Youth Mission Trip | Epworth By The Sea*

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 HOSPITALITY ROOM

11:00 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY

Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR

## MONDAY, JULY 24 | GENESIS 29:15-28

## TUESDAY, JULY 25 | ROMANS 8:26-30

10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry PANERA BREAD

1:00 p.m. Consignment Sale—Tagging Tuesdays ROOM 125

1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM

5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT

Connect & Grow Group ROOM 229

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 | PSALM 105:1-11, 45b

9:30 a.m. Smart Lunch, Smart Kids Lunch Assembly YOUTH HALLWAY

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

6:30 p.m. Questions God Asks Us ROOM 222

## THURSDAY, JULY 27 | MATTHEW 13:31-33

1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM

5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120

## FRIDAY, JULY 28 | ROMANS 8:31-39

## SATURDAY, JULY 29 | MATTHEW 13:44-52

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