

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 around a central red geometric structure that resembles a stylized cross or a set of four L-shaped brackets. The red lines are thick and vibrant. There are also small red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

JUNE 24, 2018
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804. Over the past two centuries our congregation has changed, but our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to “do all the good you can, in all the ways you can.”

Attendance

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

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school for children age 2 through adult each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Children

At Athens First United Methodist Church, we invite families to worship together. Children’s Church is held for children in kindergarten through grade 2 most Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Financial Report

Budget for 2018 | \$3,231,864
Amount Given YTD | \$1,485,138
Goal for June | \$221,888
Amount after 2 Sundays | \$123,576

Attendance on June 17

Total Worship | 922
8:30 a.m. | 169
9:45 a.m. | 320
11:00 a.m. | 343
Online | 90
Sunday School | 243

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

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Ministers

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The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Connie F. Branch by Mary Jon Johnston Branch and family.

GATHERING SONG

“Be Thou My Vision” | Irish folk hymn, translated by Mary E. Byrne

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night.
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

INVOCATION

Susan Taylor

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 529 “How Firm a Foundation” | FOUNDATION

*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.**

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 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.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

The text for this anthem can be found on page 352 of your hymnal.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Standing in the Need of Prayer” | arr. Seth Hendricks and Chris Good

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” | 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 6:43-44 | p. 61 NEW TESTAMENT

SERMON

“Keeping It Real” | Chuck Hodges

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 402 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” | LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
Verses 1, 3, & 4

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Here and now, God’s Spirit is at work. The Spirit nurtures us around this table made for sharing. Through our communion with Christ and with one another, we are being made new. Let us pray.

God of new beginnings, because you come among us to make us whole, we approach your table with delight and expectation: glad to be comforted, ready to be challenged, knowing your generous love for all. 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.

Please Note

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 elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

Creator God, like a still, small voice you have made your presence felt to prophets and healers, to a people in exile, to those gathered together on the day of Pentecost. In the life of Jesus your healing touch was felt and all were made welcome. Undeterred by death, you revived those who looked for you, and offered the gift of your Spirit as your eternal, supporting presence...

We celebrate these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ. As we remember Christ's offering for us through this Holy Sacrament, we live out the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Loving God, who in Jesus Christ gives us our salvation, consecrate by your Holy Spirit these elements of Holy Communion. Bless us as we receive them this day that we may be your faithful people. In our Risen Savior's name we pray.

Amen.

Song Lyrics

Stir in me a love that's deep—a love that's wide, a love that's sweet—and help me, Lord, to never keep it to myself. And if my heart should dimly burn, and if my feet should fail to run, call my name and I will come right back to you, 'cuz there's no fear in love. I wanna stay close to you, it's really that simple. I wanna stay close to you, just as simple as this song. I wanna stay close to you, it's really that simple. I wanna stay close to you my whole life long.

Music During Receiving of the Elements

“No Fear in Love” | Steffany Gretzinger

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we praise you for this heavenly banquet that you have so freely given us. We give you thanks for the promise of your eternal goodness. May we pour it out wherever we go, lighting up the darkness with truth, speaking out hope where there is despair, and weaving your unconditional love into all we do. Send us now in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

UMH 451 “Be Thou My Vision” | SLANE

Verses 2-3

***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Standing in the Need of Prayer” | Traditional

The Worship of God

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 Connie F. Branch by Mary Jon Johnston Branch and family.

THE PRELUDE

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” | Hustad

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 529 “How Firm a Foundation” | FOUNDATION

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

9:45 a.m. | Martha Aenchbacher

11:00 a.m. | Josh Miles

**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.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 11:00 a.m.

Beau Michael Davis, son of Elise and Michael Davis

Beau, Beau, 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. Beau, Beau, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

Proclamation of the Word

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE | 11:00 a.m.

Robin Stewart

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.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“City Called Heaven” | Josephine Poelinitz

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Emily Carey, soloist

***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.

Antem Lyrics

I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim
of sorrow, I’m left in this
wide world, this wide
world alone. Ain’t got no
hope, got no hope for
tomorrow, trying to make
it, make heaven my home.
Sometimes I’m tossed
and I’m driven, Lord.
Sometimes I just don’t
know, which way to turn.
I heard of a city, a city
called heaven, I’m trying
to make it, make heaven
my home.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 6:43-44 | p. 61 NEW TESTAMENT

THE SERMON

“Keeping It Real” | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

***THE HYMN**

“Fruitful Trees, The Spirit’s Sowing” | GALILEE

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, may we ripen and increase,
fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing gifts the Giver loves to bless;
here is fruit that grows by sharing, patience, kindness, gentleness**

**Rooted deep in Christ, our Master, Christ, our pattern and our goal,
teach us, as the years fly faster, goodness, faith, and self control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, may we grow till harvests cease;
till we taste, in life unending, heaven’s love and joy and peace.**

Sending Forth

***THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“We Receive Your Blessing”

**We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the
light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the
way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.**

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“O When Shall I See Jesus?” | Hustad

The Steeple

327 N. Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA 30601



706-543-1442 athensfirstumc.org

Good morning,

For the 19th time in 20 years, the North Georgia Annual Conference held its meeting in Athens, June 12-14, and will return for the next three years. Our own Stephen Mitchell led the conference music and singing, and Rev. Betsy Butler led preparations for all of the worship services throughout the week.

The dominant discussion had no action items, but surrounded preparation for a called session of General Conference to be held in St. Louis on February 23-26, 2019. Delegates will be those already serving from the 2016 General Conference, which established the Commission on a Way Forward to consider how the church will address its stance on homosexuality. Since the 1968 General Conference added to the Discipline a paragraph declaring homosexuality to be incompatible with Christian teaching, it has been a matter of controversy at General Conferences every four years hence.

The main proposals before February's meeting are (1) the traditional solution to maintain the current language, (2) the "One Church" model, which would remove the language regarding homosexuality from the Discipline and allow individual conferences, churches, or clergy to decide whether to ordain gay ministers and perform marriages for gay couples, and (3) a multi-branch model which would allow regions to choose which practice they would follow within the context of the larger church. The North Georgia Conference polled the delegates in Athens this month. 25 percent said they agree with the Disciplinary language as it stands and would leave the church if it is changed. 34 percent said they agree with the language but would stay and continue to work within the church if it were changed. 35 percent said they disagree with the language but would stay and continue to work within the church if it were not changed. Six percent said they disagree with the language in the Discipline, and would leave the church if it is not changed.

In an extemporaneous speech to the Conference on Thursday morning, North Georgia Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson said the poll shows some 70 percent of the church desires unity, intending to stay and continue the work of the church no matter what General Conference decides on the language regarding human sexuality. The issue is important, but not most important, and not important enough to build our church structure and polity upon, she said. She urged the church not to lose its missional focus over such an issue, saying "the church exists most to serve those who are not in it yet." None of this discussion involved language of anger or drawing battle lines, but instead was a call to be gracious through this journey. We urge members to view the Bishop's remarks online at ngumc.org and to research and study the proposals for yourself.

The Conference adopted a 2019 budget of \$21.92 million, down 0.5 percent from the current year. As a whole, the Conference experienced a decrease in church membership, average worship attendance, and professions of faith during the year—running counter to our strong, upward performance in those areas in our church.

Conference closed Thursday afternoon with Holy Communion and the fixing of the ministerial appointments for the coming year. We were pleased that our ministerial staff was reappointed: Chuck Hodges (11th year), Martha Aenchbacher (15th), Betsy Butler (6th), and Susan Taylor (2nd). Bob Winstead and Josh Miles are not conference appointees, but continue on our staff, as well.

It was our privilege to represent Athens First UMC and the Athens-Elberton District. Our sincere appreciation to everyone who volunteered for the many tasks of hosting a conference this size. We urge you to view full details of the conference at ngumc.org. If you have questions beyond the information on the conference website, please contact any of us directly.

In Christ,

Dianne Graham, AFUMC delegate
Arlyn Hawley, AFUMC delegate
Hank Huckaby, Athens-Elberton District delegate

Tom Jackson, AFUMC delegate
Michael McCord, Athens-Elberton District delegate
Debbie Whittemore, AFUMC delegate

Please Note: Worship in Hancock Hall

As we gather in Hancock Hall during the month of July, we will celebrate our faith through a worship series entitled "We Believe." Over the course of these five Sundays we will have the opportunity to revisit the beliefs that unite us a family of faith. Join us at 8:30, 9:45, or 11:00 a.m. in Hancock Hall as we worship together!

Youth Service Week-Athens

Please join us in prayer for Youth Service Week-Athens, this Tuesday, June 26, through Saturday, June 30! Our youth and leaders will be joining together to serve our neighbors in the Athens-area community. The focus text for our service week pulls from Philippians 1:9-11. Thank you for your prayers!

Josh Miles | josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Summer FUNday School

Summer FUNday School is here! Join us as we learn about being followers of Jesus. Children in kindergarten through grade 12 are engaging in lessons and games in the youth rooms and gym each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45 a.m. during June and July. Casual clothes and shoes that they can comfortably play in are appropriate. Invite a friend or relative to join us this summer!

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

GriefShare

Join us Tuesday, June 26, as we discuss why being honest with God is an expression of faith. GriefShare meets Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in room 100. Please register online so that we will have materials prepared for you. The cost is \$20. You may pay online or in person.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

Senior Fun Luncheon

This month's Senior Fun Luncheon is on Thursday, June 28, at 12:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts, Senior Minister of St. Mark United Methodist Church will be the speaker. The luncheon cost is \$6. Reserve your seat

by 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 27. For more information, please contact Dan Maxey.

Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097

Church Office | 706-543-1442

Consignment Sale | Volunteers

As we prepare for the Children's Consignment Sale, we have many needs for volunteers! Tagging Tuesdays are a time where we sort, organize, and tag donations to prepare for the sale. Join us on July 3, 10, 17, and 24 to help. Volunteer needs the week of the sale, August 6-11, include set-up, cashiers, inventory control, and clean-up. Contact Betsy or Sarah Beth with questions and sign up online to volunteer!

Register | athensfirstumc.org/consignmentsalevolunteer

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

Sarah Beth Barger | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org

Wesley Heritage Tour of England

A Wesley Heritage Tour is forming to travel to England May 24-June 4, 2019. The tour will include a 6-8 week Bible study before the trip, and a 10-night tour with stops in London, Bristol, Lincoln, Epworth, and Oxford. We will worship at Wesley's Chapel in London on Aldersgate Sunday, visit his birthplace, visit the New Room in Bristol (the oldest Methodist building in the world), and see the spot where Wesley had his Aldersgate conversion. For more information, including itinerary and pricing, contact Stephen Mitchell at the church.

Stephen Mitchell | smitchell@athensfirstumc.org

This Week

SUNDAY, JUNE 24 | 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

- 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
- Summer FUNday School** YOUTH ROOM
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 4:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR

MONDAY, JUNE 25 | 2 SAMUEL 1:1, 17-27

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

- 9:00 a.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Camp**
- 1:00 p.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Extended Camp**

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 | PSALM 130:1-4

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

Youth Service Week

- 9:00 a.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Camp**
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD
- 1:00 p.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Extended Camp**
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 229
- 6:00 p.m. **GriefShare** ROOM 100
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27 | PSALM 130:5-8

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

Youth Service Week

- 9:00 a.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Camp**
- 1:00 p.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Extended Camp**
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters**

THURSDAY, JUNE 28 | 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

Youth Service Week

- 9:00 a.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Camp**
- 12:00 p.m. **Senior Fun Luncheon** HANCOCK HALL
- 1:00 p.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Extended Camp**
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. **Connect Group | Young Adult** ROOM 222

FRIDAY, JUNE 29 | 2 CORINTHIANS 8:10-15

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

Youth Service Week

- 9:00 a.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Camp**
- 1:00 p.m. **Junior Jam Basketball Extended Camp**

SATURDAY, JUNE 30 | 2 MARK 5:25-34

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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