



ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Second Sunday in Lent

MARCH 1, 2015
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We're glad you're here! Thank you for joining us today. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804, when our church was formed to minister to the Native American and European settlers in Athens. 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." At Athens First United Methodist, there are many ways to get involved, grow in your faith, and do good in our community.

If you are unable to attend worship in person, each Sunday our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WRFC 960 AM, and our 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services are live-streamed on our website at athensfirstumc.org/webcast.

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through four-year-olds on Sundays from 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The nursery area is located on the first floor of the building, off the Washington Street entrance.

Children

Worship activity bags (age appropriate for all preschool and elementary children) are available every Sunday in the narthex and by the south entrance of the sanctuary. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through second grade and follows the Children's Message during 11:00 a.m. worship all Sundays except for Communion Sundays.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for all ages, kindergarten through adult, each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool.

Connect

We are blessed to have a large congregation. Because of this, we offer many programs and ministries. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to get involved. If you would like a buddy to guide you along this process, please notify a Helper. Helpers serve as part of our Welcome Ministry team. Look for them in the narthex or near the altar. You can also contact a Helper through our website athensfirstumc.org/helper.

Another great way to learn about the life of our church is through attending a Newcomer Orientation held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11 a.m. We also encourage you to visit our website, athensfirstumc.org, for information about our ministries, to register for events, and to listen to sermons from our sermon archive. Visit athensfirstumc.org/thesteeples to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athens_firstumc on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 706-543-1442.

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks or sings the text in **bold type**.

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of E. Pierce Arant, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Andela and family.

Gathering

THE PRELUDE

“Wondrous Love” | Lachenauer

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Martha Aenchbacher

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

9:45 & 11:00 a.m. “Lamb of God” | Christiansen

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 549

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” | ST. ANNE

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our great shepherd,

you tenderly gather us as lambs,

carrying us with your all-embracing love.

Yet, like sheep, we wander from you:

following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions.

Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust.

Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy

and restore our souls by your redeeming love.

Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely,

through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray. Amen.

* THE KYRIE



Translation: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Beth Dickinson

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 OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 a.m. “Kindness” | Chris Tomlin

Open up the skies of mercy and rain down the cleansing flood. Healing waters rise around us. Hear our cries, Lord, let them rise. It's Your kindness, Lord, that leads us to repentance. Your favor, Lord, is our desire. It's Your beauty, Lord, that makes us stand in silence. Your love, Your love, is better than life. We can feel Your mercy falling. You are turning our hearts back again. Hear our praises rise to heaven. Draw us near, Lord, meet us here.

9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. “Ave Verum” | Nicholas White

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Rachael Fischer, violin; Lucas Scalamagna, violin; Rebecca Floyd, viola; Ana Abrantes, cello; Chris Enghauser, bass

Translation: Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, Who has truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mortals, Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood: Be for us a foretaste (of heaven) during our final examining. O Jesu sweet, O Jesu pure, O Jesu, Son of Mary, have mercy upon me. Amen.

- * **THE DOXOLOGY | THE OLD 100th**
Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

2 SAMUEL 9:1-11

One day David asked, “Is anyone in Saul’s family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” He summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul’s servants. “Are you Ziba?” the king asked. “Yes sir, I am,” Ziba replied. The king then asked him, “Is anyone still

alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them." Ziba replied, "Yes, one of Jonathan's sons is still alive. He is crippled in both feet." "Where is he?" the king asked. "In Lo-debar," Ziba told him, "at the home of Makir son of Ammiel." So David sent for him and brought him from Makir's home. His name was Mephibosheth; he was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson. When he came to David, he bowed low to the ground in deep respect. David said, "Greetings, Mephibosheth." Mephibosheth replied, "I am your servant." "Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!" Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?" Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master's household. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will eat here at my table." (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.) Ziba replied, "Yes, my lord the king; I am your servant, and I will do all that you have commanded." And from that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly at David's table, like one of the king's own sons.

THE SERMON

"An Act of Kindness" | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 station in the front of the altar.

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. In love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, your love remained steadfast. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy, we may come to the fullness of grace that you have prepared for those who love you. 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, whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in our likeness. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. He took upon himself our sin and death and offered himself, a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. By the baptism of his 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. 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." 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 God, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

9:45 a.m. “Lead Me to Calvary” arr. Dobrinski

Rung by the Alleluia Ringers

11:00 a.m. “The Lamb” arr. Hansen/Behnke

Rung by the Carillon Ringers

Sending Forth

* **THE HYMN 557**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” | DENNIS

* **THE BLESSING**

* **THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

“Lead Me Lord” | S.S. Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ - teous-ness;
5
make thy way plain be - fore my face.
9
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord on - ly that
13
mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

* **POSTLUDE**

“Glory Be to Jesus” | Hobby

FEBRUARY USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal, Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowrey, Jim Lyons, Candler Meadors, Olan Moore, Bob Noble, Grace Rabek, Ken Reece, Keith Wilson, Michael and Sharon Broun

9:45 a.m. Chris Bostdorff, Tom Cooper, David and Jane Disney, Mark Ellison, Mark Firth, Tom Hedges, Dan Lasseeter, Jim Lyons, Sharon Milton, Tom Milton,

Al Rogers, Bill Trigleth, Michelle and Reeves McNeill

11:00 a.m. Mark Graham, Mike McCord, Charlie Upchurch III, Allan Hixon, Mason McWhorter, Gene Deal, Jim Lyons

OFFERING STEWARDS

Bob Booth, Charlie Grimes, Jim Lyons, Nat Carmack, Henry Garrard, Nathan King, Al Hawley, Sean Rogers, Charlie Upchurch III

GREETERS

Joye and Jerry Baker, Kate and Ryan Brinson, Alex and Marty Keller, Victor Wilson, Dianne Wall, Mason Jones, Virginia Beth Butler, Annie Miller

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Kate McDonald, Toby Chapeau, Lili Hollis, Anna Hollis

9:45 a.m. Cate Hardman, Anna Marian Block, Morgan Grace, Abbi Merhar

11:00 a.m. Jackson Keene, Sydney Bell, Meg Chandler

ATTENDANCE ON FEBRUARY 22

Total Worship | 1,367

Sunday School | 532

8:30 a.m. | 182

9:45 a.m. | 432

11:00 a.m. | 628

Online | 125

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$498,345

Goal for February | \$198,215

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$179,856

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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Variety Show “Love is in the Air”

March 1

5:00 p.m. | Hancock Hall

Presented by

Wesleyan Youth Choir

In Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Doc Eldridge and family in the loss of his mother, Jane Eldridge, on February 17.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Terri Tucker and family in the loss of her mother, Sally Tucker, on February 23 in Athens, Georgia.

Baptism

Nora Catherine O'Neill received the Sacrament of Baptism on February 22 in our sanctuary. Nora is the daughter of Amy and Shane O'Neill, and the granddaughter of Caroline and Ted Ridlehuber.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Amelia Wilson and Brandon Simmons who were married in our sanctuary on February 21.

Wesleyan Youth Choir Variety Show March 1

Join us at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, as the Wesleyan Youth Choir hosts our church's annual Variety Show! This year's theme is *Love is in the Air*. Warm and fuzzy feelings will abound as talented musical groups of all ages sing about love! Songs you know and love will be performed by friends and familiar faces—it's a night you won't want to miss! No tickets or reservations are required; a love offering will be taken to help offset the cost of the Wesleyan Youth Choir's Summer Choir Tour to St. Louis. We hope to see you there!

Janis Maxwell | janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Souper Supper | Thursdays

We have had a blast working together to feed and serve 150-200+ community guests each Thursday night at Souper Supper. Guests arrive on Thursday afternoon and receive two items for personal or home care, a warm meal, and loving hospitality. Volunteers are always welcome to help extend hospitality, and the items guests receive are provided by our church family through donations. We accept many donations (please visit online to see a full

list), but the store is especially in need of warm gloves and hats. Donations may be brought to the basket behind the reception desk. Thank you for your generosity!

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/souper supper

Wednesday Night Meal

The meal for March 4 is from Fresh Air Bar-B-Que. Meals are \$5 each. Advance dinner orders are required. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. Contact Diana to make a standing/regular reservation. Take-out boxes will be available if you have to eat and run, or run and then eat! You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal, and volunteers eat free!

Order | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Diana Zylow | diana@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Blood Drive | March 29

Help save 3 lives by donating blood at Athens First United Methodist on Sunday, March 29. Save 6 lives by bringing a friend, save 9 lives by bringing two friends! The blood drive will be from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Sign up for a donation appointment online by visiting the American Red Cross website, and enter our sponsor code AFUMC. Volunteers are needed to run the canteen and registration; contact Geoff to volunteer.

Geoff Hill | glhill_42@yahoo.com

Job Opening | Program Assistant

A full-time church program assistant position for Music Ministry and Missions is available. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please visit our church website for more information and to apply.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/employment

Erika Bates | erika@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Day of Prayer

Over 200 individuals participated in the annual Ash Wednesday Day of Prayer. It is truly powerful to come together as a church body to pray! The prayer guide remains online for you to be used throughout the year.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/prayerguide
Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Children's Soccer

Boys and girls ages 3-6 are invited to join us for our spring season, March through May 2015. All teams are coed. Practices and games will take place at Clarke Central High School on Saturday mornings. Please visit our webpage for program information and to register! Registration will close on March 11.

Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Devotional Studies | Join Anytime

Devotional studies and small groups are open to new members at any time, with no commitment--come as you are able! There is no need to register, no homework, and no materials necessary. Books are available for purchase as requested. Offered on Mondays at 1:15 p.m. is the Monday "Disciplines" Bible study, which reads scriptures and passages from the "Disciplines" daily devotional. On Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. is the "Jesus Calling" Express Study, which reads from the popular "Jesus Calling" devotional. These two groups offer an opportunity to pause and reflect with others on Christ during the busyness of the week.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/devotionalstudies
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Newcomer Orientation | March 8

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation on Sunday, March 8, in Hancock Hall. Two sessions are offered, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. You can learn more about Athens First United Methodist including ways to get involved and how to become a member.

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Easter Lilies

Lilies will once again be placed on our altar for Easter Sunday Services. They may be purchased for \$13 each in memory or in honor of a loved one. Orders with payment must be received at the church office by Monday, March

16. Lilies may be picked up on Easter Sunday, April 5, after the 11:00 worship service, or on Monday, April 6.

Cookie Daniel | cookieed@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Creating the Covenant Spring Session

While your youth are in Encounter, join Callie Waller and Carla Pennell for Creating the Covenant (C1) Bible study, where we will strengthen our relationships with God and our families. Even if you do not have children in youth, you're welcome to join this session! Class includes discussion, reflection, and a short video from a Biblical scholar. There is about fifteen minutes of daily Bible reading for the class. Led by Callie Waller and Carla Pennell, this study will begin on Sunday, March 8, at 5:45 p.m. Class will end with time to pick up your kids from youth! The book cost is \$20.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/covenant
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Trusting the Covenant | March 2015

The third session of the Covenant (C3) series, Trusting God, looks at trusting God when bad things happen. Anyone is invited to join a session if you are interested in exploring trusting God no matter the circumstances of life. You do not necessarily need to have taken C1 and/or C2 before taking C3. This eight-week small group has sessions offered on Wednesdays beginning March 18 at 9:15, 5:30, and 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays beginning March 17 at 6:30 p.m. The book cost is \$20.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/covenant
Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Great Day of Service | May 2

Help us make this the Greatest Day Of Service yet! Projects are family-friendly and will be located here at Athens First United Methodist and throughout the community. On May 2, we will gather for breakfast and communion at 7:30 a.m. and then head out together to share the love of Christ. Childcare is provided for children four and under. There is a place for everyone to serve!

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/gdos
Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

May 2, 2015 | 7:30 a.m.
athensfirstumc.org/gdos

This Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | GENESIS 17:1-7

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Young Professional Adult Sunday School Class ROOM 224
- 12:00 p.m. **Tijuana Team Meeting** ROOM 125
- 2:00 p.m. **Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors Meeting** HULL DINING ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1** SCOUT HUT
- 4:30 p.m. **Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:00 p.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Variety Show** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 7:00 p.m. **Pick-up Volleyball** GYM

MONDAY, MARCH 2 | PSALM 22:23-31

- 9:30 a.m. **United Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting** ROOM 226
- 1:15 p.m. **Monday Bible Study** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 5:30 p.m. **Trustees Meeting** HULL DINING ROOM
UGA Wesley Foundation Dance ROOM 301
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class** CHAPEL

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 | ROMANS 4:13-25

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:00 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council** YOUTH AREA
- 1:00 p.m. **REACH International Leadership Meeting** ROOM 226
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 6:30 p.m. **Living the Covenant | C2** ROOM 224
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts | Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 | MARK 8:31-38

- 7:00 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 9:15 a.m. **Living the Covenant | C2** ROOM 224
- 9:30 a.m. **Letters of Paul | Wednesday Morning Bible Study** HULL DINING ROOM
Beth Moore Study | Children of the Day ROOM 229
- 12:30 p.m. **Beth Moore Study | Children of the Day** ROOM 229
- 3:30 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 4:30 p.m. **Children's Choir Grades 1 & 2** ROOM 151
Worship Arts Grades 3 & 4 ROOM 322

- Children's Dance Class** ROOM 145
Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200
4:45 p.m. Early Book Group ROOM 100
5:00 p.m. Route 56 GPS ROOMS 120-122
Wednesday Night Meal HANCOCK HALL
5:15 p.m. Children's Choir: 3 yr old, 4 yr old, Kindergarten, Grades 3 & 4
Worship Arts Grades 1 & 2
Power Yoga ROOM 114
5:30 p.m. Men's Prayer Group ROOM 307
Living the Covenant | C2 ROOM 229
Sams Connect Group ROOM 301
6:00 p.m. The Psalm Tree Connect Group ROOM 100
One Student Ministries | Engage Bible Study YOUTH AREA
6:30 p.m. Allen/Anderson Connect Group ROOM 307
Creating the Covenant | C1 ROOM 247
Lenten Study: *The God We Can Know* JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
Living the Covenant | C2 ROOM 222
Living the Covenant | C2 ROOM 224
Men's Study: *The Truth Project* ROOM 240
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 | DANIEL 3:19-30

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness** GYM
9:00 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting ROOM 100
9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Souper Supper HANCOCK HALL | SERVING AREA
5:00 p.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
5:30 p.m. Adult Softball BISHOP PARK
6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 | DANIEL 12:1-4

- Fashion Fitness** GYM
5:30 p.m. REACH International Bible Study and Dinner YOUTH AREA
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | ISAIAH 55:1-9

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