



ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 15, 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**.

Gathering

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ann and Arthur Jarrell by Fran and Richard Lane and Kitty and Frank Meyran.

THE PRELUDE

Meditation on “The Old Rugged Cross” | Bradshaw

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Betsy Butler

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

9:45 & 11:00 a.m. “Lamb of God” | Christiansen
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

The flowers in the narthex today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Officer Buddy Christian by Melissa, Callie, and Wyatt Christian.

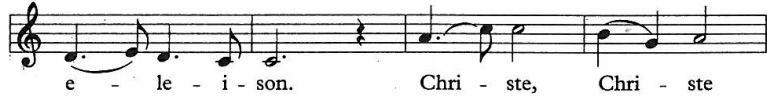
* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 605

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” | BEACH SPRING

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
whose mercy is higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
and deeper than all our sin:
receive again your bewildered and broken people.
Forgive the folly of our ways, the excess of our habits,
our coldness to human sorrow,
and our passion for things of the moment.
Change our hearts and turn all our desires to your way,
that we may love what you love and do what you command;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* THE KYRIE



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

* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS | 11:00 a.m.

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.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in kindergarten through second grade will go to W.O.W. in the Caravans room on the third floor. Parents are to pick up children from the Caravans room at the end of the service.

Proclamation of the Word

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 a.m. "The Old Rugged Cross" | Bradshaw

9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Arise, My Soul Arise" | Forrest

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Lucas Scalamagna, violin

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears; the bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears; before the throne my Surety stands, my name is written on His hands. Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary; they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me: "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Nor let that ransomed sinner die!" My God is reconciled, His pardoning voice I hear; He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear. With confidence I now draw nigh, and "Father, Abba, Father," cry. Arise, my soul, arise.

- * **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

ROMANS 6:1-11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

THE SERMON

“A New You” | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION | 8:30 a.m.

Please turn to page 9 in our hymnal. 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 communion elements are available at the stations in the front of the sanctuary.

Sending Forth

* THE HYMN 292

“What Wondrous Love Is This” | WONDROUS LOVE

* THE BLESSING

* **THE CHORAL 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.

* **POSTLUDE**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” | Hobby

Sermon Notes

MARCH 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 Lasseter, 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

Nicki and Donnie Goodwin, Kasey and Bill Clayton, Melanie and Allan Hixon, Lorie and Mark Petersen, Larson Block, Anna Alyssa McKoy, Lucy Frierson

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Dylan Wyrick, Peyton Shedd, Jaden Drudge

9:45 a.m. Jack and Barrett McClanahan, Madeline Jackson, Tommy Chambers

11:00 a.m. Reese Trigleth, James Chesser, Glynn Chesser

ATTENDANCE ON MARCH 8

Total Worship | 798

Sunday School | 303

8:30 a.m. | 121

9:45 a.m. | 266

11:00 a.m. | 411

Online | 139

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$641,468

Goal for March | \$221,820

Amount after 1 Sunday | \$74,959

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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HOLY WEEK



*"Return to the Lord, your God for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."*

—Joel 2:13

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. We prepare through reflection, repentance, and refocusing our hearts and minds on Christ. The season traditionally begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through until Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday

March 29, 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

This is a day marking the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. The Children's Music Ministry and Sunday school will lead us in the procession of the palms. As the service turns to focus on the Passion of Christ, the Sanctuary Choir will present Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* accompanied by a full orchestra.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 6:30 p.m.

On this day we remember the last supper of Jesus with the Apostles in the upper room. The word Maundy is derived from *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase Jesus used as he washed the disciples' feet. His instruction is recorded in John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." We will commemorate this evening with a special service of Holy Communion.

Good Friday

April 3, 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' arrest in Gethsemane, his trial, crucifixion, and ultimately his death. This day is devoted to remembering the agony Jesus endured because of his love for us. We will remember during a meaningful service that features the Passion reading, a sermon, and special music.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

On this day we acknowledge that the stone sealing the tomb of Jesus was rolled away, and the tomb was empty. This is a day of joyous celebration over the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will celebrate the glorious resurrection with a special sunrise service at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Our traditional service times will include joyful worship with brass, special music, and a sermon from Chuck Hodges in the sanctuary.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Kristen and Jordan Byce on the birth of their son, Cason Lee, on March 6.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Jenny Coleman and family in the loss of her father, Frederick Coleman, on March 7 in Hilton Head, South Carolina.



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!

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

Creating the Covenant Spring Session

Join Callie Waller and Carla Pennell for Creating the Covenant (C1) Bible study, where we will strengthen our relationships with God and our families. 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 meet each Sunday evening from 5:45-7:15 p.m! The book cost is \$20.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/covenant

Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Wednesday Night Meal

The meal for March 18 is a taco bar from Barberitos. 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



Roaring Like a Lion

Roaring Like a Lion is a four-week series for youth (grades 7-12). Fledge Fiamingo from Son Safaris will continue speaking at our Sunday night Encounter program on March 15, 22, and 29 to share about his adventures as a former safari ranger, the war between lions and hyenas, and how all of this relates to our walk as Christians. Join us this week! Josh Miles | josh@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 | cookied@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Youth Sunday | March 22

Join us for Youth Sunday on March 22! The youth and the Wesleyan Youth Choir will be leading the 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. worship services that morning. For more information, contact Josh Miles.

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



Volunteers Needed at Snack and Chat March 20

On Friday, March 20, REACH International will host a Snack and Chat: Spring Fling in Hancock Hall at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to offer hospitality and to help serve

the meal. Contact Lynn for more information. Thanks so much for your support...it makes a world of difference!
Lynn Bryant | lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Preschool Summer Camps

AFUMC's Weekday Preschool is offering three weeks of Summer Camp: *Color My World*, May 18-22; *Mighty Machines*, June 1-5; and *All Creatures of Our God and King*, June 8-12. Camps run Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon. The cost is \$115 per child and camp is open to children ages 2 on or before December 31, 2014, through children who just completed pre-k. Early bird and sibling discounts are available. Registration forms are on our webpage or may be emailed upon request.

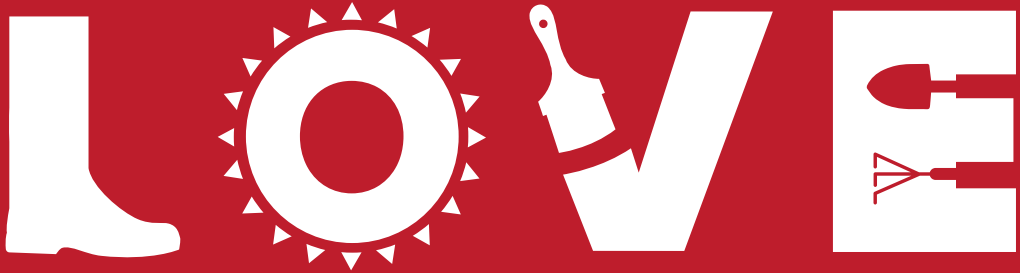
Laura Lowery | preschool@athensfirstumc.org | 706-340-5097

Music and Arts Week | June 9-11

Our annual Music and Arts camp will be held June 9-11. Children currently in kindergarten through grade four are invited to participate as we learn ways to be hearers and doers of the Word. We will use our hands, feet, mouths, and whole bodies to praise God! Throughout the day children will rotate through classes in drumming with song, "step" body percussion, and instrument-making along with other traditions like daily Chapel and missions times. Our clinician is James Wells from Brentwood UMC in Nashville, TN. The cost is \$30 per child (\$40 after May 10). Registration ends May 31.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek

Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org



MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES



Upcoming Opportunities with Missions

Service Week

Blood Drive

Mobile Food Pantry

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Souper Supper

athensfirstumc.org/missions

AFUMC Service Week

March 23-29

During AFUMC Service Week, March 23-29, there are numerous projects for individuals and groups to participate in. Come individually, serve with new friends, or serve with your Sunday school class, Bible study, small group, or United Methodist Women circle. Projects include cleaning the sanctuary, cleaning the altar, serving at the blood drive, and more. We are looking forward to working together in this season of Lent to prepare our sanctuary and serve together in the time leading to Holy Week. If you or your group would like to participate in our March AFUMC Service Week, please contact Betsy Butler for a project to join. Service days and times are flexible, and can be scheduled to be convenient for you and/or your group. Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Blood Drive | March 29

Help save three lives by donating blood at Athens First United Methodist on Sunday, March 29. Save six lives by bringing a friend; save nine 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 | ghill_42@yahoo.com

Host Week for Interfaith Hospitality Network | March 22-29

We are seeking evening hosts (6:30-8:00 p.m.) and overnight hosts (8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.) who are willing to come to the church and offer hospitality to families who will be staying as our guests for the week of March 22-29. If you have any questions about what these volunteer opportunities may involve, please contact Taylor Miller. The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) provides services and coordinates temporary housing for displaced families in local host churches. There will be a volunteer training on March 29 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. for anyone who volunteers with IHN or is interested in being a volunteer. Taylor Miller | miller3750@bellsouth.net | 404-272-0418

Mobile Food Pantry | March 28

One Saturday a month, ten thousand pounds of food are delivered to our church for us to distribute to people in need in our community. You and your family are invited to serve on Saturday, March 28. Volunteers help with set up at 8:00 a.m., distribution begins about 9:00 a.m., and we finish around 11:00 a.m. Children can serve with parents (they must stay with you at all times).

Jon Mills | jon@mills.net

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!

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

Senior Fun | March 26

Our February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. It's time to re-group for what should surely be one of the most enjoyable programs in recent years. One of the finest baritone voices in collegiate ranks today will join our March program. Isaiah Feken received his Bachelor of Music magna cum laude in vocal performance from Tulsa University in 2014. While at Tulsa, Isaiah won first prize in the Laven Sowell Collegiate Vocal Competition and was a semi-finalist in the 2013 Orpheus Vocal Competition and the 2014 Naftzger Young Artists audition. He is a first year master's student in vocal performance at UGA and a graduate assistant in opera. Following another delicious lunch, Isaiah will have the entire program. This time, if you're not in the 50s plus age bracket but happen to be a lover of great music, you are invited to attend the March 26 luncheon/program at 12:30 p.m. Please register by calling the church office as early as possible, but no later than noon on Wednesday, March 25.

Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097

This Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | NUMBERS 21:4-9

- 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
Newcomer Orientation HANCOCK HALL
- 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
- 11:30 a.m. **Children's Church** CHAPEL
- 3:30 p.m. **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** MUSIC SUITE
- 3:45 p.m. **Agape Choir** ROOM 148
- 4:30 p.m. **Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
Route 56 Open Road ROOM 120
Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 4:45 p.m. **Living the Covenant | C2** ROOM 224
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. **Creating the Covenant (C1) | Spring Session** ROOM 103
Encounter YOUTH AREA
- 7:00 p.m. **Pick-up Volleyball** GYM

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | PSALM 107: 1-3

- 9:30 a.m. **United Methodist Women Circle 3 Meeting**
- 10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Circle 1 Meeting** ROOM 100
- 11:30 a.m. **United Methodist Women Circle 6 Luncheon** HULL DINING ROOM
- 1:15 p.m. **Monday Bible Study** ROOM 235
- 5:30 p.m. **UGA Wesley Foundation Dance** ROOM 301
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class**

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | EPHESIANS 2:1-10

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:00 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council** YOUTH AREA
- 10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Circle 7 Meeting** HULL DINING ROOM
- 1:00 p.m. **REACH International Leadership Meeting** ROOM 226
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts | Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | JOHN 3:14-21

- 7:00 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 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. Power Yoga ROOM 114
- Children's Choir: 3 yr old, 4 yr old, Kindergarten, Grades 3 & 4
- Worship Arts Grades 1 & 2 ROOM 322
- 5:30 p.m. Men's Prayer Group ROOM 307
- Sams Connect Group ROOM 301
- Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 229
- 6:00 p.m. The Psalm Tree Connect Group ROOM 100
- One Student Ministries | Engage Bible Study YOUTH AREA
- Immanuel Project ROOM 125
- 6:30 p.m. Allen/Anderson Connect Group ROOM 307
- Lenten Study: *The God We Can Know* JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
- Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 224
- Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 222
- 8:00 p.m. Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 222
- Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 | ISAIAH 43:1-7

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study
- 2:00 p.m. District Mentoring Group ROOM 224
- 5:00 p.m. Souper Supper HANCOCK HALL
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Softball BISHOP PARK
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsal

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 | ISAIAH 43:8-15

- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness GYM
- 6:30 p.m. REACH International Snack and Chat: Easter Celebration HANCOCK HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | EXODUS 12:21-27

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Soccer GYM

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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