

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Palm Sunday

MARCH 29, 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 greenery for Palm Sunday is placed on the altar to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild.

THE PRELUDE

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!” | Burkhardt

THE WELCOME

THE SCRIPTURE

MARK 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Praise & Thanksgiving

* **THE PROCESSION OF THE PALMS**

Hymn 278 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” | ELLACOMBE

9:45 & 11:00

THE ANTHEM

“Hallelujah! Sing Hosanna!” | Hebrew Folk Song, arr. Glenn Eernisse

9:45 Sung by the Lyric and Celebrate Choirs

11:00 Sung by the Sunday School Children

THE HYMN

Hymn 280 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” | verses 1 - 3

THE ANTHEM

“Look Who’s Coming!” | Michael Bedford

Sung by the Lyric and Celebrate; Cathy Felton and Sylvia Arant, accompanist; Jennifer Golden, intern;

Samantha Harvel, youth assistant

THE HYMN

Hymn 280 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” | verses 4 - 5

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

**you rode a donkey and came in peace,
humbled yourself and gave yourself for us.**

We confess our lack of humility.

As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted, “Hosanna: ‘Save us now!’”

On Good Friday they shouted, “Crucify!”

We confess our praise is often empty.

We sing, “Hosanna,” but cry, “Crucify!”

**As the crowd laid their palm branches in front of you,
you took no glory for yourself.**

We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way.

We do not stay true to your will.

Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of obedience. Amen.

*** THE KYRIE**

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i -
son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste
e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

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

THE OFFERING

“The Only Son From Heaven” | Burkhardt

THE MESSAGE

Chuck Hodges

Requiem for the Living

by Dan Forrest

The music has been placed in the choir library and the orchestra funded to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents by the Jeremiah 29:11 Music Fund.

INTROIT - KYRIE

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Hear my prayer,
for unto Thee all flesh shall come.
Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy.*

VANITAS VANITATUM

Vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas!
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.
Lacrimosa,
et locutus est, pereat dies in qua natus sum.

*Vanity of vanities, all is vanity! (from Ecclesiastes)
Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest.
Full of tears, (from the Dies Irae)
[he said] Let the day perish wherein I was born.
(from Job 3:2-3)*

AGNUS DEI

Esther Toney, soprano;
Thomas Jones, boy soprano
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis, dona eis requiem.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem, miserere nobis,
dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace; have mercy on us;
grant them rest.*

SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!

*Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!*

LUX AETERNA

*Esther Tonea, soprano; Cameron Stahl, tenor;
Thomas Jones, boy soprano*

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine:
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum: quia pius es.
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Come unto me,
all ye who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Dona nobis pacem.

*May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord,
in the company of Thy saints forever: for Thou art merciful.
Let perpetual light shine on them.*

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Grant us peace.*

* THE BLESSING

O R C H E S T R A

Violin I

Lucas Scalamogna, Pedro Miszewski da Roza,
Moises Cunha

Violin II

Elizabeth Ehrlich, Minhye Park, Ben Lo

Viola

Rebecca Floyd, Ryan McDonald

Cello

Ana Abrantes, Lauren Hunt

Bass

Chris Enghauser

Flute

Lisa Bartholow, Amelia Dicks

Oboe

Elizabeth Fleissner, Holly Behre

Clarinet

Amandy Araujo, Hannah Pearson

Bassoon

Matthew Huff, Darby Woodling

Trumpet

Chris Heldt, Geoff Wood

Horn

Peter Riggs, Joel Ockerman

Trombone

Austin Blake, Kevin Schoeller, Christopher Brown

Percussion

Lauren Floyd

Harp

Monica Hargrave

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

Ben Butler, Bo Griffith, Bo Allen, Joye and Jerry Baker, Nicki and Donnie Goodwin, Susan and Steve Greer, Lisa Huggins, Jack Miller, Marty and Mitch Mitchell, Sharon Sellars, Jeanne Stevens, Dianne Wall

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Sydney Bell, Cole Reynolds, Isaac Ward

9:45 a.m. Walt Chapeau, Reagan Grace, Mary Martin Harper

11:00 a.m. Evan Williams, Hayley Whitmore, Sammy Hodges

ATTENDANCE ON MARCH 22

Total Worship | 1,260

Sunday School | 408

8:30 a.m. | 202

9:45 a.m. | 386

11:00 a.m. | 565

Online | 107

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$703,897

Goal for March | \$221,820

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$137,229

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.

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.

Baptisms

William Fielding Moore received the Sacrament of Baptism on March 22 in our sanctuary. Fielding is the son of Lauren and David Moore and the grandson of Carolyn and Henry Garrard.

Maryn Claire McElhannon received the Sacrament of Baptism on March 22 in our sanctuary. Maryn is the daughter of Rosemary and Joel McElhannon.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Ginny and Justin Ingels on the birth of their daughter, Arabel Josephine, on March 18.



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

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.

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



Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, April 1, will be Fresh Air BBQ. 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

Please Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our mission partners Pedro and his wife Denia of the Methodist Church in Gibara, Cuba. Pedro and Denia have hosted mission teams from Athens First United Methodist in Cuba for the past three years, and we now have the opportunity to share our love by hosting them in Athens, Georgia. They will be our guests from March 19-April 3. For more information contact Betsy Butler.

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



Desserts for REACH International | Friday Nights

The international students really enjoy homemade desserts at their Friday night Bible study! This is a simple way to serve our international students! If you are willing to provide a dessert for 30 students on a Friday night, please sign up for a date online. You may also want to include a recipe with your dessert so the students can try it themselves later. Most don't know how to bake but are eager to learn! Lynn Bryant | lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Blood Drive | Today

Help save three lives by donating blood at Athens First United Methodist today. 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 the gym. Sign up for a donation appointment online by contacting Diana Zylow. Volunteers are needed to run the canteen and registration; contact Geoff to volunteer.

Contact: Geoff Hill | ghill_42@yahoo.com or Diana Zylow | diana@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Easter Egg Hunt

All families are invited to celebrate Easter with us at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 3:00 p.m. on April 4! The hunt will take place at the field in front of 320 Dogwood Drive located in the Glenwood neighborhood in Five Points. Detailed directions can be found on the webpage listed below. Please donate one dozen filled eggs per child attending (no chocolate please!). Eggs can be dropped off at the church office any time before Wednesday, April 1. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/easteregg hunt Ashley Gottschalk | ashley@athensfirstumc.org



Music & 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.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek



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 camps are open to children ages 2 on or before December 31, 2014, through children who just completed pre-K. Early bird and sibling discounts available. Registration forms are on our webpage or may be emailed upon request.

Susan Brodrick | preschool@athensfirstumc.org
706-340-5097

Donate | Children's Consignment Sale

As you are packing up holiday clothes and cleaning out closets, please consider donating your gently used children's items to be sold at the third annual Children's Consignment Sale August 14-15. Proceeds from the consignment sale will go towards "Imagine No Malaria," a mission project of the United Methodist Conference. Items to consider donating include: gently used fall and winter children's clothes in good to excellent/new condition, sizes three months to youth 16; toys in good condition and complete with all pieces; books and DVDs; bedding (quilts, blankets, sheets); miscellaneous baby and child supplies, furniture, saucers, bouncy seats, swings, pack and plays, and strollers; and maternity clothes. Please

bring donations to the church Monday-Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to Diana Zylow's office, behind the reception desk. On weekends, a drop-box is located near the gym. Donations will be accepted through July. Donation receipts are available upon request. Interested in consigning? Registration for consignors will open in Spring 2015, and there is a \$10 fee. Please contact Diana Zylow with questions or to register.

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



Job Openings

We are now accepting applications for two administrative positions that will begin in mid-July. Both positions, the Administrative Assistant to Children and the Administrative Assistant to Adults, are full-time. Work hours are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please visit our webpage for more information and to apply. Applications will be accepted through May.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/employment

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

Save the Date

Sunday, May 3

Hancock Hall

10:45 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.



2014 Celebration Brunch Recap

260+ people served | 40+ baskets auctioned

\$10,000 raised

This Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 | MARK 11:1-11

- 7:00 a.m. **Blood Drive** GYM
- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
Worship Service SANCTUARY
- 9:45 a.m. **Adult Sunday School** SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel YOUTH AREA
Worship Service SANCTUARY
Youth Sunday School: First Word YOUTH AREA
- 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** HANCOCK HALL
- 12:00 p.m. **IHN Volunteer Training** ROOM 222
- 2:00 p.m. **Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors Meeting** HULL DINING ROOM
- 3:45 p.m. **Agape Choir** ROOM 148
- 4:30 p.m. **Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 4:45 a.m. **Living the Covenant (C2)** ROOM 224
- 5:30 a.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 a.m. **Creating the Covenant (C1) | Spring Session** ROOM 103
Encounter YOUTH AREA
- 6:30 p.m. **Young Life Leader Commissioning** HANCOCK HALL
- 7:00 p.m. **Pick-up Volleyball** GYM

MONDAY, MARCH 30 | PSALM 118: 1-2, 19-29

- 10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Nurturing Committee** 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 31 | ISAIAH 50:4-9A

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 1:00 p.m. **REACH International Leadership Meeting** ROOM 226
- 5:30 p.m. **PM Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 7:00 p.m. **PM Boy Scouts | Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 | PSALM 31:9-16

- 9:30 a.m. Letters of Paul | Wednesday Morning Bible Study HULL DINING ROOM
- 3:30 a.m. Fun Gym GYM
- 4:30 a.m. Children's Choir: Grades 1 & 2
Worship Arts: Grades 3 & 4
Children's Dance Class ROOM 145
- 4:45 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200
- 5:00 p.m. Early Book Group ROOM 100
- 5:15 p.m. Route 56 GPS ROOMS 120-122
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
Sams Connect Group ROOM 301
Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 229
- 6:00 p.m. The Psalm Tree Connect Group ROOM 100
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 ROOM 235
Men's Study: The Truth Project ROOM 240
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 224
Trusting the Covenant | C3 ROOM 226
- 8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 | PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

- 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Souper Supper Hancock Hall | SERVING AREA
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Softball BISHOP PARK
- 6:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball League GYM
- 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service SANCTUARY

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 | MARK 14:1-15:47

- Office Closed
- 2:00 p.m. Good Friday Service SANCTUARY

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 | LUKE 22:1-13

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Athens First United Methodist Church

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