

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outlines. Two fish are in the upper left, and one is in the lower right. They are connected by thick red lines that form a partial frame around the central text. There are also two solid red circles: one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

# ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MARCH 5, 2017  
8:30, 9:45, & 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.

## *Newcomer Orientation*

We invite you to learn about the life of our church, ways you can get involved, and how to become a member by attending Newcomer Orientation, which is held the second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

## *Sunday School*

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

## *Financial Report*

Budget for 2017 | \$3,038,381

Amount Given YTD | \$497,850

Goal for February | \$227,197

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$136,735

## *Attendance on February 26*

Total Worship | 1388

8:30 a.m. | 210

9:45 a.m. | 483

11:00 a.m. | 580

Online | 115

Sunday School | 399

## *Table of Contents*

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- 5 9:45 & 11:00 a.m. Order of Worship
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## *Ministers and Directors*

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister

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

**Martha Aenchbacher** Minister of Congregational Care

[martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org) | 678-230-9708

**Beth Dickinson** Minister of Discipleship

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**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions

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**Bob Winstead** Executive Director of Administration

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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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8:30 a.m.

## PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace” | John Newton

### *Flowers*

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

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sidney and Myrtice Dickerson by their daughter, Dianne D. Wall.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Aenchbacher

PSALM 32:1-5 | P. 479 OLD TESTAMENT

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”; then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 269 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” | LAND OF REST

## \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Prayer of Confession

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Words of Pardon and Assurance

## Lyrics Translation

Lord have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy.

## \*KYRIE

"Kyrie" | Will Schmid

Repeated sections are sung first by the leader and then by all.

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

6  
le - - - i - son.  
le - - - i - son.  
le - - - i - son.

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bob Winstead

**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 OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Wayfaring Stranger" | Traditional

## \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 "Praise God Throughout These Forty Days" | 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.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 23:39-43 | P. 84 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem Lyrics

I'm just a poor wayfaring  
stranger traveling through  
this world of woe, yet  
there's no sickness, toil  
nor danger in that fair land  
to which I go. I'm going  
there to see my Father.  
I'm going there no more to  
roam. I am just going o'er  
Jordan. I am just going o'er  
home. I know dark clouds  
will gather 'round me. I  
know my way is rough  
and steep, yet beauteous  
fields lie out before me  
where God's redeemed,  
their vigils keep. I'm going  
there to see my mother.  
She said she'd meet me  
when I come. I'm just  
a-going over Jordan  
I'm just a-going over  
home.

## SERMON

“Today You Will Be with Me” | Bob Winstead

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 528 “Nearer, My God, to Thee” | BETHANY

**Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me, still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Betsy Butler and Martha Aenchbacher

MATTHEW 26:17-19, 26-29

### Receiving of the Elements of Communion

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 center station in the front of the sanctuary.

### *Song Lyrics*

When I fear my faith will  
fail, Christ will hold me  
fast. When the tempter  
would prevail, He will  
hold me fast. I could  
never keep my hold  
through life's fearful path  
for my love is often cold.  
He must hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast. He  
will hold me fast for my  
Savior loves me so. He  
will hold me fast. Those  
He saves are His delight  
- Christ will hold me fast -  
precious in His holy sight.  
He will hold me fast. He'll  
not let my soul be lost.  
His promises shall last.  
Bought by Him at such  
a cost. He will hold me  
fast. For my life He bled  
and died. Christ will hold  
me fast. Justice has been  
satisfied. He will hold me  
fast. Raised with Him to  
endless life - He will hold  
me fast - 'til our faith is  
turned to sight when he  
comes at last.

### Music During Communion

“He Will Hold Me Fast” | Ada Habershon and Matt Merker

### Prayer After Receiving Communion

## \*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 521 “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” | SOJOURNER

**I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

## \*BLESSING

## \*POSTLUDE

“O Love Divine” | Traditional

# The Worship of God

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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 E. Pierce Arant, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Andela and family.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sidney and Myrtice Dickerson by their daughter, Dianne D. Wall.

### THE PRELUDE

“Let Us Break Bread Together” | Zabel

### THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Hear Us, Holy Jesus” | Lebbaeus

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

## Praise & Thanksgiving

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 269 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” | LAND OF REST

### \*THE CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Martha Aenchbacher

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

**Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Silent prayer

### \*THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*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.

### *Anthem Lyrics*

At the first light of day,  
Lauda, laude! When  
the sun reaches noon,  
Lauda, laude! And then  
at sunset, Lauda, laude!

Or at the midnight  
Lauda, laude! All who  
dwell in the shadow  
of the Lord, They find  
a refuge and fortress;  
Nation, village or faith  
of a small child, home  
they find in him. May  
we sing, sing for joy,  
Lauda, laude! May our  
days all be glad, Lauda,  
laude! May we have  
wisdom, Lauda, laude!

May we have truth,  
Lauda, laude! Plagues  
and serpents of the  
dark, pestilence that  
stalks the night, they  
who harm, who destroy,  
those who spread fear  
and terror, but those  
who make the Lord  
most high their refuge  
and their dwelling, no  
fear, no harm, no foe  
will come near your land,  
No shame, no death, no  
evil consume or destroy.  
Lauda, laude!

## \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bob Winstead

**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 AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“All Who Dwell in the Shadow of the Lord” | Z. Randall Stroope

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Lucas Scalamogna and Serena Scibelli, violin; Rebecca Floyd, viola; Eunice Kang, cello; Becky Neal, flute; Holly Behr, oboe; Peter Riggs and Andrew Sehmann, horn*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94 “Praise God Throughout These Forty Days” | 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**

LUKE 23:39-43 | P. 84 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE SERMON**

“Today, You Will Be With Me” | Bob Winstead

## *Response to the Word*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Betsy Butler and Martha Aenchbacher

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. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. 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. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism 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." On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. 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 Father, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

### The Receiving of the Elements of Communion

At Athens First United Methodist, 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 center station with the acolytes.

*Song Lyrics  
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 foretaste (of  
heaven) during our  
final examining. O Jesu  
sweet, O Jesu pure, O  
Jesu, Son of Mary, have  
mercy upon me. Amen.

The Music During Communion

“Ave Verum” | Nicholas White

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Lucas Scalamogna and Serena Scibelli, violin; Rebecca Floyd, viola; Eunice Kang, cello*

THE PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Sending Forth*

\*THE HYMN

UMH 292 “What Wondrous Love Is This” | WONDROUS LOVE

THE BLESSING AND CHORAL RESPONSE

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” | NEAR THE CROSS

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me. In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

\* THE POSTLUDE

“O Love Divine” | Traditional



## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Hugh Jenkins and his family in the loss of his father, F. Hugh Jenkins, on February 21.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Pat Holland and her family in the loss of her sister, Janice Kay, on February 25.



## Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, March 8, is provided by Barberitos. Join us for soft shell turkey tacos and chips. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. For more information, contact Cindy. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you order your meal. Volunteers eat free. Register to volunteer online.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals](http://athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals)  
Cindy McKoy | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

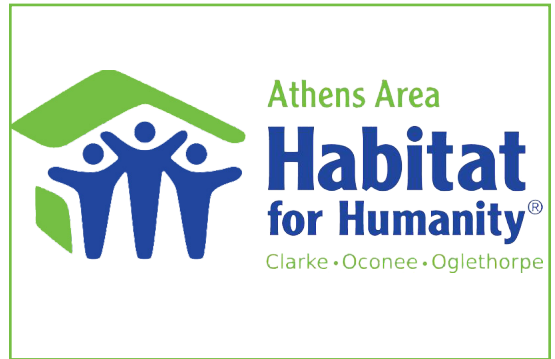
## GriefShare

This thirteen-week faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. GriefShare groups are for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. Erica Cooper, bereavement coordinator of Gentiva Hospice, will facilitate both groups. The Monday group meets at 6:30 p.m. and the Wednesday group meets at 10:00 a.m. New participants are welcome to join at any time. There is no cost, but we ask that you register so that we can have enough materials prepared. Register | [athensfirstumc.org/griefshare](http://athensfirstumc.org/griefshare)

## Children's Soccer

Spots are still available for our children's soccer! Visit the website to register your child and join us for our spring season, March through May. Boys and girls ages 3-6 are invited to join us. Practices and games will take place on Saturday mornings. The cost is \$100.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/childrenssoccer](http://athensfirstumc.org/childrenssoccer)  
Rusty Wood | [rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Habitat for Humanity

Volunteer sign-ups are open to work on our Habitat for Humanity renovation project. There are weekly opportunities for individuals and groups to serve Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week. Volunteers can sign up a week in advance to work on-site. Saturday dates are available for volunteers to register for online. Groups are limited to 12-15 persons per shift. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information, or to make a weekday appointment.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity](http://athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

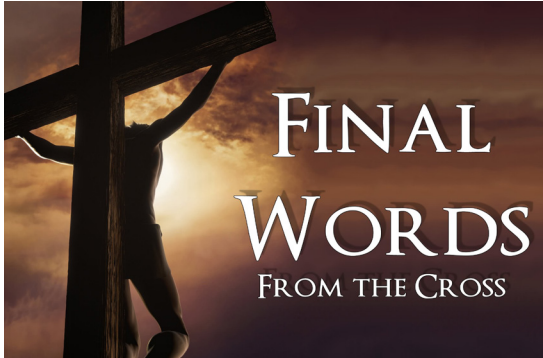
## Pauses for Lent

Join Dianne Morrison for *Pauses for Lent*. In this beautifully minimalistic book, Trevor Hudson focuses on 40 single words—one for every day in the season of Lent. Each daily reading offers you a brief meditation and a simple, doable practice that does not demand much time. As you carve out even a few minutes to spend with God, you just might find

yourself listening to God in a new way. God wants to meet you in your daily life just as it is, messiness and all. This study is open to everyone. The study will take place March 8 through April 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in John Wesley Parlor. The book is \$6. For more information, contact Beth Dickinson. Please register online.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](https://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Final Words from the Cross

*Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton is our Lenten Study this year. In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven "final words"—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves. Please join us in this study for Lent. Bob Winstead will lead the Wednesday evenings session from 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning March 8 in room 222. The study is free of charge. The study is also available for your small group or for your Sunday school class. For more information, please contact Beth Dickinson. Please register online to participate in the Sunday evening or Wednesday evening group.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](https://athensfirstumc.org/registration)

Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Homeless Offering | Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 12, we will take up a special offering for the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council. One hundred percent of the homeless offering goes to ministries that serve people experiencing poverty. As you prepare to

join us in worship next Sunday, please prepare to give and fulfill Christ's command to "love one another."

## Prayer Service | March 12

There are times when we feel broken. Join us after worship in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, for a brief time of healing prayer together, as we seek God's presence and ask him humbly with faith and repentance to make us whole. Clergy will be present to anoint with oil those who wish to have that means of grace, and we will all offer up our prayers to God for one another.



## Sack Lunch Ministry

Our ongoing Sunday morning Sack Lunch Ministry meets every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to distribute 40 lunches to our neighbors in the community. We are in need of more volunteers for the months of March and April. If you'd like to volunteer to prepare and pass out these lunches, register online or contact Betsy, Mary Claire, or Mary Young.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry](https://athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry)

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

Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)

706-543-1442

Mary Young | [young.macy@gmail.com](mailto:young.macy@gmail.com)

## The Armor of God | Women's Study

Join Susie Thrasher in Priscilla Shirer's *The Armor of God*. This study encourages you to become "armed" with God's love to protect everything that matters to you: your heart, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. All women are invited

to join. This study will meet on Wednesday mornings, March 15 – May 3, from 9:45-11:30 a.m. in room 229. The cost is \$13. For more information, please contact Beth Dickinson. Please register online.  
Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](https://athensfirstumc.org/registration)  
Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens | Save the Date

We hope you will save the date for our first Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week this year! The week of March 26 through April 2, we will be hosting families in need here in our church. This is a great ministry that allows different churches to host families who are in between housing arrangements. If you're interested in volunteering with this wonderful ministry and haven't been trained, email Betsy or Mary Claire so we can set up a training date.

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

Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442



## Senior Fun Trip | April 3

On Monday, April 3, the Senior Fun Group will travel to Atlanta to explore the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, enjoy lunch at Mary Mac's Tea Room, and then return to Fernbank to watch an IMAX show. Please join us for a delightful day trip. The deadline to register is March 15. The cost of the trip is \$60 per person, which will include the cost of lunch. Departure will be from Kohl's' Department Store parking lot. Contact Dan Maxey for more information and to register.

Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097



## Weekday Preschool Summer Camps

The Weekday Preschool will be offering three camps this summer for children ages 2-5. Each camp lasts Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The themes and dates for the camps are:

Jesus Rocks | May 15-19

God's Big Plans for Me | May 22-26

Outer Space Adventure | June 19-23

The early registration deadline is March 15 to save \$15 and the general registration deadline is April 21. Please visit our website for more information and registration forms.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool](https://athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool)

## Pickleball

Join us every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1:30-3:00 p.m. to play pickleball! This is a great sport consisting of ping pong, tennis, and badminton all in one! We enjoy fellowship while getting exercise; this is a great game for active adults. Contact Rusty for more information or just come and try it out!

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

## Great Day of Service | April 22

Join us for many projects that will be transforming Athens!

We currently have the following projects: playground project in a nearby neighborhood, assembling lunches for Smart Lunch, Smart Kid, construction at Bigger Vision, cooking for the Brunch, preparing the basket auction, and cleaning the sanctuary. Unable to join us that Saturday? Consider serving the week before by shopping for materials, decorating Hancock Hall, or by donating ingredients for the Brunch or flowers for the center pieces! This will be a



wonderful weekend, and we cannot do it without your help.  
Register | [athensfirstumc.org/gdos](http://athensfirstumc.org/gdos)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## Celebration Brunch | April 23

Please consider donating a basket to this year's Basket Auction! Baskets can be any theme, and worth any amount you would like! Proceeds from the basket auction will go towards another Habitat unit, as we strive to transform Athens!

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket](http://athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket)  
Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442



## Vacation Bible School

We need more than 100 adult volunteers to make Vacation Bible School a success this year! Whether or not you have a child participating in VBS, we hope that you will join us June 5-8 for a week of learning and fun as we show kids that God has a purpose for their lives! Childcare for children too young to participate in VBS is available for adult volunteers. Please visit our webpage for more information and to register!

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/vbs](http://athensfirstumc.org/vbs)  
Robin Stewart | [robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

## Recreation Summer Camps

We are excited to offer a variety of camp programs this summer through our recreation department: Vacation

Bible School Day Camp, Junior Jam Basketball Camp, and Volleyball Camp. Register online for your children to attend these camps, as spots will fill quickly!  
Register | [athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps](http://athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps)  
Rusty Wood | [rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

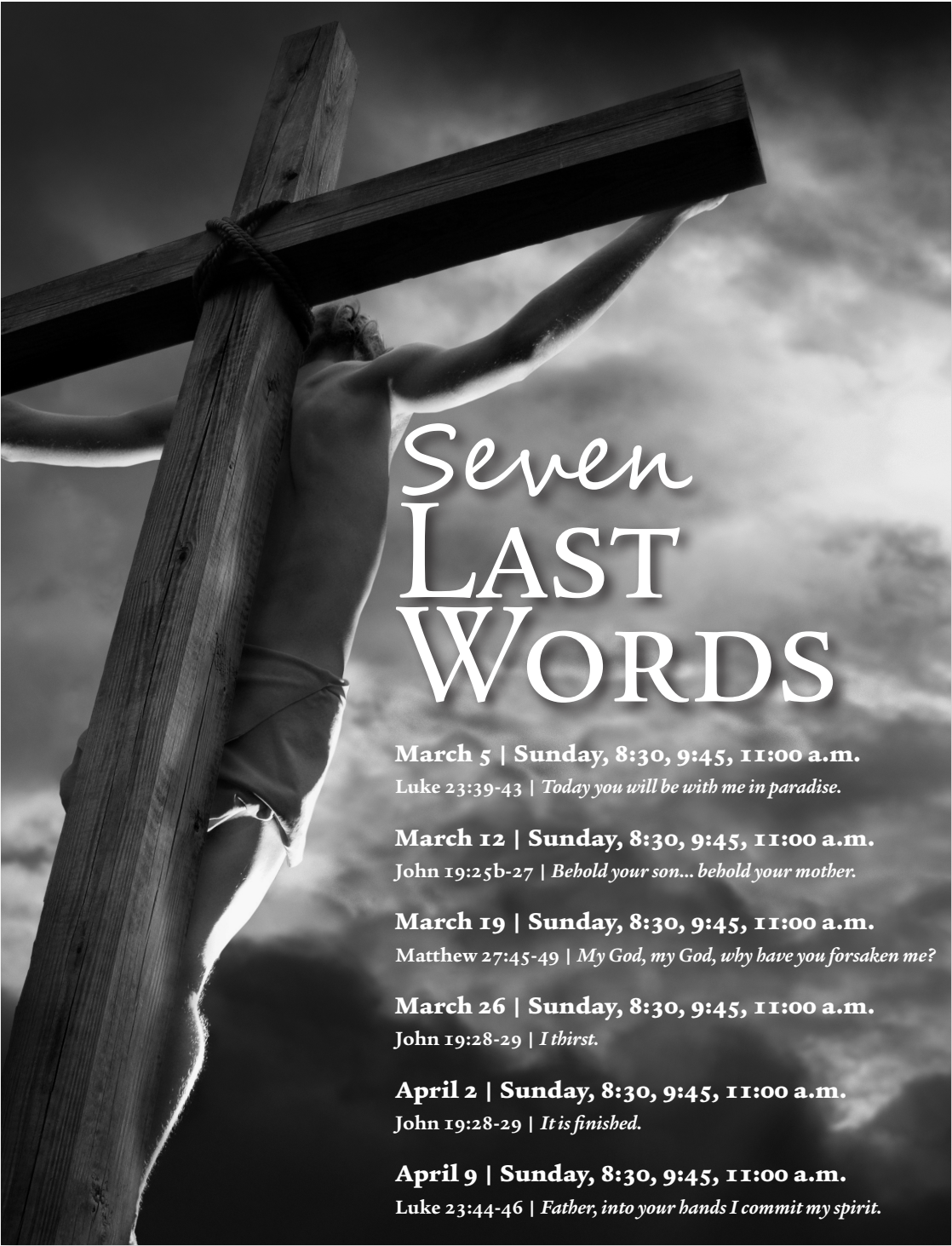


## Music and Arts Week

Calling all superheroes! Children currently in kindergarten through grade 4 are invited to join us for Music and Arts Week June 13-15, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. This year, we will be putting on the musical "Heroes of the Faith," and kids will have the chance to be involved in all aspects of the production, from set construction and costume design to singing, acting, and dancing! Please visit our webpage for more info, including details about auditions for speaking roles. Registration is open now until May 31. Register before May 1 to get an early bird discount of \$10 off!

Volunteers are needed as well. We need adult and youth volunteers who are interested in helping children discover that they can be heroes of the faith! If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the webpage to register.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek](http://athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek)  
Sarah Lawing | [sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



# Seven LAST WORDS

**March 5 | Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.**

Luke 23:39-43 | *Today you will be with me in paradise.*

**March 12 | Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.**

John 19:25b-27 | *Behold your son... behold your mother.*

**March 19 | Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.**

Matthew 27:45-49 | *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**March 26 | Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.**

John 19:28-29 | *I thirst.*

**April 2 | Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.**

John 19:28-29 | *It is finished.*

**April 9 | Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.**

Luke 23:44-46 | *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*



# Great Day of Service

Saturday, April 22



[athensfirstumc.org/gdos](http://athensfirstumc.org/gdos)

## Join us!

[athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket](http://athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket)



# This Week

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 5 | PSALM 32

- 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  
**Youth Sunday School: First Word** YOUTH AREA  
**Route 56: Fuel** ROOM 120  
**Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground** CHAPEL  
**Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill** ROOM 311 & 313  
**Immanuel Project** ROOM 103  
**Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 200
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY  
**Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR
- 3:45 p.m. **Agape Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148  
**Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
- 4:30 p.m. **Route 56: Open Road** ROOM 120  
**Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150  
**Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
- 4:45 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 200  
**Disciple Fast Track | Old Testament** ROOM 224
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. **Encounter** ROOM 119
- 6:00 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 6:30 p.m. **Final Words from the Cross** ROOM 222

## MONDAY, MARCH 6 | PSALM 121

- 10:00 a.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 222
- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 6:30 p.m. **GriefShare | Monday Group** ROOM 247

## TUESDAY, MARCH 7 | ROMANS 4:1-5

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl** PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:30 p.m. **Financial Peace University** ROOM 222
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT  
**Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 229  
**Connect & Grow Group** TIMOTHY ROAD

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 | GENESIS 12:1-4a

- 9:30 a.m. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** ROOM 222
- 10:00 a.m. **GriefShare | Wednesday Group** ROOM 100
- 1:00 p.m. **Israel's Mission | Women's Study** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. **Fun Gym** GYM

- 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Worship Arts | Grades 3-4** ROOM 322  
**Dance** ROOM 145  
**Lyric Choir | Grades 1-2** ROOM 151  
**Hospitality Room Hangout** HOSPITALITY ROOM  
**Prayer Shawl** ROOM 200
- 4:45 p.m. Early Book Group** ROOM 247  
**Parenting with Purpose** ROOM 226
- 5:00 p.m. Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120  
**Wednesday Night Meal** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:10 p.m. Celebrate Choir | Grades 3 & 4** ROOM 151
- 5:15 p.m. Cherub Choir | Age 3** ROOM 314 & 324  
**Sonshine Choir | Age 4** ROOM 325  
**Joy Choir | Kindergarten** ROOM 320
- 5:20 p.m. Lyric Worship Arts | Grades 1 & 2** ROOM 322
- 5:30 p.m. 66 Love Letters** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 6:00 p.m. Connect Group (Young Married)** ROOM 114  
**Engage Bible Study** ROOM 119
- 6:15 p.m. Restoring an Attitude of Worship | Men's Study** ROOM 240
- 6:30 p.m. Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224  
**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** SANCTUARY  
**Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life** ROOM 226  
**Revival | Faith As Wesley Lived It** ROOM 100  
**Later Book Group** ROOM 247  
**Final Words from the Cross** ROOM 222  
**Pauses for Lent** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
- 8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

## THURSDAY, MARCH 9 | MATTHEW 17:1-9

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study** SANCTUARY
- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball** GYM
- 5:00 p.m. Souper Supper** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:30 p.m. Making Sense of the Bible** ROOM 229

## FRIDAY, MARCH 10 | ROMANS 4:13-17

- 9:00 a.m. Parenting with Purpose Small Group** ROOM 119
- 12:30 p.m. Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224

## SATURDAY, MARCH 11 | JOHN 3:1-15

- 8:00 a.m. Children's Basketball** GYM

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