

The background features a stylized graphic design. It consists of several fish-like shapes, each with a simple eye and a curved line for a mouth, rendered in dark grey. These shapes are arranged in a cluster, with some overlapping. A prominent red line forms a large, open 'L' shape that frames the central text. There are also two solid red circles: one in the upper left and one in the lower right. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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MARCH 12, 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 | \$542,693

Goal for February | \$227,197

Amount after 4 Sundays | \$181,578

## *Attendance on March 1*

Ash Wednesday Service | 241

## *Attendance on March 5*

Total Worship | 1105

8:30 a.m. | 173

9:45 a.m. | 351

11:00 a.m. | 485

Online | 96

Sunday School | 390

## *Table of Contents*

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## *Ministers and Directors*

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[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  
[beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org)

**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions  
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**Bob Winstead** Executive Director of Administration  
[bob@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:bob@athensfirstumc.org)

**Stephen Mitchell** Director of Music  
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**Janis Maxwell** Director of Youth Music & Organist  
[janis@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org)

**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children's Music Ministry & 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader  
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**Robin Stewart** Director of Children's Ministry  
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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

“Old Rugged Cross” | George Bennard

### *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar  
are given to the glory  
of God and in loving  
memory of Leonard  
and Marjorie Cobb by  
their daughters, Susan,  
Melanie, and Len and  
their families.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Butler

PSALM 121 | P. 539 OLD TESTAMENT

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved, the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;

**the Lord is your shade on your right hand.**

The sun shall not smite you by day,

**nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil, and will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 529 “How Firm a Foundation” | FOUNDATION

## \*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

Congregational Response

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

*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.

1. 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

2. Kyri - e e  
 Chri - ste e  
 Kyri - e e

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

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Robin Stewart

*Anthem Lyrics*

You came to us, dear Jesus, in our dying as broken bleeding, we could make no sign. Compassion, Lord, brought you where we were lying to lift us up, to pour on oil and wine. You came to us, dear Jesus, in our sighing for blind and lame and paralyzed we lay. Compassion, Lord, turned you to still our crying and touch our darkened eyes with light of day. My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose went forth, and followed thee. 'Tis mercy all immense and free, for oh my God it found out me. You came to us, dear Jesus, in your dying, your wounds poured love as blood upon the tree. Compassion, Lord, from Calvary is crying, "Bind up their wounds as you would do for me!"

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

Martha Aenchbacher

**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**

"You Came to Us" | Edmund Clowney and Steve Adams

**\*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**

JOHN 19:25b-27 | P. 107 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Woman, Behold Your Son” | Martha Aenkbacher

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 419 “I Am Thine, O Lord” | I AM THINE

**I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.**

**Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died. Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Bob Winstead and Betsy Butler

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*

Here is love, vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood when the prince of life, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood. Who His love will not remember? Who can cease to sing His praise? He will never be forgotten throughout Heaven’s eternal days. On the mount of crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide. Through the floodgates of God’s mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide. Grace and love like mighty rivers poured incessant from above and heaven’s peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

### Music During Communion

“Here is Love” | Matt Redman

### 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

“Glory Be to Jesus” | Hobby

# 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 Leonard and Marjorie Cobb by their daughters, Susan, Melanie, and Len and their families.

### THE PRELUDE

“Guide Us by Thy Hand” | Fedak

### THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Hear Us, Holy Jesus” | Lebbaeus

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

## *Praise & Thanksgiving*

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 297 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” | ST. CHRISTOPHER

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

Betsy Butler

We cannot earn God’s grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God’s love for us, even when we are ungodly, let us confess our sins in faith.

**Gracious God, we seek your blessing, knowing that we have not earned it. In our faults, we seek your blessing. In our sins, we seek your forgiveness. In our weakness, we seek your strength. In our sorrow, we seek your consolation. In our trials, we seek your justice. In our pain, we seek your peace. Forgive us, we pray, and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Silent prayer

### \*THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE KYRIE**

Musical score for The Kyrie, consisting of six staves of music in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence at the end of the sixth staff.

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

9:45 a.m. | Arabel Josephine Ingels, daughter of Ginny and Justin

**Arabel, Arabel, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Arabel, Arabel, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.**

11:00 a.m. | Samuel Everett Scarbro, son of Rebecca and Adam

**Everett, Everett, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Everett, Everett, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.**

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

Martha Aenchbacher

**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 | 11:00 a.m.

Robin Stewart

At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in kindergarten through grade 2 will go to Children's Church on the third floor where they may be picked up at the end of the service.

# Proclamation of the Word

### *Anthem Lyrics*

And the Mother did weep. She did weep.

Hebrew: Vehaeym  
bachetah

Latin: Lacrimavit Mater

Aramaic: Warkath hahi  
imma

Greek: Kai eklausen he  
meter

## THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"And the Mother Did Weep" | Karl Jenkins

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

## \*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

JOHN 19:25b-27 | P. 107 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

"Woman, Behold Your Son" | Martha Aenchbacher

# Sending Forth

## \*THE HYMN

UMH 419 "I Am Thine, O Lord" | I AM THINE

## 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

"Glory Be to Jesus" | Hobby





## @weekday@ **PRECHOOL**

Athens First United Methodist Church  
**Summer Camps**

The Weekday Preschool will be offering three camps this summer for children ages 2-5. Each camp is Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The early registration deadline is quickly approaching. Sign up by Wednesday, March 15, to save \$15. The general registration deadline is April 21. Please visit our website for more information and registration forms.

The themes and dates for the camps are:

May 15-19 | Jesus Rocks

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

June 19-23 | Outer Space Adventure

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

## New Arrivals

Congratulations to Annabeth and Kevin Melton on the birth of their son, Branch Oliver, on February 28. Branch is the grandson of Karen Spence.

Congratulations to Garrett and Megan Williams on the birth of their son, Henry Garrett, on March 1.

## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Donnie Goodwin and his family in the loss of his stepbrother, Deon Mobley, on March 5.



## Newcomer Orientation | Today

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation today in the Hospitality Room. 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](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## Homeless Offering | Today

Today 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. Please make checks payable to Athens First United Methodist Church and write "Homeless Offering" on the memo line. Please use the envelope provided.

## Prayer Service | Today

There are times when we feel broken. Join us after worship today in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. 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.

## Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, March 15, is provided by Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe. Join us for chicken roll ups, fruit, and a cookie. 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

## Welcome to God's Love | Thank You

The Wesleyan Youth Choir would like to thank all of the many hands that helped prepare us for our first Youth Choir Weekend. Many youth choir parents, adult choir members, and members of our congregation at large contributed time, money, and prayers to ensure the success of this event. We had so much fun and have received many grateful and positive notes and emails from the visiting choirs. Thank you all for your continuing support of our Youth Music Ministry.

## 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](https://athensfirstumc.org/griefshare)  
Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## District Training Day | Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 19, we are offering a district training from 3:00-4:30 in the youth area. At this training we will hear information on loving our immigrant neighbors as we answer the question, "who is your neighbor?" Everyone is invited to join us for this unique opportunity.



## Souper Suppers

Thank you to the many groups, families, and individuals who have served with us at Souper Suppers this winter! We are in need of donations of toilet paper, dish soap, and Spam for our Souper Suppers store; these items are given to those in need in our community. Donations may be dropped off at the basket located near the front receptionist desk.

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

## Habitat for Humanity

Our Habitat for Humanity renovation project is off to a great start! There are 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. Please note, Saturday, March 18, will not be open for volunteers. The next Saturday available will be March 25.

Groups are limited to 12-15 persons per shift. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information, or to make a weekday appointment. Register online for Saturday dates.  
Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity](https://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

## Senior Fun Luncheon

This month's Senior Fun Luncheon is on Thursday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Robert Miles, an outstanding defensive end on UGA's 1980 National Championship football team and local church member, will lead the program. Robert is the Director of CHAMPS/Life Skills Program for the UGA Athletic Association. He will talk about how he correlates his spiritual life with the high-powered and stressful life in the world of collegiate football. He will also update the group about what's going on and the whereabouts of some of the great team members, such as Herschel Walker. Robert is the father of Josh Miles, our Director of Youth Ministries. Josh will join us to introduce his father and share about his recent decision to enter the Candler School of Theology this fall. Please call the church office by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, to register. Church Office | 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 each Wednesday 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

## 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 27. Lilies may be picked up on Easter Sunday, April 16, after the 11:00 worship service or on Monday, April 17.

## 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

## 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. 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.

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

Beth Dickinson | [beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@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 Wednesday, 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

## 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

## Pack One Pancake Supper | March 29

Pack One will be hosting a pancake supper on Wednesday, March 29, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. This meal will take the place of our regular Wednesday night meal. Tickets can be purchased before and after worship services on Sundays, March 19 and 26, as well as on Wednesday nights beginning March 15. Cub Scouts will be located outside of Hancock Hall and in front of the preschool wings to sell tickets on these days. If you purchased a semester Wednesday night meal package, you do not need to purchase a ticket for the pancake supper—we are already accounting for you! There will be a limited number of walk-up meals available, so we encourage you to buy your tickets early! The cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 maximum per family. We hope you will come hungry!

Julie Caldwell | [jpowell@negia.net](mailto:jpowell@negia.net)

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

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. We are in need dinner hosts, evening hosts, overnight hosts, and drivers; if you are interested in serving these families, contact Betsy or Mary Claire.

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

## 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](https://athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps)

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](https://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! Once you choose your basket, let us know and we will hold the theme for your basket; this is an effort to avoid

multiple baskets with the same theme. Contact Betsy or Mary Claire if you plan to contribute a basket.

Register | [athensfirstumc.org/brunchandbasket](https://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

## Shaping Hearts

What is it worth to shape the hearts of over 350 children?

Do you have 12 hours to share in June? Join the Vacation Bible School Team for Maker Fun Factory as we share these ideas with children: God made you, God is for you, God is always with you, God will always love you, and God made you for a reason. If you agree that teaching 350 children that God loves them is a worthwhile task, but you are not certain how you might be able to help do that, please contact our ministry team. There is a way for everyone to help.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/vbs](https://athensfirstumc.org/vbs)

Robin Stewart | [robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@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](https://athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek)

Sarah Lawing | [sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# This Week

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 12 | JOHN 3:16-17

- 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  
**Newcomer Orientation** HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY  
**Preschool Nursery** FIRST FLOOR  
**Newcomer Orientation** HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 12:15 p.m. **Healing Prayer Service** SANCTUARY
- 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 13 | EXODUS 17:1-3

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Evening Class**

## TUESDAY, MARCH 14 | EXODUS 17:4-7

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 10:00 a.m. **UMW Circle 2 Meeting** ROOM 226
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl** PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **UM Children's Home Meeting** HANCOCK HALL  
**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 15 | PSALM 95

- 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 301  
**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  
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 301  
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  
**Final Words from the Cross** ROOM 222  
**Pauses for Lent** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR  
8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16 | ROMANS 5:1-5

- 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  
**Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120  
5:30 p.m. **Making Sense of the Bible** ROOM 229  
6:30 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Adult)** ROOM 222

## FRIDAY, MARCH 17 | ROMANS 5:6-11

- 12:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224  
5:00 p.m. **Octane Song & Service Trip** LEAVING FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT  
**Spiritual Life Retreat | Camp Glisson** LEAVING FROM KOHL'S PARKING LOT

## SATURDAY, MARCH 18 | JOHN 4:5-30, 39-42

- Octane Song & Service Trip**  
**Spiritual Life Retreat | Camp Glisson**  
8:00 a.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

## **Worship Bulletin (614-280)**

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