

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 around a central red geometric structure that resembles a stylized cross or a set of four L-shaped brackets. The red lines are thick and vibrant. There are also small red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

MAY 21, 2017
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

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. During June and July, the orientation will be held the second Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Schedule in June and July

We will offer two service times, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes will meet at 10:00 a.m. In addition, we will offer Holy Communion in the chapel at 8:30 a.m.

Financial Report

Budget for 2017 | \$3,038,381

Amount Given YTD | \$1,213,331

Goal for May | \$225,207

Amount after 1 Sunday | \$75,394

Attendance on May 14

Total Worship | 1195

8:30 a.m. | 173

9:45 a.m. | 430

11:00 a.m. | 471

Online | 64

Sunday School | 328

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Ministers and Directors

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chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

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bob@athensfirstumc.org

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8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

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josh@athensfirstumc.org

Contact Us

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Facebook: @Athens First United Methodist Church
athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

“10,000 Reasons” | Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

Flowers

The flowers on the altar
are given to the glory
of God and in loving
memory of their son,
Courtney Caskin, by Dr.
and Mrs. Joseph Caskin.

Prelude Lyrics

The sun comes up, it's
a new day dawning. It's
time to sing Your song
again. Whatever may
pass and whatever lies
before me, let me be
singing when the evening
comes. Bless the Lord,
oh my soul, worship His
holy name. Sing like never
before, oh my soul. I'll
worship Your holy name.
You're rich in love and
You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and
Your heart is kind. For
all Your goodness I will
keep on singing ten
thousand reasons for
my heart to find.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Butler

PSALM 66:8-12, 16-20 | P. 500 OLD TESTAMENT

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of God's praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us;

You have tried us as silver is tried.

Come and hear, all you who worship God,
and I will tell what God has done for me.

I cried aloud to God, who was highly praised with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened,
but truly God has listened, and has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

**Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his
steadfast love from me.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 61 “Come, Thou Almighty King” | ITALIAN HYMN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71 "Glory Be to the Father"

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie Rogers

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.

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.

Anthem Lyrics

Oh my, I didn't know what it means to believe. But if I hold on tight, is it true? Would You take care of all that I do? Oh Lord, I'm getting ready to believe. Oh my, I didn't know how hard it would be. Then we'll be waving hands singing freely. Singing standing tall is now coming easy. Oh no more looking down, honey, can't you see? Oh Lord, I'm getting ready to believe.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I'm Getting Ready" | Michael Kiwanuka

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" | THE OLD 100TH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 15:7

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Welcome Home" | Martha Aenchbacher

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 617 "I Come With Joy" | DOVE OF PEACE

Verses 1-3

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Martha Aenchbacher and Betsy Butler

MATTHEW 26:17-19, 26-29

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.

Receiving of the Elements

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 elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

Song Lyrics

I am the One, the earth is
my handmade work. The
skies I laid them wide,
beauty unfurled. Horizon
to horizon, creation to
creation, sings you home.
Welcome home, gather
round all ye refugees,
come in. Oh refugee, I
did not cast you out. In
death and broken ground,
salvation springs. My
body and my blood, the
healing that you need
come and receive. Watch
and wait and see, what is
yet to be. Watch and wait
and see for the morning.
Go out in joy and join the
great procession. The
mountains and the heav'ns
all will rejoice horizon
to horizon, creation to
creation with one voice.

Music During Holy Communion

“All Ye Refugees” | Sandra McCracken

Prayer After Receiving

***CLOSING HYMN**

UMH 451 “Be Thou My Vision” | SLANE

***BLESSING**

*** POSTLUDE**

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing” | Traditional Welsh Melody

The Worship of God

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 their son, Courtney
Caskin, by Dr. and Mrs.
Joseph Caskin.

THE PRELUDE

“Meditation on ‘How Great Thou Art’” | Wagner

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Shout with Joy”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 57 “O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing” | AZMON

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Betsy Butler

This is the good news which we have received in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the disciples, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.

Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

*THE GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71 "Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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.

Leslie Rogers

Proclamation of the Word

Anthem Lyrics

The text for this anthem
can be found on page 172
of your hymnal

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“My Jesus I Love Thee” | arr. Dan Forrest

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Christopher Mason, director

*THE DOXOLOGY

UMH 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 15:7

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

“Welcome Home” | Martha Aenchbacher

Response to the Word

***THE HYMN**

UMH 451 “Be Thou My Vision” | SLANE

Sending Forth

Song Lyrics

May the road rise to meet
you. May the wind be ever
at your back. May the sun
shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your
fields. And until we meet
again, may God hold you in
the palm of His hand.

***THE BLESSING AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

“Irish Blessing” | Philip Stopford

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” | Traditional Welsh Melody

The Steeple

PLEASE JOIN
US FOR

SUNDAYS IN
Summer of
CELEBRATION
JUNE AND JULY

WORSHIP | 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

HOLY COMMUNION | CHAPEL | 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL | 10:00 a.m.

We have experienced many changes and challenges this year, not the least of which has been the absence of our beloved Senior Minister. As we enter into summer, we find that this is a time to come together and celebrate with our church family. We have much to give thanks to God for, and so during the months of June and July, we will be offering a Summer of Celebration. The most important thing for you to note is that our service times will change for each Sunday during June and July. We will offer two service times, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes will meet at 10:00 a.m. In addition, we will offer Holy Communion in the chapel at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. We pray that each of us will embrace this opportunity to come together with our community of faith, to link arms with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to celebrate the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on us during this time.

Employment Opportunity

We are receiving applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant to Executive Director of Administration. Please visit our webpage for more details. Completed resumes and applications may be emailed.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/employment

Apply | employment@athensfirstumc.org

Wesley Heritage Tour | "Travel" Along

Twenty-five members of our church are currently in England on a 12-day tour to follow in the footsteps of John Wesley. The tour will include stops in London to see Wesley's Chapel and Methodist Central Hall; Oxford to see Christ Church Cathedral, Lincoln College; and a side trip to Blenheim Palace. The group will also travel to Epworth to see John Wesley's childhood home and Bristol to see the first Methodist meeting place—the New Room. If you would like to travel along, you can follow the daily blog online. We will update it each weekday with pictures, devotions, and a brief description of the day's activities. Please keep us in prayer as we deepen our faith through studying the life and teaching of John Wesley.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/wesleyheritage

GriefShare

Our GriefShare group will meet this summer, May through August, led by Martha Aenchbacher. This faith-based curriculum for those grieving the death of a friend or family member features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning May 24. New participants are welcome to join at any time. Please register online; there is a \$20 cost to cover the workbook.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Senior Fun Group Luncheon | May 25

This month's Senior Fun Luncheon is on Thursday, May 25, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Dr. Charlie Burch and Dr. Stan Satterfield, two of Athens' finest dentists, will be discussing senior oral health. Isaiah Feken, a gifted baritone and UGA

doctoral candidate in opera performance, will perform four solos. All Senior Fun members and friends are encouraged to register now by calling the church office. Reservations should be placed by 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 24. For more information, contact Dan Maxey.

Dan Maxey | 706-613-1562

Church office | 706-543-1442

Habitat for Humanity

Our unit is almost completed and we are thrilled! There are still a few Saturdays left for folks to work on the unit and we hope you will join us as we help the Habitat construction crew finish up. Register online for the Saturday that works with your schedule. Groups are welcome and limited to 12-15 persons per shift. If you would like to work on a weekday, you can make an appointment by contacting Betsy or Mary Claire.

Learn More | athensfirstumc.org/habitatforhumanity

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Seamless | Women's Study

Join Susie Thrasher in a unique seven-week Bible study on Wednesday mornings. *Seamless* by Angie Smith is a sweeping overview of the Bible and a way of understanding it as one complete story. Each week of study features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message. All women are invited to join. This study will meet May 31-July 12, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in room 229. The cost is \$13. For more information, please contact Cindy McKoy.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

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 | 706-543-1442

**KIDS IN KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH GRADE 6
COME JOIN THE FUN!**

SUNDAYS IN
Summer of
CELEBRATION
Children's Edition
JUNE AND JULY

8:30 a.m. | Holy Communion | Chapel

***9:00 a.m. | Family Worship | Sanctuary**

**children can exit following the Children's Message
for Kids Connect in room 120*

***10:00 a.m. | Kids in Motion | Gym**

**children can be dropped off in the gym for Sunday school*

11:00 a.m. | Family Worship | Sanctuary

As we celebrate during the months of June and July, nursery for birth through four-year-olds is available each Sunday from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Children in kindergarten through grade 6 may leave the 9:00 a.m. worship service after the Children's Message to spend time in the Route 56 Room 120, where we will connect with our friends and our faith. Kids in kindergarten through grade 6 are also invited to attend our high-energy summer edition of Sunday school in the gym from 10:00-10:45 a.m. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help this summer, please contact Robin.

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

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. This summer, beginning June 11, we are in need of volunteers for this wonderful ministry. If you'd like serve by preparing and/or distributing lunches this summer, register online or contact Betsy or Mary Young.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry

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

Mary Young | young.macy@gmail.com

Hymnals

We have replaced many of the sanctuary hymnals. If your small group or Sunday school class would like to use the extra hymnals, please contact Stephen Mitchell or Cindy McKoy.

Stephen Mitchell | smitchell@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Wesleyan Youth Choir Tour

Please be in prayer for the Wesleyan Youth Choir as we prepare for a Mystery Destination Choir Tour! We will travel, sing, work, and play during the week of May 27-June 2. We don't know where God is leading us, but we have faith that He has great things in store for us! Join us for the Home Concert on Friday, June 2, at 5:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall to hear us sing and share stories about the places we have been!

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

Vacation Bible School | June 5-8

We look forward to welcoming over 300 children to VBS! Parents, you can drop off registered children from 8:40-8:55 a.m. each morning at the Hancock Ave entrance.

Volunteers will guide children to their rooms and let you know where to pick them up. If you prefer to park and walk your children in, please note that the first morning will probably be busy, so allow extra time! If your child will be picked up by anyone other than a parent, you must fill out a form to give permission during morning drop-off. Pick-up will start at 12:00 p.m. each day. Please come inside to

check out your child. All parents and volunteers can expect to receive emails with more detailed information in the days leading up to VBS, so be on the lookout! For more information, please visit our webpage or contact Robin.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/vbs

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Smart Lunch, Smart Kid

More than 1 million children in Georgia schools receive free or reduced-price lunch, a crucial meal that disappears in the summer. Smart Lunch, Smart Kid ensures that these children are fed in the summer and on school breaks. Please join us every Wednesday, beginning June 14, as we partner with Action Ministries to provide lunch to our neighborhood children. Two teams will be sent to two neighborhoods to play, encourage, and build relationships! Please join us as we serve our neighbors and transform Athens by sharing God's love. Register online or contact Betsy or Mary Claire.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/smartlunchsmarkid

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Mission Blitz | July 9-23

We will be participating in a two-week "mission blitz" this summer by serving together near and far. Mission opportunities will include:

Local:

Smart Lunch, Smart Kid

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens

Children's Consignment Sale

Sack Lunch Ministry

Mobile Food Pantry

Regional:

Prayers for our youth on the Epworth Mission Trip

International:

Costa Rica Mission Trip

If you would like to serve with us before July, Smart Lunch, Smart Kid will begin June 14, Mobile Food Pantry will be held on June 24, and Sack Lunch Ministry is every Sunday! Contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more information.

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442



Say "Hi" to Karen!

Karen is in grade 3 and she wants to audition for the children's musical, "Heroes of the Faith."

Music and Arts Week Register by May 31!

Audition info: Kids currently in grades 3 and 4 can audition for a speaking role on Wednesday, May 24, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Children's Choir Room 151. Selected students will receive lines for memorization ahead of time and must be available to begin rehearsals on Monday, June 12.

athensfirstumc.org/musicandartsweek

Children's Consignment Sale



August 4 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.

August 5 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

***August 3** 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

*Preview Sale for volunteers and consignors

As our Annual Children's Consignment Sale approaches, here are ways you can help:

1. Donate your gently used children's items.
2. Register to be a consignor.
3. Attend Tagging Tuesdays beginning July 11 to help sort and tag clothes.
4. Volunteer July 31-August 3 to organize, hang, and price clothing in the gym.
5. Volunteer for inventory control, check-out attendants, cashiers, and clean up during the sale.

All volunteers get to shop at the preview sale on Thursday evening, August 3! Proceeds from this year's sale will support foster care efforts in the Athens area. Bring donations to Mary Claire's office (room 111). Contact Betsy or Mary Claire with questions.

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale

This Week

SUNDAY, MAY 21 | JOHN 14:18-21

Wesley Heritage Tour

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
Vacation Bible School Volunteer Make-up Training ROOM 324
- 3:45 p.m. **Agapé Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
- 4:30 p.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148

MONDAY, MAY 22 | JOHN 17:1-5

Wesley Heritage Tour

- 11:30 a.m. **UMW Circle 5 Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM

TUESDAY, MAY 23 | JOHN 17:6-11

Wesley Heritage Tour

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
UMW Circle 4 Meeting HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 | PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

Wesley Heritage Tour

- 4:30 p.m. **Music & Arts Week Auditions** ROOM 151
- 4:45 p.m. **Early Book Group** ROOM 247
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 6:00 p.m. **GriefShare** ROOM 100
- 6:30 p.m. **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
Connect & Grow Group ROOM 224
Later Book Group ROOM 247

THURSDAY, MAY 25 | LUKE 24:44-53

Wesley Heritage Tour

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 12:30 p.m. **Senior Fun Luncheon** HANCOCK HALL
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120

FRIDAY, MAY 26 | I PETER 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Wesley Heritage Tour

- 12:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224

SATURDAY, MAY 27 | EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Wesley Heritage Tour

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