

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 circular pattern, with some overlapping. The design is framed by thick red lines that form a partial square and a partial circle. There are also several solid red circles scattered throughout the composition.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

NOVEMBER 22, 2015
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We're glad you're here! Thank you for joining us today. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804, when our church was formed to minister to the Native American and European settlers in Athens. Over the past two centuries our congregation has changed, but our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to "do all the good you can, in all the ways you can." At Athens First United Methodist, there are many ways to get involved, grow in your faith, and do good in our community.

If you are unable to attend worship in person, each Sunday our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WRFC 960 AM, and all of our services are live-streamed on our website at athensfirstumc.org/webcast.

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through four-year-olds on Sundays from 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The nursery area is located on the first floor of the building, off the Washington Street entrance.

Children

Worship activity bags (age appropriate for all preschool and elementary children) are available every Sunday in the narthex and by the south entrance of the sanctuary. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through second grade and follows the Children's Message during 11:00 a.m. worship all Sundays except for Communion Sundays.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for all ages, children age 2 through adult, each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool.

Connect

We are blessed to have a large congregation. Because of this, we offer many programs and ministries. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to get involved. If you would like someone to guide you along this process, please contact Martha Aenchbacher.

Another great way to learn about the life of our church is through attending a Newcomer Orientation held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11 a.m. We also encourage you to visit our website, athensfirstumc.org, for information about our ministries, to register for events, and to listen to sermons from our sermon archive. Visit athensfirstumc.org/thesteeples to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the eSteeple. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athensfirstumc on Facebook and @athens_firstumc on Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 706-543-1442.

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able.

The congregation speaks or sings the text in **bold type**.

Gathering

*The flowers on the
altar today are
given to the glory of
God and in loving
memory of Mr. and
Mrs. Milton H.
Pittard and Pat
Cardin by Richard,
Jody and Michael.*

THE PRELUDE

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. ASH GROVE with “Thanks Be to God” | Page

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

THE WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Beth Dickinson

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 384

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | BEECHER

*THE 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.

*THE GLORIA PATRI

Glorify 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.

*Daughter of Brianna
and Joe Hay*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11:00 A.M. | Carly Ann Hay

Carly, Carly, 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. Carly, Carly, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

THE WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Betsy Butler

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Robin Stewart, Director of Children's Ministry

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.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 A.M. "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" with "Simple Gifts"

arr. Heather Sorenson

Greg Kirby, piano

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Fight the Good Fight" | Gardner

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right. Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally. Run the straight race through God's good grace. Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize. Cast care aside, upon thy guide. Lean, and His mercy will provide. Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love. Faint not nor fear, His arms are near, He changeth not, and thou art dear. Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

***THE DOXOLOGY**

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!

Proclamation of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

“Two Little Words” | Martha Aenbacher

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION | 8:30 A.M.

Please turn to page 9 in our hymnal. At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available at the stations in the front of the sanctuary.

Sending Forth

*** THE HYMN 92**

“For the Beauty of the Earth” | DIX

*** THE BLESSING**

*** THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“We Receive Your Blessing”

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "We re-ceive your bless-ing; we re-ceive your grace, as we walk in the light shin-ing from your__ face. May the peace that you give__ change the way the we live. We re-ceive your bless-ing as we leave this place." The word "Fine" is written above the final measure of the third staff.

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“Come Ye Thankful People Come” | McDonald

Sermon Notes

NOVEMBER USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal, Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowrey, Jim Lyons, Candler Meadors, Olan Moore, Bob Noble, Grace Rabek, Ken Reece, Keith Wilson, Michael and Sharon Broun

9:45 a.m. Chris Bostdorff, Tom Cooper, David and Jane Disney, Mark Ellison, Mark Firth, Tom Hedges, Dan Lasseter, Jim Lyons, Sharon Milton, Tom Milton,

Al Rogers, Bill Trigleth, Michelle and Reeves McNeill

11:00 a.m. Mark Graham, Mike McCord, Charlie Upchurch III, Allan Hixon, Mason McWhorter, Gene Deal, Jim Lyons

OFFERING STEWARDS

Bob Booth, Jim Lyons, Nat Carmack, Henry Garrard, Nathan King, Al Hawley, Sean Rogers, Charlie Upchurch III

GREETERS

Marty & Foy Horne, Valerie Aldridge, Jack Miller, Victor Wilson, Nancy Weatherington, Jennifer & Tom Foster, Marty & Mitch Mitchell

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

Acolyte Manager: Reagan Grace

8:30 a.m. Dylan Wyrick, Peyton Shedd, Charles Clarke

9:45 a.m. Brent and James Chandler, Phoebe Brodrick

11:00 a.m. Tommy Chambers, Isaac Ward

ATTENDANCE ON NOVEMBER 15

Total Worship | 1757

Sunday School | 456

8:30 a.m. | 181

9:45 a.m. | 657

11:00 a.m. | 812

Online | 107

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$2,573,164

Goal for November | \$203,187

Amount after 2 Sundays | \$112,714

OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister

athensfirstumc.org

chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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athensfirstumc.org/congregationalcare

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Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool

athensfirstumc.org/weekdaypreschool

linsey@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Julie Caldwell 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

julie@athensfirstumc.org | 706-540-0042

The Steeple

The Season of Advent

The Season of Advent begins next Sunday. Join us Sunday, November 29, as we light the first candle in the advent wreath and begin to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



This Week:

Sunday, November 29 | 8:30 a.m. | Hancock Hall | **The Manger Project: Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, November 29 | 9:45 a.m. | Hancock Hall | **The Manger Project: Advent Family Worship Service**

Sunday, November 29 | 7:00 p.m. | Chapel | **Carols for Advent and Christmas**

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Brock Wilson and Kate Wooten, who were married in our sanctuary on November 14.

Tree Trimming | Today

Senior Fun will host their annual tree trimming party today at 12:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Snacks will be provided.

Everyone is invited to attend.

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

Wesleyan Youth Choir Alumni Opportunities

All Wesleyan Youth Choir alumni are invited to join us for breakfast at Panera Bread Company on Atlanta Highway from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 25. We are thankful for our alumni and would love to catch up with you if you are in town that morning! Alumni are also invited to sing "O Holy Night" with us during the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. We will rehearse in the Music Suite at 6:30 p.m. If you are a relative or friend of an alumnus, please pass on this information to them!

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

Under Wraps | Advent Small Group

It's not too late to join this year's Advent Bible study.

Everyone is welcome on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 222. Or if you are a parent of youth or have a child about to be in youth, you can join the Parents of Youth Sunday school class meeting Sundays, November 29, and December 6, 13, and 20 at 9:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Beth.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

Advent Family Breakfast and Worship

Come help prepare a place for the Infant King at the Advent Family Breakfast and Worship Service next Sunday. This is a special time designed to engage the hearts and minds of all ages as we look toward Christmas. We will begin "The Manger Project" and together begin to build a bed of hay for baby Jesus. Enjoy a pancake breakfast including pancakes with toppings, bacon, eggs, and fruit from 8:30 a.m. to

9:15 a.m. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

After breakfast, experience an interactive worship service together at 9:45 a.m. Please register online for the pancake breakfast to facilitate planning and preparation.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/familyevents

Kasey Dillard | kaseydillard@yahoo.com

Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Carols for Advent and Christmas

On November 29 at 7:00 p.m., the Chamber Ensemble will host Carols for Advent and Christmas in the chapel. Come join us on the first Sunday of Advent as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus through music and readings.

Stephen Mitchell | stephen@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Home for the Holidays at Senior Fun

Senior Fun invites you to come "Home for the Holidays" on Thursday, December 3 at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall! Those who are home-bound will be our special guests at this Senior Fun Christmas party. Come enjoy a delicious meal and an outstanding Christmas music program.

There is no cost for our special home-bound guests and the cost is \$6 for all others. Call the church office to make your reservation by Monday, December 1. If you need transportation, please let us know. If you are caring for an aging parent at home, you are both invited to join us for this special luncheon! Contact Martha with questions.

Church Office | 706-543-1442

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

Adopt a Child or Family This Christmas!

This Christmas, adopt a child (or several) through the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project or a family through Project Safe and brighten this season for many in need.

You may choose to provide gifts as an individual, with your family, or with your small group, Bible study, or Sunday School class. Gifts are due by December 7. Contact Mary Claire or Betsy for more information, or visit the display downstairs on the windows of room 103.

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

UMW Christmas Luncheon

One of the activities of the UMW Circles is the annual salad and dessert Christmas luncheon. If you are interested in the United Methodist Women Circles, this is a great opportunity to learn more. The luncheon will be held in Hancock Hall on December 7 at 11:30 a.m. Please contact the church office by December 3 to reserve your seat. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Griffith.

Cookie Daniel | cookieed@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Kim Griffith | kimgriffith@bellsouth.net

Christmas Community Meal

Please consider serving at this special Christmas meal on Thursday, December 10, in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed throughout the day to cook, set up, serve the meal, host, and clean up. Donations of cooked hams are also needed. This is truly a time for our church body to come together in love to serve our community, and we hope you will come and be a part! Please register online to volunteer.

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Last Mobile Food Pantry of the Year!

One Saturday a month, ten thousand pounds of food are delivered to our church for us to distribute to people in need in our community. You and your family are invited to serve with us this Christmas season on Saturday, December 19. Volunteers help with set-up at 8:00 a.m., distribution begins about 9:00 a.m. and we finish around 11:00 a.m. Children can serve with parents (they must stay with you at all times). Let's share the love of Christ with our neighbors this month!

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

Baby Recognition Sunday

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of babies born into our church family during 2015. Please join us on December 13 at 11:00 a.m. worship as we welcome our newborns into our church family. Families are invited to a reception in Hancock Hall at 10:15 a.m.

April Allen | april@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Sack Lunch Ministry

Each Sunday morning the Sack Lunch Ministry prepares and distributes 40 sack lunches to those in need in our community. As we begin the new year, we need volunteers for Sundays in January. This is a great opportunity to serve as a family or small group! Groceries can be provided if needed and requested by Thursday before you serve.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/sacklunchministry

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Souper Suppers

We invite you to come prepare and serve a meal for those who are hungry in our community. We will host Souper Suppers every Thursday evening beginning January 7 in Hancock Hall. At this weekly event, we invite our neighbors into our church home for a warm meal and fellowship.

Individuals, Sunday school classes, families or any small group of people are welcome to sign up to serve. Please register online or feel free to contact Betsy or Mary Claire with questions.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/soupersuppers

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a hands-on international mission project, fun for all ages! This is an annual churchwide mission project and a wonderful opportunity to impact people across the globe without leaving Athens. There are several ways to be involved:

1. Pray: for all those who will receive the meals and those who will serve at this event.
2. Contribute: 29 cents makes a meal.
3. Serve: Serve at one of the two shifts on January 23 (8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.).

Register | athensfirstumc.org/stophungernow

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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | JOHN 18:33-38

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
Young Professionals Sunday School Class HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
- 12:00 p.m. **Senior Fun Tree Decorating** HANCOCK HALL
Ingathering YOUTH AREA
- 4:00 p.m. **Route 56 Music & Mission** ROOM 120
- 3:45 p.m. **Agape Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
Youth Worship Team Rehearsal ROOM 119
- 4:30 p.m. **Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | LUKE 21:25-36

- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | JEREMIAH 33:14-16

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scout Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | PSALM 132: 1-12

Office is closed at noon, no programming

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | PSALM 25:1-10

Thanksgiving

Office is closed at noon, no programming

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | I THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

Office is closed at noon, no programming

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 | REVELATION 1:4b-8

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