

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

The First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 2015
8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

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

If you are unable to attend worship in person, each Sunday our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WRFC 960 AM, and 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/thesteep 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. David H.
Plant by Pam and
John Elliott.*

THE PRELUDE

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" | Manz

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" | Rutter
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir with the Brass Ensemble

THE WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Betsy Butler

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

8:30 a.m. Susan and Don Crews

9:45 a.m. The Channell Family

11:00 a.m. The Willis Family

Sung:

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.**

**While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.**

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 211, STANZAS 1-4

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" | VENI EMMANUEL

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved, but also our
reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving
love, but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp
your offer of redeeming love, but also our resistance to follow you
without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond
as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace,**

assist us to receive you with joy as the shepherds, with gratitude as Simeon, with obedience as Mary, with love as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11:00 A.M. | Jax Bennett Hixon

*Son of Laura
and Jay Hixon*

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
Beth Dickinson

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 OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 A.M. "Advent Song" | Caldwell

Sung by the Worship Team

She couldn't understand it. She'd stopped trying to explain it. She knew her time would come. There were whispers in the courtyard. There were questions in the shadows. She knew her time would come. Blessed is the one who believes the will of God will be done. So we wait like Mary waited for the baby. Full of hope and joy and peace, but scared to death of the implications wrapped up in the manger. She knew her life would change. She knew she'd never be the same. He couldn't understand it. He wanted to protect her. He would let her go quietly. Then in a dream, the angel told him the child within was holy, He would save the world from sin. Blessed is the one who believes the will of God will be done. So we wait like Joseph waited for the baby. Full of wonder, reverently, but scared to death of the implications wrapped up in the manger. He knew his life would change. He knew he'd never be the same. She couldn't understand it. She didn't want to accept it. They had taken her Lord away. She asked where they had put Him. She offered to go get Him. And then He called her name. Blessed is the one who believes the will of God will be done. So we wait like Mary waited for the gardener. Full of sorrow and of grief, scared to death, the implications of the neatly folded grave clothes. She knew the world had changed. She knew she'd never be the same. But we don't wait for a little baby. We don't wait for the empty grave. Because our world has already been invaded. And our world has already changed. It will never be the same. We will never be the same. Still we wait to see Him again. Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. “The Dream Isaiah Saw” | Rudolph

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir with the Brass Ensemble; Dylan Wyrick, Matthew Everhart and Josh Luke, percussion

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not darken the earth that God made. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw. Peace will pervade more than forest and field: God will transfigure the violence concealed deep in the heart and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgement the Lord will ordain. Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart. Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice, purifying law. Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent, all of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

*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

LUKE 3:3-6

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

THE SERMON

“The Unwelcome News of Christmas” | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have fulfilled the promise you made to Israel that justice and righteousness would spring forth from the house of David. 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. He showed us the way to the kingdom and has promised to return with power and great glory. 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. When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Our Lord Jesus 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." Likewise, 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." 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 God,
now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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.

THE MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" | Manz

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein. Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

Sending Forth

* THE BLESSING

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection, for the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.

* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" | ST. LOUIS

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us to-day.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

* THE POSTLUDE

"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" from *Christmas Oratorio* | Bish

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

Jack and Joy Davis, Charlotte and Hal Northrop, Marty and Alex Keller, Joe Block, Patricia Jones, Gay Crowe, Ellen Cunningham, Bo Griffith, Jacob Hudson, Matt Moseley

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

Acolyte Manager: Lili Hollis

8:30 a.m. Tanner Iley, Elijah Bullock, Madeline Jackson

9:45 a.m. James and Glynn Chesser, Tommy Chambers

11:00 a.m. Sammy Hodges, Samantha Brodrick

ATTENDANCE ON NOVEMBER 22

Total Worship | 871

Sunday School | 474

8:30 a.m. | 152

9:45 a.m. | 245

11:00 a.m. | 396

Online | 78

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$2,621,473

Goal for November | \$203,187

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$161,023

OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister

athensfirstumc.org

chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

Martha Aenchbacher Minister of Congregational Care

athensfirstumc.org/congregationalcare

martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship

athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies

beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions

athensfirstumc.org/missions

betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Josh Miles Director of Student Ministries

athensfirstumc.org/youth

josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Robin Stewart Director of Children's Ministry

athensfirstumc.org/elementary

robinafumc@bellsouth.net | 706-543-1442

Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry

athensfirstumc.org/childrensmusicministry

sarah@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Stephen Mitchell Director of Music

athensfirstumc.org/adultmusic

stephen@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist

athensfirstumc.org/wesleyanyouthchoir

janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Lynn Bryant Director of REACH International

athensfirstumc.org/reachinternational

lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries

athensfirstumc.org/recreation

rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-8193

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 Advent Wreath | Hope

The advent wreath is a tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent. The wreath is a circle of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The four colored candles represent hope, peace, joy, and love, and the center candle represents the birth of Christ. Today we light the first candle for hope.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:2-3



This Week:

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

Thursday, December 3 | 12:30 p.m. | Hancock Hall | **Home for the Holidays at Senior Fun**

Sunday, December 6 | 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary | **Lessons and Carols**

In Memoriam

A.B. Stiles

November 21, 2015

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Lee Channell and family in the loss of her father, Bill Rhodes, on November 19.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Jane Begnaud and family in the loss of her father, A.B. Stiles, on November 21.

New Members

On November 22, we welcomed Rebecca and William Draper, Kristy Straubhaar, Connie and Gary McMillan, Shae and Jared Peden, Austin Suggs, and Frances Doherty to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.



Christmas Poinsettias | Last Chance

Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one are available for purchase through the church office. On Sunday, December 20, the flowers will be placed in the sanctuary by the Altar Guild and a booklet listing all of those participating will be available in the narthex. The flowers may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. worship service the same day. Orders may be made at the church office or by mail. Payment must be included at the time of ordering. All orders are due no later than November 30. The price is \$11 per plant.

Cookie Daniel | cookied@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, December 2, is Barberitos. Join us for soft shell turkey tacos with toppings and chips. Meals are \$6 each. Advance dinner orders are required. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. Take-out boxes will be available if you have to eat and run, or run and then eat! You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal, and volunteers eat free!

EA Whorton | edithann@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals

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 in room 114 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



Carols for Advent and Christmas

Join us tonight at 7:00 p.m. to hear the Chamber Ensemble host Carols for Advent and Christmas in the chapel. Come celebrate 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 this event. Call the church office to make your reservation by Tuesday, 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

Lessons and Carols | December 6

In 1880, E.W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Touro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. It is our custom to celebrate this tradition on the second Sunday of Advent. Join us next Sunday, December 6, for Lessons and Carols at all three service times. Our 8:30 a.m. service will feature congregational singing of familiar hymns. Our 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services will be based on the poem “The Work of Christmas” and will feature the children, youth, and adult choirs.

Julie Caldwell | julie@athensfirstumc.org
Stephen Mitchell | stephen@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Charge Conference | December 7

We hope you can attend Charge Conference on Monday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Please arrive at 6:45 p.m. for refreshments and fellowship.

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.
Church office | 706-543-1442
Kim Griffith | kimgriffith@bellsouth.net



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

Sanctuary Choir Sings *Snow Angel*

Join the Sanctuary Choir on December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to hear *Snow Angel*. Through song and narrative, *Snow Angel* weaves together stories of love and light, rebirth and rejuvenation, and highlights the strength and beauty a child's voice can bring to our often troubled world.
Stephen Mitchell | stephen@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442



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

Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

athensfirstumc.org/christmascommunitymeal

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

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 Mary Claire, AmyLou Reynolds, or Suzanne Carter with questions.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/soupersuppers

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

AmyLou Reynolds | scottandamylo@charter.net
Suzanne Carter | suzannecarter52@hotmail.com

Youth Christmas Lock-in

ONE Student Ministries is hosting a Christmas Lock-in for students in grades 7-12 December 18-19. The activities at the lock-in will include dinner together, Christmas caroling, fellowship, games, time for prayer, and movies. We hope that this lock-in will be a great time for our youth to strengthen their relationships with one another through Christian fellowship and fun! Please visit our webpage for more information and to register. Registration will close on Sunday, December 13.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/youthchristmaslockin

Josh Miles | josh@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

Stop Hunger Now | January 23

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 online to sign up to serve, or contact Betsy or Mary Claire for more details.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/stophungernow

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

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

Youth Spiritual Life Retreat

Save the Dates: February 26-28

Our youth will be traveling to Camp Glisson February 26-28 for a Spiritual Life Retreat weekend hosted by the North Georgia conference. The retreat will include worship, small group discussions, and enriching opportunities for spiritual growth. Registration for the retreat will begin January 4, 2016. We hope that our youth and parents will be in prayer about this opportunity!

Josh Miles | josh@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | LUKE 21:25-36

- 8:30 a.m.** **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
Advent Family Breakfast HANCOCK HALL
- 9:45 a.m.** **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Advent Family Worship Service HANCOCK HALL
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
- 3:45 p.m.** **Agape Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
Youth Worship Team Rehearsal ROOM 119
- 4:00 p.m.** **Carillons Ringers** ROOM 150
- 4:30 p.m.** **Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
Route 56: Open Road ROOM 120
- 4:45 p.m.** **Under Wraps Advent Study** ROOM 229
- 5:00 p.m.** **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m.** **Encounter** YOUTH AREA
- 7:00 p.m.** **Carols for Advent and Christmas** CHAPEL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | MALACHI 3:1-4

- 5:00 p.m.** **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m.** **Trustees Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 7:00 p.m.** **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class** HANCOCK HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 | LUKE 1:67-75

- 5:30 a.m.** **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:30 a.m.** **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 11:00 a.m.** **Preschool Dress Rehearsal** Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m.** **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m.** **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 7:00 p.m.** **District Scouting Parent Interest Meeting** HANCOCK HALL
Boy Scout Troop 1 SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 | LUKE 1:76-79

9:30 a.m.	New Testament Letters ROOM 222
3:00 p.m.	Fun Gym GYM
4:30 p.m.	Kids Music and Arts: Dance Class ROOM 145
	Kids Music and Arts: Lyric Choir Grades 1-2 ROOM 151
	Kids Music and Arts: Grades 3-4 Worship Arts ROOM 314
	Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200
4:45 p.m.	Early Book Group ROOM 247
5:00 p.m.	Route 56: GPS ROOM 120
	Wednesday Night Dinner HANCOCK HALL
5:10 p.m.	Kids Music and Arts: Celebrate Choir Grades 3-4 ROOM 151
5:15 p.m.	Kids Music and Arts: Cherub Choir Age 3 ROOM 321
	Kids Music and Arts: Sonshine Choir Age 4 ROOM 325
	Kids Music and Arts: Joy Choir Kindergarten ROOM 320
5:20 p.m.	Kids Music and Arts: Grades 1-2 Worship Arts ROOM 314
5:30 p.m.	Connect Group (Young Married Couples) ROOM 301
5:40 p.m.	Lessons and Carols Dress Rehearsal SANCTUARY
5:45 p.m.	Men's Prayer Group ROOM 226
6:00 p.m.	Engage Bible Study YOUTH AREA
	Connect Group (Young Married Couples) ROOM 307
6:30 p.m.	Disciple 3 ROOM 229
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
	For Men Only ROOM 240
	Under Wraps Advent Study ROOM 222
	Experiencing God ROOM 224
8:00 p.m.	Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 | LUKE 3:1-2

5:30 a.m.	Fashion Fitness GYM
9:30 a.m.	Community Bible Study SANCTUARY
10:00 a.m.	Our Daily Bread FIRST BAPTIST DOWNTOWN
12:30 p.m.	Senior Fun "Home for the Holidays" HANCOCK HALL
5:30 p.m.	Fashion Fitness ROOM 119

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 | LUKE 3:3-6

12:15 p.m.	Tuck Class Christmas Party HANCOCK HALL
5:00 p.m.	Children's Basketball GYM
6:30 p.m.	REACH International Snack and Chat: Christmas Tree Trimming HANCOCK HALL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 | PHILIPPIANS 1:3-8

9:00 a.m.	Children's Basketball GYM
-----------	---------------------------

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

Published weekly

Periodicals Postage Paid at Athens, GA

Athens First United Methodist Church

327 N. Lumpkin Street

Athens, GA 30601-2743

Telephone | 706-543-1442

Fax | 706-546-4797

Website | *athensfirstumc.org*

Vol. LVI No. 71

Postmaster

Send address changes to:

AFUMC

P.O. Box 1109

Athens, GA 30603-1109