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 thick red line forms a large, irregular frame around the central text area. There are also several solid red circles of varying sizes scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 20, 2016  
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.

## *Children*

At Athens First United Methodist Church, we invite families to worship together. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through grade 2 most Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service.

## *Financial Report*

Budget for 2016 | \$2,789,339  
Amount Given YTD | \$2,767,099  
Goal for November | \$214,733  
Amount after 1 Sunday | \$99,047

## *Attendance on November 13*

Total Worship | 1556  
8:30 a.m. | 154  
9:45 a.m. | 538  
11:00 a.m. | 730  
Online | 134  
Sunday School | 317

## *Table of Contents*

- 1 8:30 a.m. Order of Worship
- 4 9:45 & 11:00 a.m. Order of Worship
- 7 The Steeple
- 12 Calendar

## *Ministers and Ministry Directors*

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister  
[chuck@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:chuck@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-206-5529

**Martha Aenchbacher** Minister of Congregational Care  
[martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org) | 678-230-9708

**Beth Dickinson** Minister of Discipleship  
[beth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:beth@athensfirstumc.org)

**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions  
[betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org)

**Josh Miles** Director of Student Ministries  
[josh@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:josh@athensfirstumc.org)

**Leslie Rogers** Director of Route 56  
[leslie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:leslie@athensfirstumc.org)

**Robin Stewart** Director of Children's Ministry  
[robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org)

**April Allen** Assistant Director of Children's Ministry  
[april@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:april@athensfirstumc.org)

**Sarah Lawing** Director of Children's Music Ministry & 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader  
[sarah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarah@athensfirstumc.org)

**Stephen Mitchell** Director of Music  
[stephen@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:stephen@athensfirstumc.org)

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

**Rusty Wood** Director of Recreation Ministries  
[rusty@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:rusty@athensfirstumc.org)

**Linsey Jarrett** Director of Weekday Preschool  
[linsey@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:linsey@athensfirstumc.org)

## *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.

## THE PRELUDE

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” | arr. David Tolk

### *Flowers*

The flowers on the altar  
are given to the glory  
of God and in loving  
memory of Mr. and Mrs.  
Ed A. Booth, Mr. and Mrs.  
C.D. Booth and Mr. and  
Mrs. J.H. Finney by Bob  
Booth and Ed Booth, Jr.

## \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Butler

PSALM 100 | P. 522 OLD TESTAMENT

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

**Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God’s presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

**We are the Lord’s; we are the people of God, the sheep of God’s pasture.**

Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise!

**Give thanks and bless God’s name!**

For the Lord is good;

**God’s steadfast love endures forever; God’s faithfulness to all generations.**

## \*THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

102 “Now Thank We All Our God” | NUN DANKET

## \*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 GLORY OF GOD | 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 PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

April Allen

**\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

131 “We Gather Together” | KREMSER

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

**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*

This is my prayer in the desert when all that’s within me feels dry. This is my prayer in my hunger and need. My God is the God who provides. And this is my prayer in the fire, in weakness or trial or pain. There is a faith proved of more worth than gold, so refine me, Lord, through the flame. I will bring praise. I will bring praise. No weapon formed against me shall remain. I will rejoice. I will declare God is my victory and He is here. And this is my prayer in the battle when triumph is still on its way. I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ, so firm on His promise I’ll stand. All of my life, in every season, You are still God. I have a reason to sing. I have a reason to worship. This is my prayer in the harvest when favor and providence flow. I know I’m filled to be emptied again. The seed I’ve received I will sow.

**THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Desert Song” | Brooke Fraser & Jill McCloghry

**\*THE DOXOLOGY | 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.**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9 | P. 187 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE SERMON**

“Thanks Living” | Beth Dickinson

**THE HYMN OF PREPARATION**

694 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” | ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

**Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Martha Aenchbacher and Betsy Butler

MATTHEW 26:17-19, 26-29

### The Prayer of Preparation

**We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

### The 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*

The text to this song can be found on page 400 of the hymnal.

### The Music During Communion

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” | arr. Sufjan Stevens

### The Prayer After Receiving Communion

#### \*THE CLOSING SONG

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion” | Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The second staff continues the melody and includes lyrics underneath. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are: "We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re - stored. He has done great things. We will say to - ge - ther we will feast and weep no more."

#### \* THE BLESSING

#### \* THE POSTLUDE

Partita on “Come Ye Thankful People Come” | Radice

# 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 Mr. and Mrs.  
Ed A. Booth, Mr. and Mrs.  
C.D. Booth and Mr. and  
Mrs. J.H. Finney by Bob  
Booth and Ed Booth, Jr.

### THE PRELUDE

9:45 a.m. | “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” | arr. Larson

*Rung by the Carillon Ringers*

11:00 a.m. | “For the Beauty of the Earth” | arr. Childers

*Rung by the Alleluia Ringers; Natalie Smith, flute*

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Butler



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks, and sing.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

**Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

**We are the Lord's; we are the people of God, the sheep of God's pasture.**

### [Response]

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

**Give thanks and bless God's name!**

For the Lord is good;

**God's steadfast love endures forever; God's faithfulness to all generations.**

## Praise & Thanksgiving

### \*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

160 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” | MARION

**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We rejoice in the Most High God who strengthens us  
and repays us many more times than we expect.**

**We rejoice in God who gives generously  
and who expects the same from all creatures God has made.**

**We rejoice in God, whose utmost, loving sacrifice  
is experienced through Jesus Christ, who paid it all.**

**We rejoice that Jesus Christ consciously and lovingly emptied himself  
so that we may learn to make sacrifice and live joyfully before God.**

**We rejoice in the Holy Spirit  
who enables us to represent Jesus to the world.**

**We rejoice in all that has been accomplished for deliverance and salvation  
and is now being lived in flesh as God is glorified in heaven. 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 PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

9:45 a.m. | Lily James Nelson, daughter of Kristin and Rob

**Lily James, Lily James, 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. Lily James, Lily James, God claims you, God helps you, protects you,  
and loves you too.**

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

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

**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.**

April Allen

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*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the scepter, his the throne;  
alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus, out of every nation, has redeemed us by his blood.  
Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
alleluia! He is near us; faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you evermore"?  
Alleluia!

Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.  
Alleluia! King eternal, you the Lord of lords we own: Alleluia!  
Born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne:  
you within the veil, have entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
by your Spirit, left us heavenward, in the Eucharistic feast!

## THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" | Hobby

*Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; with the Brass Ensemble, Brandon Craswell, director*

## \*THE DOXOLOGY | 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.**

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9 | P. 187 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

"Thanks Living" | Beth Dickinson

# Sending Forth

## \* THE HYMN

102 "Now Thank We All Our God" | NUN DANKET

## \*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

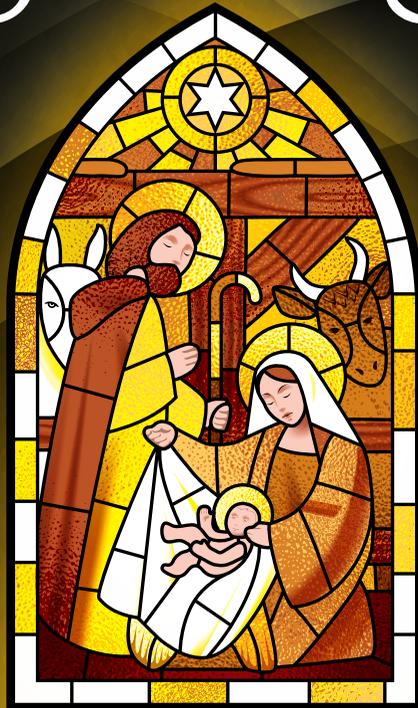
"We Receive Your Blessing"

**We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.**

## \* THE POSTLUDE

Partita on "Come Ye Thankful People Come" | Radice

*carols for*  
ADVENT &  
CHRISTMAS

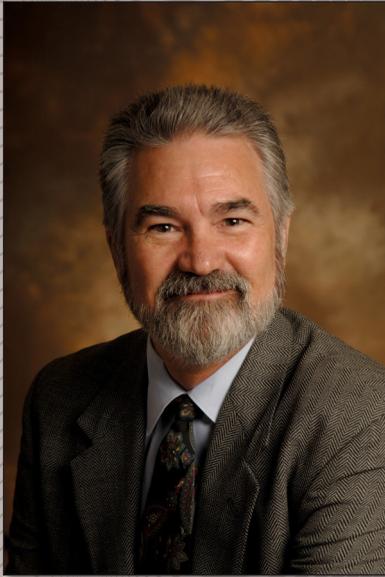


SUNG BY THE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Sunday, November 27 | 7:00 p.m. | Chapel

*A brief time of reflection as we enter the season of Advent  
featuring the music of MacMillan, Trotta, Gramann and Stroope.*

# Welcome Bob Winstead



We are excited to welcome Dr. Bob Winstead to our church staff as Executive Director of Administration. Bob is a retired United Methodist minister who currently serves as the Director of the Academy of Church Business Administration, leading the professional certification process for executive pastors and church business administrators. He is a national trainer for the United Methodist Church and leads workshops and retreats in administrative leadership. Bob has a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, and a Doctorate of Ministry in Church Leadership from the University of Chicago. Bob has three children and five grandchildren. His hobbies include playing drums, riding motorcycles, woodworking, and reading. Please give him a warm welcome into our church family.

## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Wingate Downs and his family in the loss of his mother, Ruth Spence Wingate Downs, on November 9.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Dana Mallory and her family in the loss of her father, Kenneth Gravely.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Joy Davis and her family in the loss of her sister, Jan Steffen.

## New Arrival

Congratulations to Mary Catherine and Lee Fudger on the birth of their son, Samuel Wolfe, on November 13. Samuel is the grandson of Darrel and Jane Begnaud.

## Trim the Tree

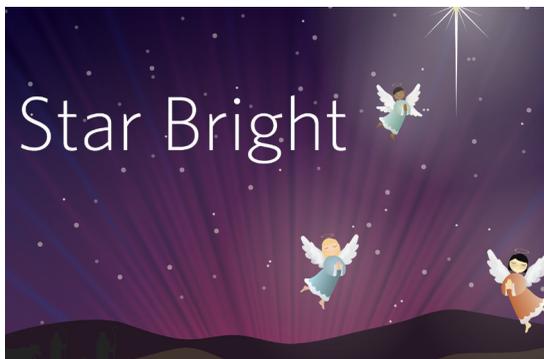
You are invited to help decorate the Christmas tree in Hancock Hall today at 12:00 p.m. Enjoy Christmas carols, snacks, and trimming the tree. All are welcome to attend.

## Special Offering | Today

Today, we will take up a special offering for Aldersgate Homes. Aldersgate is a related agency of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church serving persons with developmental disabilities. Aldersgate assists adults in securing safe, comfortable, affordable residential placements as well as opportunities for accessible recreational activities. Please make checks payable to AFUMC, but please add "Aldersgate" to the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

## Wednesday Night Meals

There will be no Wednesday Night Meal this week. Please take time to enjoy family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving from the Athens First United Methodist Church staff.



## Advent Family Breakfast

Come help us light up the season at the Advent Family Breakfast and Worship Service on Sunday, November 27, in Hancock Hall. This is a special time designed to engage the hearts and minds of all ages as we look toward Christmas. 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](http://athensfirstumc.org/familyevents)

Robin Stewart | [robin@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:robin@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

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

## Join Our Church Staff

We are now accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant position that will begin in January 2017. Work hours are 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word, experience with database and registration software, and Adobe InDesign is preferred. Excellent written communication skills are required.

Learn more | [athensfirstumc.org/employment](http://athensfirstumc.org/employment)

A vertical graphic with a black background. At the top, there are festive Christmas decorations including a large red poinsettia, a gold bell ornament, a red round ornament, and a green round ornament, all surrounded by green pine branches and gold pinecones. The text "Home for the holidays" is written in a large, white, cursive font in the center. At the bottom, there is white text providing details about an event.

Senior Fun is excited to host our annual "Home for the Holidays" event, where we invite homebound church members to a delicious meal and outstanding Christmas music program by the Arioso singers from the Athens Choral Society. Home for the Holidays will be Thursday, December 1, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. There is no cost for our special homebound guests, and the cost is \$6 for all others. If you are caring for an aging parent at home or have caregivers you employ, please know that all are invited and welcome to attend this special luncheon! If you need transportation, please let us know. Call the church office to make your reservation by Tuesday, November 29. Contact Martha with any questions.  
Church office | 706-543-1442  
Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)

## Wesley Heritage Tour

Are you interested in spending 12 days in England following the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley? Join Stephen Mitchell and Chuck Hodges on the Wesley Heritage Tour of England. The trip will include visits to Charterhouse; Wesley's Chapel (attending worship); the Methodist Central Hall in London (evening worship service); Christ Church, Oxford University; Epworth (the birthplace of the Wesleys); the New Room in Bristol; and additional trips to Blenheim Palace and the city of Lincoln. Included in the price is accommodations in superior four-star hotels, all breakfasts, five dinners, round trip airfare from Atlanta, all tips and entrance fees, and guided tours of sites. This Wesley Heritage Tour of England will occur on May 19-30, 2017 and the cost will not exceed \$3,800. To secure a

place, please pay a \$300 deposit per person to Stephen Mitchell by November 27, 2016. Contact Stephen for more information.

Stephen Mitchell | [smitchell@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:smitchell@athensfirstumc.org)  
706-543-1442

## Pickleball

Join us every Tuesday afternoon in our gym from 1:30-3:00 p.m. to play pickleball, 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



**BUILDS COMMUNITY**

## SERVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



**Adopt a Child | Now through Friday, December 2**  
Give gifts to a child or family in need during this Christmas season!

**Christmas Community Meal | Thursday, December 15**  
Volunteer to help serve a Christmas meal to those in our community!

**Mobile Food Pantry | Saturday, December 17**  
Come and hand out food to those in need in our community!

**Sack Lunch Ministry | Sunday, December 18, and Sunday, December 25**  
Sign up to prepare and hand out 40 sack lunches on Sunday morning

**Red Cross Blood Drive | Thursday, December 22**  
Come give the gift of life by giving blood through the Red Cross!

**Benevolence Gift Cards | Accepting now through the New Year**  
Help with the unexpected benevolence requests by giving gift cards to Walmart or Target (any amount would be much appreciated)



Learn More | [athensfirstumc.org/missions](http://athensfirstumc.org/missions)  
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





## Poinsettias

Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one are available for purchase through the church office. 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 Sunday, December 18, and the flowers may be picked up after the 11:00 am worship service the same day. Orders with payment may be made at the church office or by mail no later than November 28. The price is \$11 per plant. Cookie Daniel | [cookie@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cookie@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442



## Christmas Adoptions

This Christmas, adopt a child through the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project 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 2. Contact Mary Claire or Betsy to adopt a child or family today! Betsy Butler | [betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442  
Mary Claire Wills | [maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org)

## The Ark Christmas Store

Throughout November, The Ark is collecting brand new toy items for children up to 17 years old that will be sold in The Ark Christmas Store on December 6 to parents at yard sale prices. The Ark will be accepting gift donations through November 30. You may drop off items at The Ark. Address | 640 A Barber Street, Athens, GA 30601  
The Ark | [arkumoc@msn.com](mailto:arkumoc@msn.com) | (706) 353-3530



## Advent Bible Studies

We will offer two Bible studies during the Advent Season this year. The first, *Sacred Space*, is a daily prayer guide for the advent season that invites readers to develop a closer relationship with God during this season of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus. *Sacred Space* will begin on Wednesday, November 30, from 6:45-7:45 p.m. in the John Wesley Parlor. The cost is \$2 and the class is only three weeks long. Books are also available for your personal devotional use. Please pick up a book at the reception desk. For more information, contact Dianne Morrison. Register | [athensfirstumc.org/registration](http://athensfirstumc.org/registration)  
Dianne Morrison | [dianne.morrison@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.morrison@gmail.com)

The second study, *Awaiting the Already*, is an advent journey through the four Gospels. Each gospel, in its own way, leads us on the Advent journey of preparation for Christ's coming. Discover what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, and uncover Advent's tension between the past and the future within your own life. This study is offered on two different days. The first opportunity begins next Sunday, November 27, from 4:45-5:45 p.m. in room 222. The second session begins Wednesday, November 30,

from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in room 222. This is only a three-week study and each meeting will last one hour. The cost is \$9. Please pick up a book at the reception desk and read the first chapter before the first meeting.

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

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

## Women's Christmas Luncheon

One of the activities of the United Methodist Women is the annual Christmas luncheon. If you are interested in United Methodist Women, this is a great opportunity to learn more. The luncheon will be held in Hancock Hall on December 5 at 11:30 a.m. Please contact the church office to reserve your seat by December 2. If you are already a member of a UMW circle, please make your reservation for lunch with your circle leader. Please bring a salad or dessert for the luncheon.

Church office | 706-543-1442

Kim Griffith | [kimgriffith@bellsouth.net](mailto:kimgriffith@bellsouth.net)



## Volunteer with The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army needs our help! Now through December 15 (excluding November 23 -25), every weekday the Salvation Army will need volunteers at the old Goodwill on Atlanta Hwy in shifts from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 12:00-2:00 p.m., and 2:00-4:00 p.m. This Christmas, they hope to provide Christmas for 1600 children and our help is needed with sorting and bagging Angel Tree gifts in the warehouse! Contact Louise Brockinton if you would like to serve.

Louise Brockinton | [loubsweet@aol.com](mailto:loubsweet@aol.com) | 706-395-6199

## GriefShare

GriefShare groups are taking place at our church! This faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. We welcome Erica Cooper, bereavement coordinator of Gentiva Hospice, who is facilitating both groups in Room 100. Groups will meet through the week of December 12, with a break for Thanksgiving. 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; each lesson is "self-contained," so you do not need to attend in sequence. There is no cost to join a GriefShare group, but we ask that you register so that we can have enough materials prepared. Please contact Martha Aenchbacher for more information.

Learn More | [athensfirstumc.org/griefshare](http://athensfirstumc.org/griefshare)

Martha Aenchbacher | [martha@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:martha@athensfirstumc.org)

## Youth Christmas Lock-In

ONE Student Ministries is hosting a Christmas Lock-in for students in grades 7-12 on December 16-17. The activities at the lock-in will include Christmas caroling, dinner, fellowship, games, Chapel time, 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 11 at 11:55 p.m.

Registration | [athensfirstumc.org/christmaslockin](http://athensfirstumc.org/christmaslockin)

Josh Miles | [josh@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:josh@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-543-1442

# This Week

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## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

- 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  
**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
- 12:00 p.m. **Senior Fun Tree Decorating** HANCOCK HALL  
**Tijuana Mission Trip Meeting** ROOM 222  
**Thanksgiving Ingathering** ROOM 119
- 1:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 4:00 p.m. **Route 56 Music and Mission** LEAVING FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT
- 4:45 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** THE HOME OF LYNN AND GLEN WOOD

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 | ISAIAH 2:1-5

- 9:30 a.m. **UMW Circle 3 Meeting** THE HOME OF DIANNE WALL  
**UMW Circle 1 Meeting** ROOM 100
- 1:15 p.m. **Disciplines Devotional Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class**

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | JOHN 6:25-35

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 9:00 a.m. **Altar Guild Decorate Sanctuary** ROOM 247
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl** PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **UMW Circle 4 Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM  
**Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | PSALM 122

- Office is closed at noon, no programming*
- 10:00 a.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Alumni Breakfast** PANERA BREAD

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

*Thanksgiving Day—office is closed*

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | MATTHEW 24:36-44

*Office is closed, no programming*

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | ROMANS 13:11-14

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

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

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