



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.

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 2018 | \$3,231,864 Amount Given YTD | \$2,663,590 Goal for November | \$265,325 Amount after 1 Sunday | \$95,121

Attendance on November 11

Total Worship | 1257 8:30 a.m. | 137 9:45 a.m. | 360 11:00 a.m. | 598 Online | 162 Sunday School | 279

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

CCLI License No. 1097803

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Ministers

Martha Aenchbacher Minister of Congregational Care *martha@athensfirstumc.org* | 678-230-9708

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Directors

Katie Elder Director of Route 56 katie@athensfirstumc.org

Jennifer Golden Assist. Director of Children's Ministry *jennifer@athensfirstumc.org*

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool *linsey@athensfirstumc.org*

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Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist janis@athensfirstumc.org

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Robin Stewart Director of Children's Ministry robin@athensfirstumc.org

Bob Winstead Executive Director of Administration *bob@athensfirstumc.org*

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries rusty@athensfirstumc.org

The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

GATHERING SONG

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

Flowers

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Aenchbacher PSALM IOO 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, and God's faithfulness to all

generations.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

имн 694 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" | st. george's windsor

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | We Belong to God

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith, Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to the Spirit's guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

I

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Katie Elder

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Susan Taylor

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

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Desert Song" | Brooke Fraser

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95 "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

I THESSALONIANS 5:16 | p. 193 NEW TESTAMENT

SERMON

"The Key Ingredient!" | Chuck Hodges

*HYMN

имн 131 "We Gather Together" | ккемsек Verse 1-2

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Here is the table of the Lord. We are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal. Come when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come when you are regretful, and be made whole. Come, old and young, there is room for all. Let us pray.

God of new beginnings, because you come among us to make us whole, we approach your table with delight and expectation: glad to be comforted, ready to be challenged, knowing your generous love for all. Amen.

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

Anthem Lyrics This is my prayer in the

Lord through the flames. 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 my 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 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.**

Lord of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave grace to all, and opened the gate of glory. On the night...

Almighty God, we celebrate your love for us in Jesus Christ. As we remember Christ's sacrifice through our communion, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.

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.

Music During Holy Communion "Our Song in the Night" | Michael Van Patter

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*BLESSING

*CLOSING SONG UMH 617 "I Come with Joy" | DOVE OF PEACE

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise. We'll live and speak his praise.

*POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" | Crüger

Song Lyrics

In the darkness, can you hear us? When the night comes, are we alone? Have you forgotten all of your children? When we remember vou we groan. but our hearts cannot be silent. God, be our song in the night when the light is gone. God, be our joy, be our strength, be our sheltering place, our song in the night. We are broken—are we forsaken? Has your love gone down with the sun? And your mercy through all history, is it abandoned and undone? Oh our hearts cannot be silent. "Man of Sorrows," what a name for the Son of God who came, ruined sinners to reclaim. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

The Worship of God

9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Flowers

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

Gathering

THE PRELUDE "For the Fruit of All Creation" | Frank Stoldt

THE PRAYER

9:45 a.m. | Martha Aenchbacher 11:00 a.m. | Josh Miles

O Lord our God, who supplies us with countless blessings, lift up our hearts in gratitude and thanksgiving. Help us to remember the gifts we seldom notice, the abundance we take for granted, the rich possibilities you provide. For our daily bread, for water that is pure, for houses to live in and friends to enjoy, we give you humble thanks. For beauty and fruitfulness, for healing and hope, for the comfort of your presence, we lift our voices in joyful praise, now and always. Amen.

Praise & Thanksgiving

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" | Craig Courtney *Sung by the Sanctuary Choir*

***THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

имн 694 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" | st. george's windsor

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

9:45 a.m. | Brooks Cleveland Goodman, son of Lauren and Josh Goodman

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

11:00 a.m. | Robert Stratton Finnerty, son of Alison and Michael Finnerty

Stratton, Stratton, 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.

Stratton, Stratton, 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 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 | 11:00 a.m.

Katie Elder

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

Anthem Lyrics

Come to me, all you who labor. Come to me and I will give you rest. Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and you will find rest for your soul. Come, my child, learn my heart, for I am gentle and lowly. See how great my love for you, that I have called you my child.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Come to Me" | Dan Forrest

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Miles Adams, soloist; Eunice Kang, cello

This anthem was written for the Sanctuary Choir. The inscription in the anthem reads, "Commissioned by the Jeremiah 29:11 Music Fund to the glory of God and for the Sanctuary Choir of Athens First United Methodist Church, Athens, Georgia."

*THE DOXOLOGY

имн 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 PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen. THE SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16 | p. 193 New Testament

THE SERMON

"The Key Ingredient!" | Chuck Hodges

Response

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | We Belong to God

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith, Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to the Spirit's guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

*THE HYMN имн 92 "For the Beauty of the Earth" | DIX

Sending Forth

*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** "We Gather Together" | Flor Peters

The Steeple



Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Jim Lyons and his family in the loss of his sister, Marilyn Thomas, on October 27.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Chris Gholson and her family in the loss of her mother, Daisy Shockley, on November 10.

Route 56: Music and Missions

Today, some of our students in grades 5-6 will be singing at Iris Place, eating together, and shopping for Christmas gifts for local families at Walmart. Our Music and Missions event is always well received and a lot of fun. Please be in prayer for us as we help our students spread the joy and love of this season throughout our community.

Wednesday Night Meals

There will be no Wednesday Night Meal this week. Please take time to enjoy family and friends. You may register for the next Wednesday Night Meal, on Wednesday, November 28, online.

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

IHNA

The week of Thanksgiving, we are partnering with the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens to host displaced families in our community in need of temporary housing. From Sunday, November 18, to Wednesday, November 21, we will have numerous ways to serve while the guests stay in our church. These opportunities include driving the IHNA van, preparing a meal, spending time hosting our guests in the evening and overnight, and helping with set-up and take-down at the beginning and end of the host weeks. There is a place for everyone to be involved with this wonderful ministry! For more information and detailed descriptions of these volunteer opportunities, please visit our webpage or contact Betsy Butler or Sarah Beth Barger. Learn More | *athensfirstumc.org/ihn*

Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Sarah Beth Barger | *sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org*



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one are available to purchase through the church office. The flowers will be placed in the sanctuary by the Flower Guild on December 16 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 or in the church office the next day. Orders with payment may be made at the church office or by mail no later than Monday, November 19. The price is \$15 per plant.

Tona Moyers | tona@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Office Closed | Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving from the Athens First United Methodist Church staff. The church office will close Wednesday, November 21, at 12:00 p.m. for the Thanksgiving holidays. We will reopen on Monday, November 26. Services will remain at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 25.

Wesleyan Youth Choir Caroling

On Sunday, November 25, at 2:00 p.m. the Wesleyan Youth Choir will sing Christmas carols and visit the residents at Talmage Terrace and Lanier Gardens. Let your loved ones know of our visit! We look forward to seeing many of our church members! Please be in prayer for the youth as they spread Christmas cheer to our neighbors.



Timothy Advantage

If you are seeking a response to the question "What can I do?" we invite you to join the Timothy Advantage, a discipleship model of Timothy and Paul. This is a oncea-month commitment to teach in partnership for our elementary Sunday school program. This is a perfect opportunity for you if you have a heart for God and children AND if you believe your gifts may be magnified by serving with another disciple. This year we have seen God work in amazing ways as relationships have been built across multiple generations. Our classrooms are organized according to learning styles of children and include art, story telling, movies, and cooking. Join us as we strive to shape young hearts for God.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/timothyadvantage Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Advent Family Gathering

Advent time is almost here! Join us for a "Peanuts" themed morning on Sunday, December 2, in Hancock Hall, complete with a jazz trio playing your favorite Charlie Brown Christmas songs. This is a special time designed to engage the hearts and minds of all ages as we look toward Christmas. Enjoy breakfast, including pancakes and extras, starting at 8:30 a.m., followed by a family Advent wreath craft and interactive worship experience. The cost for breakfast is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Please register online for the pancake breakfast to facilitate planning and preparation. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/registration* Robin Stewart | *robin@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Sarah Lawing | *sarah@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Christmas Giving

Throughout November, there will be opportunities to support local Athens children and families who are in need during the Christmas season. We are partnered with local non-profit agencies to provide gifts for Salvation Army Angel Tree children and Project Safe families. We will also be collecting gift cards for the IHNA families. If you are interested in supporting a child or family in this way, please contact Betsy Butler or Sarah Beth Barger. Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Sarah Beth Barger | *sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org*



Carols and Readings for Christmas

Join us Sunday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. to hear the Chamber Ensemble host Carols and Readings for Christmas in the chapel. Come celebrate the first Sunday of Advent as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus and take time to pause from the busyness of the season to reflect and hear the story again through word and song. Enjoy the wonderful acoustics of the chapel as the ensemble presents music of Arnesen, Koppin, Rachmaninoff, and Chilcott. Stephen Mitchell | *stephen@athensfirstumc.org* 706-543-1442

Preparing for Advent: Candlelight Yin Yoga and Prayer Meditation

Join Susan Taylor in "Preparing for Advent: Candlelight Yin Yoga and Prayer Meditation" on Monday, December 3, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in room 301. Yin Yoga offers a much deeper access to the body when practicing the asanas (yoga postures). Postures are held for three to five minutes so that there is time for meditation. Yin yoga is for every "body," novice, beginner, intermediate, and advanced yoga practitioners. Advent prayer meditations using scripture and poetry along with prayer bead practice are included. Prayer beads will be provided and given to each participant to use and keep as a reminder of this time of Advent preparation. The cost is \$10. Please register online. For more information, contact Susan or Cindy. Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration Susan Taylor | susan@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Red Cross Blood Drive

Join us Tuesday, December 18, to give the gift of blood! The holidays are a time when blood is most needed, and we are happy to host a blood drive to help those in need! Many in our church family have been beneficiaries of blood transfusions and platelets and we are excited to continue to serve our community in this way. The Red Cross blood drive will be in Hancock Hall from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Contact Sarah Beth Barger to schedule an appointment to give blood; however, walk-ins are always welcome! Sarah Beth Barger | *sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org* 706-543-1442

Souper Suppers | Save the Date

Save our Date! Souper Suppers is just around corner. Beginning January 10, we will invite our community guests to dinner at the church each Thursday. At this time, we are collecting donations of toilet paper 4-packs, bottles of dish soap, peanut butter crackers, and new or used books (from children's books to young adult). If you are interested in getting involved or serving, mark your calendars and contact Betsy Butler or Sarah Beth Barger. Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442 Sarah Beth Barger | *sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org*

Hessiah G. f. Handel

A BIBLE STUDY

Want to hear G.F. Handel's *Messiah* from a new and fresh perspective? Want to know more about the work and study the text? Join Stephen Mitchell, Martha Aenchbacher, and Susan Taylor for a three-week study of Handel, *Messiah*, and the text. The study will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m., beginning November 28 through December 12 in room 148. Then everyone is invited to hear the Sanctuary Choir perform Part I on Sunday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Susan or Cindy. Please register online.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration Susan Taylor | susan@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 ijah Cho

This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | MARK 13:1-8 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery First FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. Fun Gym GYM
- 9:00 a.m. Fun Gym GY
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING Youth Sunday School YOUTH AREA Route 56: Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School ROOM 120 Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground CHAPEL Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill ROOM 311 & 313 Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
 - **Disciplines of a Godly Family** ROOM 301
- 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. Thanksgiving Ingathering ROOM 119
- 1:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 3:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 1 Meeting HANCOCK HALL
- 4:00 p.m. Route 56 Music & Mission DEPARTING FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT
- 4:30 p.m. Connect & Grow Group JOHN WESLEY PARLOR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19 | 2 SAMUEL 23:I-5 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

- 10:00 a.m. UMW Circle 1 Meeting ROOM 100
- Connect & Grow | Women's Group ROOM 200
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 6:30 p.m. Junior Girl Scouts Meeting SAYE BUILDING
- 7:00 p.m. Connect & Grow Group

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 2 SAMUEL 23:6-7 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 5:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting HANCOCK HALL
- Connect & Grow Group JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 6:00 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Ruth ROOM 224
 - Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 | PSALM 132 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

12:00 p.m. Church Office Closes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | MATTHEW 6:25-33 Thanksgiving Day—office is closed Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | PSALM 126 Office is closed, no programming Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | REVELATION 1:4b-8 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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Athens First United Methodist Church

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