

## 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 | \$2,751,329 Goal for November | \$265,325 Amount after 2 Sundays | \$132,360

#### Attendance on November 18

An updated attendance report will be available on Sunday, December 2.

#### 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

**Betsy Butler** Minister of Missions betsy@athensfirstumc.org

**Chuck Hodges** Senior Minister *chuck@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-206-5529

**Josh Miles** Minister of Student Life *josh@athensfirstumc.org* 

**Susan Taylor** Minister of Discipleship susan@athensfirstumc.org

#### Directors

Katie Elder Director of Route 56 katie@athensfirstumc.org

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

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**Laney Jones** Assistant Director of Student Ministries *laney@athensfirstumc.org* 

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

**Stephen Mitchell** Director of Music stephen@athensfirstumc.org

**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.

#### Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Milton H. Pittard and Pat Cardin by Richard and Donna Cardin, Michael and Susan Cardin, and Jody and Tim Kelly. GATHERING SONG "Lift Your Voice" | Kate Gungor and Jon Arndt

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

Betsy Butler PSALM 95:I-2 O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

имн 577 "God of Grace and God of Glory" | сwм Rhonda

\*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** 

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jennifer Golden

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER** Martha Aenchabcher

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** "Whatever Comes" | Rend Collective

#### \*DOXOLOGY

имн 95 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" | тне оld 100тн

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

Esther 4:1-17 | p. 425 old testament

#### SERMON

"For Such a Time as This" | Josh Miles

#### \*HYMN

UMH 121 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" | WELLESLEY

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.

#### 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.

Anthem Lyrics

Lord, whatever comes, make me steadfast. Make me rooted, a cedar planted firm, deeply grounded in Your goodness, whatever comes. Lord, whatever comes, be my bedrock, keep me steady, loyal to Your throne, whatever stands against me, whatever comes. Be my bravery when I am trembling. Be my courage when my heart is caving in. Be the fireside when I am wandering. Be my Father, whatever comes. Lord, whatever comes. Be my soul, be strong as iron, bending only when, when I kneel before the "I Am," whatever comes. 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 "Who We Are" | Lisa Gungor

#### 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

"Postlude on CORONATION" | Tim Fields

Song Lyrics All the world watches as the people run from the fiercest storm to the fierce unknown. Will we watch and wait, turn and close our door, or will we be who we've always said we are? Broken bodies scattered on broken floor - all the earth now weeps for her children lost. All the fallen plead now with wounded words. Will we be who we've always said we are? All the world watched his little body there. innocent and still at the water's edge, and it stole our breath. Love that holds him now asks for more than words. Will we be who we've always said we are? When you are wounded, all is wounded. When you are broken, all is broken. When we don't see you, we are blinded. When we're united, we're united. When you are hungry, we are hungry. When you are thirsty, we are thirsty. When you're divided, we're divided. When we're united, we're united.

## 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. Milton H. Pittard and Pat Cardin by Richard and Donna Cardin, Michael and Susan Cardin, and Jody and Tim Kelly.

Gathering

THE PRELUDE "Danse Festiva" | Paul McKlveen Rung by the Carillon Ringers

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Shout with Joy" | Craig Courtney Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

#### THE PRAYER

Betsy Butler

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# Praise & Thanksgiving

\*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN имн 577 "God of Grace and God of Glory" | сwм rhonda

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** 

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Martha Aenchbacher

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

#### THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 11:00 a.m.

#### Jennifer Golden

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

#### THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Let All the World in Every Corner Sing" | Ralph Vaughan Williams Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; with the Brass Ensemble

This anthem has been placed in the choir library to the glory of God and in honor of Dianne Wall by the United Methodist Women Circle 3.

#### **\*THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" | LASST UNS ERFREUEN Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### 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** Esther 4:1-17 | p. 425 old testament

#### THE SERMON

"For Such a Time as This" | Josh Miles

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.

Anthem Lyrics Let all the world, in every corner, sing: My God and King! The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly; The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow. Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King! The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out; But, above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!

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 UMH 593 "Here I Am, Lord" | HERE I AM, LORD

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 "Postlude on CORONATION" | Tim Fields

# The Steeple

# carols and readings for ADVENT & HRISTMAS

Sunday, December 2 7:00 p.m. | Chapel



## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Page Allen and her family in the loss of her mother, Jean Butts Jones, on November 2.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Anne Hill and her family in the loss of her mother, Nancy Gretzinger, on November 5.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Jeff Miller and his family in the loss of his stepfather on November 11.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Taylor Miller and her family in the loss of her mother, Eden Persons, on November 15.

### Wesleyan Youth Choir Caroling

Today 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.



### Messiah | 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

### Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, November 28, is provided by Champy's. Join us for chicken fingers, baked beans and coleslaw. Order your meal online or by calling the church office by Tuesday at noon. For more information, contact Cindy.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals Cindy McKoy | cindy@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

### 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

## 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



### 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

### UMW Christmas Luncheon

Come and join our United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 10, at 11:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall. If you are interested in the United Methodist Women, this is a great opportunity to learn more. All women are invited to attend. Please contact Cindy to make reservations. If you are a member of one of our circles, please make your reservation for lunch with your circle leader. Please bring a salad or dessert for the luncheon. Kim Griffith | *kimgriffith@bellsouth.net* Cindy McKoy | *cindy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442



## Home for the Holidays

Senior Fun is excited to host our annual Home for the Holidays event where we invite homebound church members to a delicious meal and special music from the Bulldog Brass Society of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music. Home for the Holidays will be Thursday, December 13, at 12:00 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, December 11. Contact Martha with any questions.

Church office | 706-543-1442

 $Martha \ A enchbacher \ | \ martha @ a then s firstumc. or g$ 

### Gratitude Multiplied

If your gratitude is compelling you to give back, there is a place for you to change hearts and shape hearts of people of all ages. We are forming discipleship teams whose first responsibility is to teach children. However, the bonus is that we are building new relationships among all ages. Bring your heart and your special gifts. You determine the size of your commitment. Stop by the desk at the Washington Street galleria entrance, or contact Robin Stewart or Tiffany Anderson for more information.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/timothyadvantage Robin Stewart | robin@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

### 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* 706-543-1442



# This Week

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | MARK 12:41-44

- 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 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
- **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. WYC Christmas Caroling DEPARTING FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT
- 1:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 3:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 1 Meeting HANCOCK HALL
- 3:45 p.m. Agape Choir Rehearsal ROOM 145
- 4:00 p.m. GriefShare | Surviving the Holidays ROOM 222
- 4:30 p.m. Carillons Ringers ROOM 150 Connect & Grow Group JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 5:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers ROOM 150

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | HEBREWS 10:11-19

- 10:00 a.m. Connect & Grow | Women's Group ROOM 200
- 11:30 a.m. UMW Circle 5 Meeting HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Community Bible Study
  - Junior Girl Scouts Meeting SAYE BUILDING
- 7:00 p.m. Connect & Grow Group

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | HEBREWS 10:19-25

- 8:30 a.m. Community Bible Study Leaders' Council YOUTH AREA
- 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 5:30 p.m. UMW Circle 4 Meeting HULL CONFERENCE ROOM Connect & Grow Group JOHN WESLEY PARLOR Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT

| 9:30 a.m. | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28   1 SAMUEL            |
|-----------|--|
| 4:30 p.m. | Wednesday Morning Bible Study ROOM 222       |
|           | Prayer Shawl Ministry ROOM 200               |
|           | Lyric Choir   Grades 1-2 ROOM 151            |
|           | Celebrate Worship Arts   Grades 3-4 ROOM 301 |
| 4:45 p.m. | Dance   Age 4-Kindergarten ROOM 145          |
| 5:00 p.m. | Early Book Group ROOM 224                    |
|           | Route 56 Wednesday Nights ROOM 120           |
| 5:10 p.m. | Wednesday Night Meal HANCOCK HALL            |
| 5:15 p.m. | Celebrate Choir   Grades 3-4 ROOM 151        |
|           | Sonshine Choir   Age 4 ROOM 325              |
| 5:20 p.m. | Joy Choir   Kindergarten ROOM 325            |
|           | Music & Movement   Age 3 ROOM 314            |
| 5:30 p.m. | Lyric Worship Arts   Grades 1-2 ROOM 301     |
|           | Messiah Bible Study ROOM 148                 |
|           | 66 Love Letters                              |
| 6:00 p.m. | Connect Group   Young Married ROOM 114       |
| 6:30 p.m. | Youth Bible Study ROOM 119                   |
|           | Connect & Grow Group ROOM 224                |
|           | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148           |
| 7:00 p.m. | Later Book Group ROOM 100                    |
| 8:00 p.m. | Children's Basketball GYM                    |
| -         | Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148          |

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 1 SAMUEL 1:11-20

1:4-11

- 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study SANCTUARY
- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Connect Group | Young Adult ROOM 222

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | I SAMUEL 2:1-8

4:00 p.m. Children's Basketball GYM

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 | I SAMUEL 2:9-10

9:00 a.m. Children's Basketball GYM Venture Crew Meeting ROOM 125

### Worship Bulletin (614-280)

Published weekly

### Athens First United Methodist Church

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Send address changes to: AFUMC P.O. Box 1109 Athens, GA 30603-1109 Periodicals Postage Paid at Athens, GA

Vol. LXI No. 47