

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 around a central red geometric structure that resembles a stylized cross or a series of connected lines. There are also solid red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left, one in the bottom right, and one centered on a horizontal line below the church name.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Ordinary Time

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

Welcome

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

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

Nursery

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

Children

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

Sunday School

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

Connect

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

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

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

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able.

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

Gathering

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Philip Haggard, Audrey and Charlie Richardson, and in honor of Nira Haggard by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Haggard and children.

THE PRELUDE

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Blessed Assurance" | Hobby

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

8:30 A.M. "How Great Is Our God"

Sung by the Worship Team

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. "Psalm 118: Alleluia, This Is the Day!"

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

THE WELCOME AND THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Beth Dickinson

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 139

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" | LOBE DEN HERREN

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We Belong to God by Steve Garnass-Holmes

**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.**

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Morgan Ellerbee and Andrew Stewart on October 10, 2015.

**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 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. | William "Boyer" Beasley

**Boyer, Boyer, 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. Boyer, Boyer, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and
loves you too.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Betsy Butler

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

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

Robin Stewart, Director of Children's Ministry

At the 11:00 a.m. service, children in kindergarten through grade 2 will go to Children's Church on the third floor where they may be picked up at the end of the service.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 A.M. Special Music

Sung by the Worship Team

9:45 A.M. "Exultate" | Bauder

Rung by the Alleluia Ringers

*Son of Ellen
and Will Beasley*

11:00 A.M. “This is My Father’s World” | arr. Page

Rung by the Carillon Ringers

*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!

THE ANTHEM | 9:45 & 11:00 A.M.

“We Sing the Mighty Power of God” | Hopson

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Beth Baile, flute; Kaki Heath, Anna Conner, Rachael Smith, Jan Crouch, handbells

We sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise, who spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies. We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey. We sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed where e’er we turn our eyes; if we survey the ground we tread, or gaze up at the skies. There’s not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known; and clouds arise and tempests blow, by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care, and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, are present there.

Proclamation of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

THE SERMON

“Harmless Kitten or Lion of Judah?” | Martha Aenchbacher

Response to the Word

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

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

Sending Forth

* THE HYMN 77 | Stanza 1 & 2

“How Great Thou Art” | HOW GREAT THOU ART

* THE BLESSING

* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“We Receive Your Blessing”

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

* THE POSTLUDE

“Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy” | Sikes

Sermon Notes

OCTOBER 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. Bob Green, Nat Carmack, Marty Webb, Ben Ayers, Spence Johnson, Jim Lyons, Kyle Beeson

OFFERING STEWARDS

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

GREETERS

Jane Harvey and Cyndy Harbold, Alley and Ken Mauldin, Alex and Marty Keller, Jack Miller and Al Rogers, Melanie Merhar, Valerie Aldridge, Virginia Beth Butler, Rolf Reynolds

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

Acolyte Manager: Reagan Grace

8:30 a.m. Brent and James Chandler, Margaret Timberlake

9:45 a.m. Tommy Chambers, Georgia Laster

11:00 a.m. Dylan Wyrick, Toby Chapeau, Charles Clarke

ATTENDANCE ON OCTOBER 4

Total Worship | 1050

Sunday School | 408

8:30 a.m. | 163

9:45 a.m. | 222

11:00 a.m. | 547

Online | 118

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2015 | \$2,641,842

Amount Given YTD | \$2,201,192

Goal for September | \$170,793

Amount after 4 Sundays | \$218,608

OUR MINISTERS AND MINISTRY DIRECTORS

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athensfirstumc.org

chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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Julie Caldwell 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader

julie@athensfirstumc.org | 706-540-0042

The Steeple

In Memoriam

W.C. "Mac" McRee
October 4, 2015

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Malcolm McArthur and family in the loss of his mother, Helen Elizabeth Long McArthur, on September 24.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of W.C. "Mac" McRee who passed away October 4.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Emily and Matthew Broun on the birth of their daughter, Emerson Cecilia, on September 2. Emerson Cecilia is the granddaughter of Mike and Sharon Broun.

Congratulations to April and Mike Pilcher on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Claire, on September 30.

Newcomer Orientation | Today

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation today at 9:45 or 11:00 a.m. in the Hospitality Room (on the Adult Sunday School hallway). You can learn more about Athens First United Methodist, including ways to get involved and how to become a member.

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Wednesday Night Meal

The meal on Wednesday, October 14, is Weaver D's. 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! Rachel Skinner | rachel@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/wednesdaynightmeals

Free 8x10 Directory Photo

Photos are streaming in! If you ordered photographs at your Lifetouch photo session, your free 8x10 photo will be mailed to your home along with the other photos you ordered. However, if you did not order any photos, Lifetouch will automatically mail your free photo to the church approximately three weeks after your photo session. Photos will be kept at the reception desk. Pick yours up today! Church Office | 706-543-1442

United Methodist Women Circle 2

Are you looking for a small group of women for fellowship and mission outreach opportunities? If so, UMW Circle 2 might be for you. Bring your lunch and join us at the home of Cookie Hardigree on October 13 at 12:00 p.m. If you would like more information on Circle 2, please contact the Circle Leader, Beth Johnston.

Beth Johnston | 678-726-5521

The Serenity Prayer | October 21

Many things assault our sense of peace—stressful jobs, troubled marriages, and retirement worries. The new study, led by Dianne Morrison, begins Wednesday, October 21 from 6:45-8:00 p.m. The book *The Serenity Prayer: A Simple Prayer to Enrich Your Life* by Trevor Hudson explores the meaning of the famous Serenity Prayer and challenges us to discover peace when life seems out of control. The book is \$10.

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

Senior Fun Luncheon | October 22

The Senior Fun Group will gather on Thursday, October 22, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall for a delicious lunch and entertaining program. The program will be provided by the UGA Hodgson Singers under the direction of Dr. Dan Bara. They are one of the best college glee clubs in America. Please make reservations for this luncheon by Monday, October 21, by calling the church office. For questions, please contact Dan Maxey.

Dan Maxey | 706-340-5097
Church Office | 706-543-1442

Annual Fall Festival | October 25

Join us October 25 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. for an afternoon filled with good food, celebration, and family! Our annual Fall Festival will take place at the Parrish Farm in Bishop. We will have face painting, cookie and pumpkin decorating, and a cake auction to benefit the Angel Tree project sponsored by the Salvation Army. Don't forget to bring a blanket and chairs! We look forward to seeing you there!

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/fallfestival

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

Children's Basketball | Register

Our Children's Basketball League runs from November through early March and is open to children ages 4-10. Along with learning the game of basketball and building athletic skills, we look forward to families, teams, and coaches growing together in their knowledge of Christ. Registration takes place until October 30.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/childrensbasketball

Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Harvest Retreat | October 24-25

Harvest is our fall retreat on October 24-25 for students in grades 7-12. There will be time for fellowship, food, fun, and worship as we break away from our busy lives for this time of respite. The theme of Harvest this year is focused on Mark 4:26-29, and registration is open until Sunday, October 18!

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/harvestretreat

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

New Study for Men | October 28

If you are like most men, you've burned up a lot of energy trying to figure out what a woman wants and how to make her happy. The good news: success is simpler than you ever thought. In their ground-breaking classic, *For Men Only*, Jeff and Shaunti Feldhahn reveal the eye-opening truths and simple acts that will radically improve your relationship with the woman you love. This study begins October 28 and meets in room 240 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The study is led by Keith Wilson and Bruce Powers. The book is \$10.

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

Don't Miss Out!

Our family photo album won't be complete without you in it! There are still a few sessions available on October 23 and 24. If you have not had your photo taken, we invite you to either stop by the table in front of the administrative offices to sign up, or contact our office for details on submitting a photo for the directory.

Church Office | 706-543-1442

Volunteer at IHN Host Week

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week is coming up October 25 through November 1. IHNA provides services and coordinates temporary housing for displaced families in local host churches, and it is our privilege to partner in ministry with them this month. There are many ways to serve, which include: evening hosts, overnight hosts, drivers, and dinner providers. There is also a need for an IHNA Day Center worker on November 1, from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This shift can be split up into two shifts, 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overall, each of these serving opportunities provides encouragement and hospitality to those in need in our community, and we are honored to be a blessing alongside our mission partner, IHNA. If you have any questions about what these volunteer opportunities may involve or if you know you are available to serve, please contact Taylor Miller.

Taylor Miller | miller3750@bellsouth.net

REACH International Thanksgiving Dinner | November 19

We have an opportunity to bless others this Thanksgiving. On November 19, we will host the international students at UGA for a taste of a traditional American Thanksgiving meal. There are many opportunities to serve: prepare the food with the meal prep team, bake a pumpkin or apple pie, greet students as they arrive, or serve as a table host. What a blessing to serve students from all around the world this Thanksgiving; we hope you will come and be a part of this beloved celebration!

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/reachthanksgiving

Lynn Bryant | lynn@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

This Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 | MARK 10:28-31

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
Newcomer Orientation HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Young Professionals/Community Adult Sunday School Class ROOM 224
Newcomer Orientation HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 1:30 p.m. **Middle School Volleyball League** GYM
- 2:00 p.m. **Athens Area Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1** HANCOCK HALL
- 3:45 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
- 4:30 p.m. **Wesleyan Youth Choir Rehearsal** ROOM 148
Carillions Ringers ROOM 150
Route 56: Open Road ROOM 120
Welcome Ministry Design Team Meeting HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 4:45 p.m. **Trusting the Covenant** ROOM 224
Connect Group (Parents) ROOM 229
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Ringers** ROOM 150
- 5:45 p.m. **Encounter** YOUTH AREA
Connect Group (Parents) ROOM 222
- 6:30 p.m. **Confirmation Lesson** HANCOCK HALL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 | JOB 38:1-7

- 1:15 p.m. **Monday Bible Study** ROOM 200
- 7:00 p.m. **Community Bible Study, Athens Evening Class**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 | JOB 38:34-41

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
- 8:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study Leaders Council**
- 10:00 a.m. **Our Daily Bread** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
- 12:00 p.m. **UMW Circle 2 Meeting** ROOM 100
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
- 6:00 p.m. **Middle School Volleyball League** GYM
Adult Softball BISHOP PARK
- 6:30 p.m. **Financial Peace University** ROOM 222
Trusting the Covenant (C3) ROOM 226
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scout Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | PSALM 104:1-9

- 9:15 a.m. **Trusting the Covenant** ROOM 224
9:30 a.m. **Breath** ROOM 229
New Testament Letters ROOM 222
1:00 p.m. **Believing God** ROOM 229
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 100
5:00 p.m. **Route 56: GPS** ROOM 120
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
Dare to Dream HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:45 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226
6:00 p.m. **Engage Bible Study** YOUTH AREA
6:30 p.m. **Freeway** ROOM 222
Living Fully, Dying Well JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
Comeback Boys of the Bible ROOM 240
Disciple 3 ROOM 229
Experiencing God ROOM 224
Connect Group (Young Married Couples) ROOM 307
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
Later Book Group ROOM 247
7:00 p.m. **Adult Pick-up Volleyball** GYM
7:30 p.m. **Youth Worship Team Rehearsal** ROOM 119
8:00 p.m. **Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal** ROOM 148

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 | HEBREWS 5:1-10

- 5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
9:30 a.m. **Community Bible Study**
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 119
6:00 p.m. **Middle School Volleyball League** GYM
7:00 p.m. **Connect Group (Young Adult)** ROOM 222
Classic City Smockers HULL CONFERENCE ROOM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 | HEBREWS 5:7-10

- 6:30 p.m. **REACH International Bible Study & Dinner** YOUTH AREA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 | MARK 10:35-45

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