

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.

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 every 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 | \$1,973,101 Goal for August | \$199,742 Amount after 3 Sundays | \$165,494

Attendance on August 28

Total Worship | 1495 8:30 a.m. | 150 9:45 a.m. | 410 11:00 a.m. | 565 Online | 370 Sunday School | 495

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 | 706-206-5529

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

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship beth@athensfirstumc.org

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions betsy@athensfirstumc.org

Josh Miles Director of Student Ministries *josh@athensfirstumc.org*

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

Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry & 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader sarah@athensfirstumc.org

Stephen Mitchell Director of Music stephen@athensfirstumc.org

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

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries rusty@athensfirstumc.org

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

Contact Us

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Find us on Facebook at Athens First United Methodist Church. *athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Hoyt & Woodlyn Chastain by Woody & Susanne Chastain, Ricky & Betsey Chastain, and their families.

THE PRELUDE

"You Are Before Me, Lord" | Alfred Morton Smith Sung by the Worship Team Psalm 139:13-18

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP TFWS 2272 "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" | HOLY GROUND

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around. Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

*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 Beth Dickinson

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 HYMN OF PRAISE**

144 "This is My Father's World" | TERRA BEATA

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Our Song in the Night" | Michael Van Patter Sung by the Worship Team

*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 ESTHER 4:14 | p. 425 OLD TESTAMENT The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God

THE SERMON

"For Such a Time as This" | Betsy Butler

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please turn to page 6 in the bulletin for the communion liturgy.

The Music During Communion "Gabriel's Oboe" | Ennio Morricone

Serena Scibelli, violin; Maria Kindt, viola; Ana Abrantes, cello; Sarah Lawing, clarinet; Jason Royer, bass

Anthem 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 we groan, but our hearts cannot be silent. O God be our song in the night when our light is gone. God, be our hope, be our strength, be our sheltering place, our song in the night. Your road, it led Him into the city. The people, they trembled. You made a way. You raised your arm and saved all your children. Lord will you hear us when we say that our hearts cannot be silent? "Man of Sorrows," what a name for the Son of God who came, ruined sinners to reclaim. Alleluia, alleluia.

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.

*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Standing on the Promises" | R. Kelso Carter

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

* THE POSTLUDE "Thanks Be to Thee" | Hopson

Sermon Notes

The Worship of God

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Hoyt & Woodlyn Chastain by Woody & Susanne Chastain, Ricky & Betsey Chastain, and their families.

Gathering

THE PRELUDE "Processional on LAUDA ANIMA" | Hustad

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "O Be Joyful in the Lord" | John Yarrington Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 577 "God of Grace and God of Glory" | CWM RHONDDA

*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 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 Beth Dickinson

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.

Proclamation of the Word

Anthem Lyrics THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Il, "Come Humble Soul" | Ken Berg Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Serena Scibelli, violin; Jason Bennett, 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

Esther 4:14 | p. 425 OLD TESTAMENT The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God**

THE SERMON "For Such a Time as This" | Betsy Butler

Come, humble soul, receive the food your Savior offers here. Believe and taste that He is good, and longs each soul to cheer. Deem not that you to heav'n can rise to meet your Savior there; He comes in mercy from the skies that you his bliss may share. He ever lives, and only they in whom the Lord abides; and here, that he in us may be, He richest food provides. Here we commune with him who died, us pow'r o'er death to give; the life of him now glorified we here receive and live.

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

When we gather to praise God and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to the will of God. Accepting God's power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

We praise you for all who labor for the common good and for those whose service is unappreciated. We thank you for children whose play is the work of learning to live in the world. We thank you for disciples who are obedient to the promptings of your Spirit in all their relationships. We thank you for your mercy that moves us to participate in your healing and blessing of the earth and all peoples.

You made us in your image and set us in a lush garden as caretakers. When we chose to have it all to ourselves, you turned our freedom to the toil for survival. When we cried out in our misery, you delivered us from captivity and made a covenant to be our sovereign God. By the prophets you called us to return to you and delight in good food without price. You confronted us with the waste of laboring apart from you, and you asked us, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?...Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and holy is your work among us in Jesus Christ, who came to be born in the home of a carpenter, a trade he learned and practiced, a laborer in our midst. He called out fishermen and activists. He healed the servant of a soldier. He received the support of resourceful women. He delegated his ministry to his disciples, empowered all his followers to do his divine work in this world. By his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from the bondage of sin and the power of death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so as a baptized and commissioned people, remembering your mighty work in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves, our daily lives, and our unique locations for ministry in the world—homes and hospitals, offices and stores, prisons and concert halls—as a living and holy sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

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

The Music During Communion "Gabriel's Oboe" | Ennio Morricone Serena Scibelli, violin; Maria Kindt, viola; Ana Abrantes, cello Sarah Lawing, clarinet; Jason Royer, bass;

The Receiving of the Elements of Communion

At Athens First United Methodist, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available at the center station with the acolytes.

THE PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord, and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

Sending Forth

* THE HYMN 547 "O Church of God, United" | ELLACOMBE Verse 1

*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 "Thanks Be to Thee" | Hopson

The Steeple



New Arrivals

Congratulations to Adam and Rebecca Scarbro on the birth of their son, Samuel Everett, on August 23.

Congratulations to Maura and Jeff Snowden on the birth of their son, Thomas Henri, on August 26.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Stephanie Cartwright and her family in the loss of her mother, Thelma Harrington, on August 24.

Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, September 7, is Fox's Pizza Den. Join us for baked spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread. 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. You and your family, friends, and/or small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. For more information, contact Beth. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you order your meal.

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

Parenting with Purpose | Movie Night

All parents are invited to a special showing of the movie *War Room* on Thursday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Join us for an inspirational look at the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, and other areas of our lives. This evening will serve as the starting point for our fall Parenting with Purpose small groups that will begin the following week. Invite your friends! The event is free, but registration will help us prepare well. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/pwp*

Tijuana Mission Trip Interest Meeting

If you are interested in the Tijuana Mission trip December 27-January 1, please join us for an informational meeting on September 11, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in room 103. A \$200 deposit for this trip will be due September 30. Contact Mary Claire or Betsy if you plan to attend. Mary Claire Wills | *maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org* Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org*

Defying Gravity

Join Beth Dickinson September 11-October 2 on Sunday evenings from 4:45-6:15 p.m. for a book study on *Defying Gravity*, by Tom Berlin. This book examines the difference between "want" and "need" and illustrates how possessions can create an unbearable weight on our lives. This small group will go hand in hand with our stewardship season as our congregation examines what it means to live an abundant life. This study will be in room 224 and all materials are free. For more information, contact Kayla Calloway. Kayla Calloway | *kayla@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

Newcomer Orientation | Next Sunday

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation next Sunday, September 11, in the Hospitality Room. Two sessions are offered, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. 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*

Cub Scouts

Pack 1 is an active Cub Scout Pack, focused on teaching and learning outdoor skills, citizenship, and personal development for boys in grades 1-5. There is a den for each grade level that meets on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. in various rooms at the church. Join us on Sunday, September 11, for our New Scout Meeting, or to learn more, contact Cubmaster Nat.

Nat Carmack | carmacknat@gmail.com

Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University presents practical, Biblical steps to get you from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. In nine lessons, you will learn how to dump debt, take control of your money, spend and save wisely, and give generously! On average, families save \$2,300 and pay off \$5,700 in debt in the first 90 days! Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be offered Tuesday nights this fall from September 13-November 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. This class will meet in room 222. The materials for this course cost \$100; couples share one kit. Childcare is available with registration. Contact Jack and Joy Davis with questions. Register | *athensfirstumc.org/registration* Joy and Jack Davis | *joydavis1561@gmail.com*

John Wesley said "Prayer is where the action is." We encourage you to join us in the divine activity of the Elijah Project! ONE Student Ministries will soon begin the fourth year of an inter-generational prayer ministry that has impacted youth and adults through consistent, expectant prayer. Registration for the Elijah Project is open through September 11! Contact Laney Jones if you have any questions.

Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

athensfirstumc.org/elijahproject



Connect & Grow Groups

Connect & Grow Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly at church or in homes to share about what God is doing in their lives. These are encouraging and inspiring groups for everyone. To register for a Connect & Grow Group, please visit our website. Register | athensfirstumc.org/connectandgrowgroups Kayla Calloway | kayla@athensfirstumc. | 706-543-1442

GriefShare

GriefShare groups are starting at our church! This thirteenweek faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. We welcome Erica Cooper, bereavement coordinator of Gentiva Hospice, who will facilitate both groups beginning the week of September 12 in room 100. Groups will meet through the week of December 12, with a break for Thanksgiving. The Monday group will meet at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 12, and the Wednesday group will meet at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 14. 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.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org 678-230-9708

Mission Harvest | October 2

This year on Consecration Sunday, we will celebrate by sharing a meal at Mission Harvest. We will gather as a church family (drop-in style) to fellowship and celebrate the offering of our financial gifts in Hancock Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. With these gifts, we will be able to accomplish the work of missions ministry that God is calling us to fulfill. Look for more information in the coming weeks!

Pickleball

Please join us for fun in a new program called pickleball! Pickleball is a great sport that consists of ping pong, tennis, and badminton all in one. Instructors teach the game. This is a great game for adults young and old. Pickleball takes place Tuesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 p.m., and is free for anyone interested. Contact Rusty or Mary Claire if you have questions.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/adultrecreation Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org Mary Claire Wills | maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Interfaith Hospitality Network host week is coming up October 2-9! IHN of Athens provides services and coordinates temporary housing for displaced families in local host churches. It is our privilege to partner in ministry with them. We need volunteers to help with this ministry by assisting with transportation, meals, hospitality, and overnight hosting. If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Taylor Miller or Mary Claire. Learn more | *athensfirstumc.org/ihn* Taylor Miller | *miller3750@bellsouth.net* Mary Claire Wills | *maryclaire@athensfirstumc.org*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | PHILEMON 1-21

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY
- 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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | JEREMIAH 4:11-12, 22-26 Labor Day-Office is closed.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | PSALM 14

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 9:00 a.m. Community Bible Study Leaders Council YOUTH AREA
- 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl PANERA BREAD
- 1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 1 SCOUT HUT Connect & Grow Group ROOM 229 Connect & Grow Group TIMOTHY ROAD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | JEREMIAH 4:27-28

- 9:30 a.m. Daniel | A Beth Moore Study ROOM 229
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study ROOM 222
- **10:00 a.m. Connect & Grow Group** FIVE POINTS
- 1:00 p.m. The Patriarchs | A Beth Moore Study HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 3:00 p.m. Fun Gym GYM
- 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Worship Arts | Grades 3-4 ROOM 301 Dance ROOM 145 Lyric Choir | Grades 1-2 ROOM 151 Hospitality Room Hang Out HOSPITALITY ROOM Praver Shawl ROOM 200
- 4:45 p.m. Early Book Group ROOM 247
- 5:00 p.m. Route 56: GPS ROOM 120
 - Wednesday Night Meal HANCOCK HALL
- 5:10 p.m. Celebrate Choir | Grades 3 & 4 ROOM 301
- 5:15 p.m. Cherub Choir | Age 3 ROOM 314 &324 Sonshine Choir | Age 4 ROOM 325 Joy Choir | Kindergarten ROOM 320
- 5:20 p.m. Lyric Worship Arts | Grades 1 & 2 ROOM 301

- 5:30 p.m. 66 Love Letters | Women's Bible Study HULL CONFERENCE ROOM Connect Group (Young Married) ROOM 229
- 5:45 p.m. Men's Prayer Group ROOM 226
- 6:00 p.m. Engage Bible Study YOUTH AREA
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148 The Resolution Men's Study ROOM 240 Connect & Grow Group ROOM 222 Connect & Grow Group ROOM 224
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Worship Team Rehearsal ROOM 148
- 8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 | 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-14

- 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study HANCOCK HALL
- 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
- 7:00 p.m. Connect Group (Young Adult) ROOM 222 Parenting with Purpose HANCOCK HALL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 | I TIMOTHY 1:15-17 **12:30 p.m. Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 | LUKE 15:1-7

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

Published weekly

Athens First United Methodist Church

327 N. Lumpkin Street Athens, GA 30601-2743 Telephone | 706-543-1442 Fax | 706-546-4797 Website | *athensfirstumc.org*

Postmaster

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

Vol. LIX No. 36