

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 large letter 'A'. The red lines are thick and solid. There are also small red circles scattered throughout the design, including one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

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. Our next orientation is next Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the Hospitality Room.

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 2017 | \$3,038,381
Amount Given YTD | \$2,080,961
Goal for August | \$223,237
Amount after 3 Sundays | \$197,434

Attendance on August 27

Total Worship | 1303
8:30 a.m. | 160
9:45 a.m. | 490
11:00 a.m. | 489
Online | 107
Confirmation Retreat | 57
Sunday School | 360

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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

The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

“Thy Mercy, My God” | arr. John Stocker and Sandra McCracken

Flowers

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

Prelude Lyrics

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, the joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue.

Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last, hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here; sin would reduce me to utter despair; but, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive, and He that first made me still keeps me

alive. Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own, and the covenant love of Thy crucified Son.

All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Martha Aenchenbacher

PSALM 26:7-8 | p. 476 OLD TESTAMENT

Sing a song of thanksgiving.

Declare God's wondrous deeds.

For the Lord dwells among the people;

the glory of God abides with us.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 152 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” | FOREST GREEN

*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.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71 “Glory Be to the Father”

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sydney Elizabeth Witrick, daughter of Katherine and Justin

Sydney, Sydney, 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. Sydney,

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

*Please stand as you are able. | The congregation speaks or sings the text in bold type.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Robin Stewart

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.

Anthem Lyrics

Go to the highways and hedges. Go to the farthest of fields. Go and compel the sick and the well, for our Father’s house will be filled. Go to the streets of the city. Bring in the crippled and blind. All who would taste this banquet of grace must go and waste no more time. Come to the feast, come to the table - the great and the least, the rich and the poor. Come to the feast, come to the table. Come and hunger no more. In the robe of the lamb you’ll be covered, dressed in his pure righteousness. For all of your guilt his blood it was split, so come, by your Father be blessed.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Come to the Feast” | Jeff Lawson

*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

ROMANS 12:9-21 | p. 151 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“If Paul Taught Kindergarten” | Susan Taylor

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 620 “One Bread, One Body” | ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Verse 1

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that our love for you and for others has not been genuine. We have not held fast to what is good, and we have lagged in affection for our brothers and sisters. We have not been patient in suffering, nor have we persevered in prayer. We have repaid evil for evil and have failed to live in peace with all. Forgive us our sin, free us from fear of the power of evil, and help us trust in the power of your everlasting goodness; through Jesus Christ. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

Listen people! The Lord is with you. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and sat down at the table and ate with especially those others considered "unworthy." Let us remind ourselves by saying "The Lord is present with every one of us."

"The Lord is present with every one of us."

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." Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding each other and creation that:

"Christ has died **(repeat)**

"Christ is risen **(repeat)**

"Christ will come again." **(repeat)**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, liberated by his witness, passion and life. Be with us, Holy Spirit; fill us so you can move through us. By your spirit we are one with Christ, the host of this table, and one with each other. Let this joy be seen in us outside of this place. It is with great thanks that all God's people say, **"Amen!"**

Song Lyrics

Out of the ruins and rubble, out of the smoke, out of our night of struggle can we see a ray of hope? One pale thin ray reaching for the day we can build a beautiful city. Yes, we can; yes, we can. We can build a beautiful city. Not a city of angels, but we can build a city of man. We may not reach the ending, but we can start slowly but truly mending brick by brick, heart by heart. Now, maybe now we start learning how we can build a beautiful city. When your trust is all but shattered, when your faith is all but killed you can give up, bitter and battered or you can slowly start to build a beautiful city.

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

"Beautiful City" | Stephen Schwartz

Prayer After Receiving

***CLOSING HYMN**

UMH 666 "Shalom to You" | SHALOM

***BLESSING**

*** POSTLUDE**

"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" | Haydn

The Worship of God

9:45 &
11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Flowers

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

THE PRELUDE

“Holy Manna” | Held

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 549 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” | ST. ANNE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

Martha Aenchbacher

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

UMH 71 "Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE 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
Translation*

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Ground from ‘Sunrise Mass’” | Ola Gjeilo

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

***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, Alleluia.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 12:9-21 | p. 151 NEW TESTAMENT

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

“If Paul Taught Kindergarten” | Susan Taylor

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.

Holy God, we confess that our love for you and for others has not been genuine. We have not held fast to what is good, and we have lagged

in affection for our brothers and sisters. We have not been patient in suffering, nor have we persevered in prayer. We have repaid evil for evil and have failed to live in peace with all. Forgive us our sin, free us from fear of the power of evil, and help us trust in the power of your everlasting goodness; through Jesus Christ. 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:

Congregation sings.

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 and 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.

Congregation sings.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

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.

Music During Holy Communion

"Requiem" | arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Song Lyrics

Mother Mary, full of grace, awaken. All our homes are gone, our loved ones taken. Taken by the storm, Mother Mary, calm our fears, have mercy. Drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy. Hear our mournful plea. Our world has been shaken, we wander our homelands, forsaken. In the dark night of the soul, bring some comfort to us all, Oh, Mother Mary, come and carry us in your embrace; that our sorrows may be faced. Mary, fill the glass to overflowing. Illuminate the path where we are going. Have mercy on us all. In funeral fires burning, each flame to your mystery, returning. In the dark night of the soul, your shattered dreamers, make them whole, Oh, Mother Mary, find us where we've fallen out of grace; lead us to a higher place. In the dark night of the soul, our broken hearts you can make whole, Oh, Mother Mary, come and carry us in your embrace; let us see your gentle face, Mary.

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**

TFWS 2226 “Bind Us Together” | BIND US TOGETHER

***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**

“Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken” | Haydn

The Steeple

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Shelly Prescott and his family in the loss of his mother, Elise Prescott, on August 27.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Hugh and Mary Larkey in the loss of Hugh's daughter, Karen Michele Larkey, on August 28.

Special Offering

Today we will take up a special offering for those suffering from hurricane Harvey. Donations will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR is currently working with disaster coordinators and early response teams to provide relief to the many victims. Please mark your offering envelope with "UMCOR" and make your check payable to AFUMC. Thank you for giving generously.

Habitat for Humanity Thank you

Thank you to everyone who participated in the building, celebration, and blessing of our Habitat for Humanity Homes. Through the love and contribution of many members of our congregation, lives in our community were transformed.

Wednesday Night Meals

The meal on Wednesday, September 6, is provided by Barberitos. Join us for a soft shell turkey tacos and chips. 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 small group are invited and encouraged to eat and spend time together in Hancock Hall. For more information, contact Cindy. If you have trouble ordering online, church staff can help you order your meal. Register online to volunteer and eat for free!

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

WRFC Radio Broadcast

During the UGA football season, WRFC will broadcast the 8:30 a.m. service live. A recording of the 11:00 a.m. service will play at 12:00 p.m. each Sunday.

Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life

Join Don Griner and Mary Lynn Lane on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for *Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life* (part 2). Part 2 of this study concentrates on the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, the book of Revelation. This study will be held in room 229, and materials cost \$40. 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

Route 56 Fall Retreat | Register Now

The deadline to register for the Route 56 Fall Retreat is Tuesday, September 5. This year, we will travel to Look Up Lodge in Traveler's Rest, SC, on September 29-October 1. This is a great opportunity for our Route 56 students to get to know one another as we focus on our walk with Christ. The cost is \$140.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/route56/fallretreat

Kayla Thomason | kayla@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Leslie Rogers | leslie@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Disciple Fast Track New Testament

Come devote 12 weeks with us to focus on the New Testament. Disciple Fast Track is for busy people seeking a comprehensive Bible study in a timely manner. This study will begin with a meet-and-greet on Tuesday, September 5, and will continue, September 12-December 12, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 224. The cost is \$17. Childcare is available with registration.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Susan Taylor | susan@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Soul Feast

Join Dianne Morrison for a new study by Marjorie J. Thompson. *Soul Feast* offers a framework for understanding the spiritual disciplines and instruction for developing and nurturing those practices. This study begins with an introductory meeting on September 6 and will continue on Wednesdays from September 13 through November 9, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in room 200. All are invited to join. The cost is \$15. 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

Discerning the Voice of God

Join Susie Thrasher for a seven-week study this fall entitled *Discerning the Voice of God*. Discover the way to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. This study will meet on Wednesday mornings, September 6-October 18, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in room 229. All women are invited to join. The cost is \$13. 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

Enough

Join Martha Aenchbacher and Susan Taylor for a four-week stewardship study this fall entitled *Enough* by Adam Hamilton. This study is an invitation to rediscover the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. The study will meet on Wednesday evenings, September 6-27, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in room 222. The cost is \$8. 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

Pickleball

Join us Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in the gym to play pickleball.
Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Connect Group | Young Adult

Join the Young Adult Connect Group for a new fall Bible study, *The Minor Prophets, Genesis to Revelation* by Gene Tucker. This 13-session study will examine the books of Hosea through Malachi. The meaning of each passage is made clear by inductive questions, in-depth commentary, and meaningful life application. The group will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning September 7 in room 222. Materials cost \$10. For more information, contact Laney Jones. Please register online. Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration
Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Elijah Project

John Wesley said “Prayer is where the action is.” We encourage you to join us for the Elijah Project! This inter-generational prayer ministry has impacted youth and adults through consistent, expectant prayer. Registration for the Elijah Project is open through September 10! For more information and to register, please visit our webpage. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/elijahproject
Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Parents of Youth | Sunday School Class

The Parents of Youth Sunday School class will resume meeting on Sunday, September 10, at 9:45 a.m. in room 114. The class will focus on parent role models found in scripture. For further information, contact Holly Ward.
Holly Ward | hollywardphd@me.com

GriefShare

Our GriefShare groups will meet again through the fall and winter of 2017-2018! This thirteen-week faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. GriefShare groups are for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. Our Monday group will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m., and our Wednesday group will meet from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Both groups will meet in room 100 and be led by Martha Aenchbacher. Our groups will begin the week of September 11 and conclude the week of December 11, with a break during the week of Thanksgiving. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare
Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

iRest Yoga Nidra Workshop

Based on the ancient teaching of meditation, iRest is an evidence-based, transformative practice that leads to psychological, physical, and spiritual healing and well-being. This eight-week workshop will meet on Monday evenings, September 11-October 30, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in room 200. Materials cost \$30. For more information, contact Susan. Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration
Susan Taylor | susan@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

The Love Languages of God

Join Bob Winstead in an eight-week study of how we experience God's love in our lives. This study will meet on Mondays, September 11-October 30, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in room 222. All are invited to join. The cost is \$10. 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

Financial Peace University

Join Tom Foster for *Financial Peace University*, and learn Biblical, practical steps to get you from where you are to where you want to be. In nine lessons, you will learn how to get rid of 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 on Tuesday nights, September 12-November 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 222. The materials for this course cost \$100; couples share one kit. Childcare is available with registration. Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration
Susan Taylor | susan@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442
Cindy McKoy | cindy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Parenting with Purpose

Mothers of preschoolers, you are invited to a presentation by the Moms on Call team on Friday, September 15, at 9:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall. Moms on Call is an Atlanta-based Christian organization known for providing parents with tools of hope and encouragement. In this digital age, there are more voices than ever and it can feel like we are trying to find our way through the wilderness. Join us as we

journey through the foundational elements of successful parenting and find our way through the forest of voices. Let's talk and laugh as we learn how to navigate the toddler years. This event will be geared towards parenting children ages 1-4. Registration is encouraged. Child care is available with registration.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/pwp
Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Third Grade Bible Milestone

The Third Grade Bible milestone is a significant marker in the faith journey of a disciple in the Methodist Church. On September 17, our church family will award gift Bibles to our third graders at the beginning of the 11:00 a.m. service. After receiving their Bibles, the children will move to Hancock Hall for Bible 101, a helpful introduction class for their new Bibles. Parents and siblings are invited to join at noon for a continuation of the class and a family lunch. We ask that families register so that we can plan appropriately. For more information, please contact Robin Stewart.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration
Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

International Missions Update

We have several opportunities for international mission trips coming up. If you are interested in serving on a mission team to Africa, you are invited to attend an informational meeting immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 24. For any information about serving with any of these teams, please contact Betsy Butler. Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Scouting Ministry

Scouting teaches young people spiritual and character growth, citizenship training, and personal fitness all while having fun and age appropriate adventures. Our church sponsors four Scouting units including Cub Scouts (boys in grades K-5), Boy Scouts (boys in grades 6+), Venture Crew (boys and girls ages 14-20), and Girl Scouts (girls in grades 1+). For more information, please visit our website. Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/scouts

This Week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | MATTHEW 16:21-28

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word 119
Route 56: Fuel ROOM 120
Elementary Sunday School: Holy Ground CHAPEL
Kindergarten Sunday School: City on a Hill ROOM 311 & 313
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HOSPITALITY ROOM
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 3:00 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1 Meeting** HANCOCK HALL
- 4:45 p.m. **Connect and Grow Group** ROOM 200

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 | EXODUS 12:1-11

Labor Day—Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 | EXODUS 12:11:14

- Community Bible Study Leaders Council** ROOM 229
- 8:30 a.m. **Wesley Leadership Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 9:15 a.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD
- 10:30 a.m. **Pickleball** GYM
- 1:30 p.m. **Board of Trustees Meeting** HULL CONFERENCE ROOM
- 5:30 p.m. **Men's Prayer Group** ROOM 226
Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
Connect & Grow Group ROOM 229
Disciple Fast Track | New Testament ROOM 224
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | PSALM 149

- 9:30 a.m. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** ROOM 222
- 10:00 a.m. **Discerning the Voice of God | Women's Study** ROOM 229
- 12:45 p.m. **Music Explorers** ROOM 314
- 4:30 p.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ROOM 200
Celebrate Worship Arts | Grades 3 & 4 ROOM 301
Lyric Choir | Grades 1 & 2 ROOM 151
Music Explorers ROOM 314
Dance | Ages 4-5 ROOM 145
- 5:00 p.m. **Wednesday Night Meal** HANCOCK HALL
Route 56: GPS ROOM 120
- 5:10 p.m. **Celebrate Choir | Grades 3 & 4** ROOM 151
- 5:15 p.m. **Joy Choir | Kindergarten** ROOM 320
Sonshine Choir | Age 4 ROOM 325
- 5:20 p.m. **Lyric Worship Arts | Grades 1 & 2** ROOM 301
Music Explorers ROOM 314
Dance | Age 3 ROOM 145
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
Connect Group | Young Married ROOM 114

6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study: Engage ROOM 119
6:30 p.m. Enough ROOM 222
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ROOM 148
Disciple IV ROOM 229
Soul Feast ROOM 200
8:00 p.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal ROOM 148

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | ROMANS 13:8-10

9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study SANCTUARY
10:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN
1:30 p.m. Pickleball GYM
5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness ROOM 120
7:00 p.m. Connect Group | Young Adult ROOM 222

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 | ROMANS 13:11-14

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 | MATTHEW 18:15-17

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

Published weekly

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Send address changes to:

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Athens, GA 30603-1109

Periodicals Postage

Paid at Athens, GA

Vol. LX No. 36