

Summer Worship

June 29, 2014 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 our 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. 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, kindergarten through adult, each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School (kindergarten-grade 4) is located on the third floor of the building. Classes for students in grades 5-12 meet on the first floor. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit *athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool*.

Connect

If you would like to find out more about our church or are interested in becoming a member, we invite you to attend our Newcomer Orientation every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11:00 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/thesteeple* to sign up for our weekly newsletter, the *eSteeple*. You can also connect with us via social media. Find us @athens_firstumc on Facebook, 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 are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mr. Joe Lowe and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chandler by Edd, Edie, and Sara Mack Lowe.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER Betsy Butler

Praise & Thanksgiving

HYMN MEDLEY

"I am Thine" I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy love to me; But I long to rise in the arms of faith And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain

Draw me nearer, nearer blessèd Lord, To the cross where Thou hast died. Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessèd Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, By the power of grace divine; Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, And my will be lost in Thine.

Refrain

O the pure delight of a single hour That before Thy throne I spend, When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God I commune as friend with friend!

Refrain

There are depths of love that I cannot know Till I cross the narrow sea; There are heights of joy that I may not reach Till I rest in peace with Thee.

Refrain

"Nothing but the Blood of Jesus" What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. For my cleansing this my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" I have decided, to follow Jesus, I have decided, to follow Jesus, I have decided, to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back! Though none go with me, still I will follow...

The world behind me, the cross before me...

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? ...

"It Is Well With My Soul"

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well (It is well) With my soul (With my soul) It is well, it is well, with my soul.

My sin, o, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11:00 a.m. | John William Denney IV

Liam, Liam, 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. Liam, Liam, 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

Son of Elizabeth and John Denney 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

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Wayfarin' Stranger" | TRADITIONAL Rich Born, banjo; Julie Caldwell, guitar; Chris Enghauser, bass; Hans Holzen, mandolin; Adam Poulin, fiddle

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:32-38

³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

THE MESSAGE

"Giving Lives...Living Gifts" | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

"To God Be the Glory"

To God be the glory, great things He hath done, So lov'd He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the Life Gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice; Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice; Oh, come to the Father, Through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory; Great things He hath done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To ev'ry believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receieves.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Sending Forth

THE BLESSING

GOING FORTH MUSIC

Sermon Notes

If you would like an audio copy of this sermon or would like to listen to previous sermons, visit *athensfirstumc.org/sermons* for a complete library of sermons.

GREETERS

Christy and Randy Felix, Jennifer and Tom Foster, Nicki and Donnie Goodwin, Barbara and Cicero Lucas, Hayden Hudson, Kerrigan Pruett, Parissa Shedd

JUNE USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal, Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowery, 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 and Charlie Grimes, Jim Lyons, Nat Carmack, Henry Garrard, Nathan King, Al Hawley, Sean Rogers, Charlie Upchurch III

FIRST LIGHT ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Campbell Cona, Joseph Mahoney9:45 a.m. Anabelle Griffith, Charles11:00 a.m. Matt Moseley, John Knight, Greer Moseley

ATTENDANCE ON JUNE 22

Total Worship |1,221 Sunday School | 371 8:30 a.m. | 174 9:45 a.m. | 385 11:00 a.m. | 595 Online | 67

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2014 | \$2,431,008 Amount Given YTD | \$1,317,809 Goal for June | \$161,724 Amount after 3 Sundays | \$163,164

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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

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

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

The Steeple

STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

Living in a college town, we are given a unique opportunity to minister internationally without ever leaving Athens. Each year, over 2,000 international students, visiting scholars, and their families make Athens their temporary home while attending The University of Georgia. Studying abroad can be both an exciting and bewildering experience. That is why our church created REACH International. Events are offered weekly and monthly for scholars and their families to become better acclimated to American culture, to experience Christian hospitality, and to explore the Christian faith while they are here.

China

AND /40 WINDOW

A majority of the students and scholars we serve are from nations in the 10/40 window. The 10/40 window is simply a term used to describe a region of the world within 10 and 40 degrees latitude from Western Africa to Eastern Asia. People in these areas don't have a community of Christians with adequate resources to reach their own people. REACH International takes full advantage of this opportunity to share the good news about Christ with these people through showing them Christian hospitality.

Our desire is to encourage mutual dialogue as summed up in the words of the Bible: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have, but do this with gentleness and respect." We also seek to "love our neighbors as ourselves" as we strive to treat others in the same way we would hope to be treated.

See page 12 in *The Steeple* to learn about three ways you can get involved with REACH International or visit *athensfirstumc.org/reachvolunteer*.

Dear Church Family,

All honor, praise, and glory be to our Lord Jesus Christ from whom all blessings flow! As I prepare to leave the role of Director of Children's Music Ministries at Athens First United Methodist Church, I am reminded of these lines from the hymn, *Count Your Blessings*: Count your blessings name them one by one, Count your blessings see what God has done.

Here are a few of the many blessings I count and share with you as a way of saying how thankful I am for all of you. My blessings include:

- The amazing children and young people the Lord has brought into my life at Athens First United Methodist Church. I am so grateful for the opportunity God has given me to sing and worship with you in Choir and Sunday School each week.
- The parents of these children who have been so faithful and committed to the children's music programs.
- The Children's Music Ministry Volunteer Adult and Youth Staff for their constant and steadfast love as they have taught and cared for the children in Choir, Sunday School, and Music and Arts Week.
- The Ministerial, Music, and Church Staff for the opportunity, honor, and privilege that the Lord has given me to serve with all of you in ministry each day.
- The congregation for all the love and support you have shown and provided to me throughout the years.

So it is with a mixture of joy and sadness that I take this leap of faith to where the Lord is leading and calling me to go--By His own *Hand He Leadeth Me*. I am so grateful that I go with your blessings and love. As a member of Athens First United Methodist Church, I look forward to continuing to worship with you in the weeks and months ahead. I leave knowing God's great love and faithfulness and with a cup overflowing with blessings from all of you.

Love and blessings

Carol Roomes

Member Loss

Louise Plant June 21, 2014

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Pam Elliott and family in the loss of her mother, Louise Plant, on June 21.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Andy Correll and family in the loss of his father.

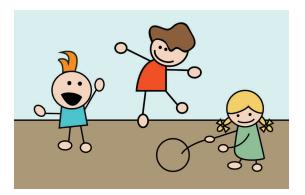
New Arrivals

Congratulations to Katie and Hoke Howard on the birth of their son, Jake Sloan, on June 18.

Baptisms

Ava Elizabeth Jones received the Sacrament of Baptism on June 22 in our sanctuary. Ava is the daughter of Kelly and Matt Jones.

Giles Edgar Talley received the Sacrament of Baptism on June 22 in our sanctuary. Giles is the son of Maggie and Scott Talley, the grandson of Charme and Jeb Bradberry, and the great grandson of Jerry Guyer.



Summer Sunday School | Kindergarten to Grade 4

Kindergarten through grade 4 will have Sunday School in the gym beginning today through July 27. We will return to classrooms on August 3.

Vacation Bible School | Thank You

Thank you for your prayers and your service this week during Vacation Bible School. We taught 380 children that Jesus' love is one of a kind and that he loves us no matter what!



Testimonies from Epworth

EPWORTH! Oh how I LOVE this trip! This year was my second year with my Youth Group family. My experience at Epworth this year was amazing. If you haven't heard, the mission this year was for a family whoes five year-old daughter had brain cancer. We completely renovated their backyard. It was amazing to see how appreciative the step mother was to us. The main job we had was raking. We raked, and raked, and raked. We also planted a small butterfly garden. If I ever got tired or frustrated, I would take a second to pray for Alexa, the little girl who has cancer, and her family as they are going through this journey. Doing this project made me feel like I was really impacting this family's life.

Our small group time on this trip was wonderful. The subjects we talked about really impacted what I am going through right now. I could really feel the Lord's presence when I realized that I was hearing exactly what I needed to hear In the situation I am in. I knew that he was working in me. It also helped getting advice from my church family.

My favorite part of this trip was fellowship time. It REALLY helps getting to know your church family, especially in Youth Group. That was one of our topics we talked about. We all bonded in this special way and I felt like I could talk to anyone about anything. We also had a lot of fun just messing around with each other, being typical middle school and high school students! I think anyone who has the opportunity to go to Epworth, as a chaperone or youth, you should really come! I promise it will impact your life as it has impacted mine. -MEGAN JACKSON, RISING GRADE 8

Epworth was a very fun and exciting trip, as it always is. We enjoyed bowling in groups with your friends, helping a little girl with cancer have a backyard, going to the beach every other day, and eating a delicious meal at Mullet Bay. My favorite part of the entire trip though was to just hang out with friends in our enos (hammocks) and just getting to know each other better and becoming a stronger youth group. Our youth group was brought together even closer with the help of The Lord. He was present in everything we did, but He was felt tremendously during our group talk at the end of the trip at the lighthouse. TOBY CHAPEAU, RISING GRADE 9

I've gone to Epworth for the past three years, but this past trip was one of my favorites. This year I got to know people in our youth group who I never would've gotten to know if I hadn't gone. The fellowship on the trip was amazing and I know everyone had fun working together at the work site, playing games in our meeting space, and worshipping together.

VIRGINIA BETH BUTLER, RISING GRADE 10

As a Mid-High in Youth Group, our trip to Epworth was always my favorite trip. I went all three years, and I remember it as being a beautiful experience--every time. Being right on the marsh, the location is stunning. Once, while walking around the campus with one of my friends, I thought to myself "how can you NOT see God in a place like this?". I returned again my ninth grade year, as a youth leader. I couldn't imagine not going! There's just something about the trip that always sets it apart; the service that we always commit to, the beach time, the junk food, the fellowship between one another, the friendships that are created by the end of the trip, the many many jokes, the time by the pier, and the worship on the last night in the gazebo ... right on the beach! Although I was unable to attend for my tenth and eleventh grade years (which broke my heart), I knew that I needed to go my senior year. This trip that we just returned from meant more than any of the previous ones, and those were hard to top. Getting to hang out and get to know the "future" of the youth group was pretty awesome. For some of these kids, I helped

with them when they were in VBS and Children's Choir. Realizing how much they've grown, and inherently, how much I myself have grown made me feel old, but it also made me incredibly happy. Throughout the trip, I was able to reflect on my past six years in the youth group, and how much they meant to me. I know that I will have many of those friends for the rest of my life. This trip was the last one that I will take with the youth group (as a student, at least). When I was younger, it served to deepen my faith and broaden my horizons. But this year, instead of broadening my horizons, it brought me back down to earth and reminded me to Whom I am grounded. It is something that I'm glad I had the opportunity to experience." -ANNA SCHRAMSKI, RISING FRESHMAN AT UGA



Soulful Media

When we look at social media through eyes of faith it is transformed into soulful media. Facebook turns into Faithbook, Instagrams into Instapraises, and tweets into testimonies. We are called to do all the good we can in all ways we can. That means letting your faith permeate every part of your life. One powerful way to so this is though supporting our church's social media. My name is Amelia Wilson and I am the Communications Director at Athens First United Methodist Church. Before coming on staff I worshiped here for three years—I feel like I have to say that so y'all understand I'm not a paid spokesperson! I love this church and I am passionate encouraging our congregation and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest. You can find us @athens_firstumc; once you are our friend or follower, please share or retweet our posts. These actions amplify our message by a thousand decibels.

Tagging Tuesdays | Beginning July 8

Help organize and price donated items for the children's consignment sale Tuesdays beginning July 8, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the gym. The consignment sale is August 15-16. Visit *athensfirstumc.org/childrensconsignmentsale* to learn more about donating and the consignment sale. Contact: Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442



REACH International | Bedding Need

On July 31, Athens First United Methodist Church will host new Chinese students in our youth area for one night after we pick them up from the airport. Donations of 50 new single air mattresses and pillows are needed to supplement our current supply in order to accommodate this group. Please bring your donations to the basket behind the reception desk by July 4. The bedding will be used throughout the year to accommodate other temporary lodging needs for various groups as they arise. Contact: Lynn Bryant | *lynn@athensfirstumc.org* 706-543-1442

 $Betsy \ Butler \ | \ betsy @athensfirstumc.org \ | \ 706-543-1442$

Extending Hospitality to International Students | July 31–August 1

REACH International, Athens First United Methodist Church's international student ministry, will be transporting new Chinese students from the Atlanta airport to our church and hosting them overnight on Thursday, July 31, through the day on Friday, August 1. Volunteers are needed on four different teams to serve these new students:

<u>Set-up Team</u>

A team of 10 or more volunteers are needed on Thursday evening (July 31), from 8:00 p.m. to midnight to help set up air mattresses and other bedding for the incoming students. This team will also prepare a midnight snack for the students and welcome them when they arrive from the airport around midnight.

Meal Team

A team of 10 or more volunteers are needed on Friday morning (August 1) between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to prepare and serve breakfast and lunch to approximately 100 students!

Wrap-up Team

A team of 10 or more volunteers are needed on Friday afternoon (August 1) between noon and 5:00 p.m. to interact with the students and to assist with cleaning the kitchen and deflating and storing bedding.

Van Driver

A van driver is needed throughout the day on Friday, August 1. Van drivers must be over 25.

If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact Lynn Bryant.

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

Serve Lunch to International Students August 7 & 8

Extend hospitality to new International Students on the UGA Campus by partnering with REACH International to serve lunch to 300 new students during UGA's International Student Orientation. Volunteers are needed on Thursday, August 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon to help prepare food in our church's kitchen. On Friday, August 8, volunteers are needed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to transport the food to campus and to serve and greet the students. Please contact Lynn Bryant to volunteer to serve either day.

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

This Week

Not sure where a room is? Maps of the church are located at the front entrance of the sanctuary to help you find your way around the church, or visit *athensfirstumc.org/map* to see an online map.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 | ACTS 2:1-21 CUBA MISSION TRIP 8:30 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR 9:45 a.m. Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR Worship Service SANCTUARY 10:00 a.m. Sack Lunch Ministry HULL STREET ENTRANCE 11:00 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY 7:00 p.m. Adult Pick-up Volleyball GYM **MONDAY, JUNE 30** | PSALM 104:24-35 CUBA MISSION TRIP 7:00 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM TUESDAY, JULY 1 I CORINTHIANS 12:3-13 CUBA MISSION TRIP 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM Fashion Fitness GYM 5:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, JULY 2 | JOHN 7:37-39 Fashion Fitness GYM 7:00 a.m. Jesus and Donuts BIG CITY BREAD 9:30 a.m. Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Lunch Preparation ROOM 117 11:00 a.m. Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Lunch Delivery Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering PANERA BREAD 6:30 p.m. Covenant Bible Study Pilot GROUP ROOM 256 THURSDAY, JULY 3 | GENESIS 13:1-18 5:30 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM 5:30 p.m. Fashion Fitness GYM 6:00 p.m. Women's Study: Beth Moore | Esther ROOM 256 FRIDAY, JULY 4 | GENESIS 14:17-24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, JULY 5 | GENESIS 15:1-20

Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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Athens First United Methodist Church

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