

Summer Worship

July 6, 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

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

Gathering

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of the marriage of Anne Barron and Christopher Tufts on July 5th. They are given to the glory of God and in honor of Anne's grandparents. Read more on page 8.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert C. Wall by Mrs. Robert C. Wall and family. GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER Betsy Butler

Praise & Thanksgiving

## HYMN MEDLEY

"America the Beautiful"

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain.

America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears.

America! America! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps; They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps; I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps; His day is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea; With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me; As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free. While God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

"God Bless America" God bless America, land that I love; Stand beside her, and guide her Through the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies To the oceans, white with foam, God bless America, My home sweet home! God bless America, My home sweet home!

### "My Country 'Tis of Thee"

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, From ev'ry mountainside let freedom ring

Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing; Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King.

### "My Hope Is Built"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.

## 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

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

## THE OFFERING

## THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

## "Happy Day" | Hughes

Rich Born, banjo; Julie Caldwell, guitar; Chris Enghauser, bass; Hans Holzen, mandolin; Adam Poulin, fiddle

The greatest day in history. Death is beaten. You have rescued me. Sing it out, Jesus is alive! The empty cross, the empty grave. Life eternal, You have won the day. Shout it out, Jesus is alive! He's alive! Oh, happy day, happy day! You washed my sin away. Oh, happy day, happy day! I'll never be the same, forever I am changed. When I stand in that place, free at last, meeting face to face, I am yours, Jesus, You are mine. Endless joy, perfect peace, earthly pain finally will cease. Celebrate, Jesus is alive! He's alive! Oh, what a glorious day! What a glorious way that You have saved me. Oh, what a glorious day, what a glorious name!

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

### Matthew 10:29-31

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

## THE MESSAGE

"God Never Blinks" | Martha Aenchbacher

# Response to the Word

## **CLOSING HYMN MEDLEY**

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come? Why should my heart be lonely and long for heav'n and home? When Jesus is my portion, my constant Friend is He; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy I sing because I'm free. For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear, And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears. Tho' by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy I sing because I'm free. For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free, His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy I sing because I'm free. For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. "I Need Thee Every Hour" I need Thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord, No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, stay Thou nearby, Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.

I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, in joy or pain. Come quickly and abide or life is vain.

I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, teach me Thy will And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee, O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

Sending Forth

THE BLESSING

**GOING FORTH MUSIC** 

#### GREETERS

Susanne and Woody Chastain, Jane Harvey, Cyndy Harbold, Diane and Olan, Lewis Clarke, Anna Alyssa McKoy

### JULY 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. Mark Graham, Mike McCord, Charlie Upchurch III, Allan Hixon, Mason McWhorter, Gene Deal, Jim Lyons

### 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. Dylan Wyrick, Peyton Shedd
9:45 a.m. Barrett McLanahan, Madeline Jackson, Jack McLanahan
11:00 a.m. Glynn Chesser, Larsen Block, James Chesser

#### ATTENDANCE ON JUNE 29

Total Worship |1,013 Sunday School | 289 8:30 a.m. | 179 9:45 a.m. | 295 11:00 a.m. | 458 Online | 81

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2014 | \$2,431,008 Amount Given YTD | \$1,352,692 Goal for June | \$161,724 Amount after 4 Sundays | \$197,837

# OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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

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

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

# The Steeple



## Member Loss

Harold "Hokey" Jackson June 26, 2014

## Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Laura Evans and family in the loss of her grandfather.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Doranne Jackson and family in the loss of her husband, Harold "Hokey" Jackson on June 26.

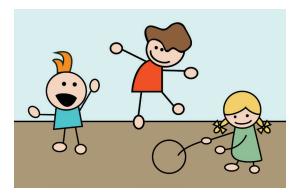
# Baptisms

John William "Liam" Denney IV received the Sacrament of Baptism on June 29 in our sanctuary. Liam is the son of Libby and John Denney III, and the grandson of Evelyn and Jake Riley.



Independence Day Prayer

Dear Lord we thank you for our country. We thank you for our freedom to worship you without fear. We are grateful for the blessings you have given our nation. As we celebrate this Independence Day, remind us of our complete dependence upon you. We look to you for your wisdom and mercy as important issues are discussed. On this day, we ask you to keep this nation, and all nations, under your care, that we may be peoples who are at peace, and who are a blessing to others in this earth. Grant our nation's leaders wisdom, that there would be times of peace and justice in our land and in our world. We lift up to you all who serve in our Armed Forces—brave men and women who risk their lives for their country. And on this day keep all of us grounded not in our strength but in yours, ever relying upon the promise that "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength ... They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." All of this we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



## Summer Sunday School | Kindergarten to Grade 4

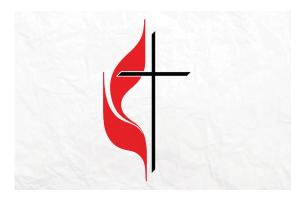
Kindergarten through grade 4 will have Sunday School in the gym through July 27. We will return to classrooms on August 3. For more about our children's Sunday morning programs visit *athensfirstumc.org/sundaymorning*.



## Altar Guild Note

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of the marriage of Anne Barron and Christopher Tufts on July 5th. They are given to the glory of God and in honor of Anne's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Barron and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lester Collins (the former Jackie Sue Sligh), who were married in this church in 1947. Anne wore a family wedding gown made by her great-grandmother, Lucille Sligh, a former member of this church.

The flowers in the Narthex on June 29 were left by Mackenzie Davis and Josh Luke from their wedding that took place in our sanctuary on June 28. The flowers were left in honor of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Davis and Ms. Brenda Bagwell.



## Report from Your 2014 Annual Conference Delegation

For the fifteenth time in 16 years, the Athens-Elberton District and Athens First United Methodist Church hosted the North Georgia Annual Conference at the Classic Center. For many volunteers from our church, this was their fifteenth year of serving in many different capacities in support of the conference. The Methodists of North Georgia have come to know, love, and greatly appreciate the hospitality of our members!

From Dianne Morrison's work heading the host committee, to our youth Emma Compton opening a conference session by leading the prayer, Athens First was once again front-and-center at Annual Conference.

The real work of conference is in the focus on mission-"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." More intentionally bringing children and youth into the life of the church was this year's theme-not just those children who come into church membership with their families, but those in the neighborhood who may have no church, college students who spend years at our doorstep without crossing it, those who attend our church camps or institutions of higher education, or whom we serve through foster care. Throughout the week, under the theme "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise," we focused on serving and engaging children and youth aged zero to 25. We heard many times that there are only 1,500 clergy in the North Georgia Conference, but there are nearly 400,000 laity. If the work is to be done, it will take the laity to do it. Laity are called to ministry, too.

There was stirring worship each day, ordination of new clergy, recognition of retirees, and a memorial service for those who passed on during the last year. The conference sponsored a road race, a blood drive, and a children's day camp in which the children of conference attendees interacted with children from the community.

For the third consecutive year, the conference adopted a reduced budget, down 1 percent to \$23.75 million, primarily achieved through redirecting resources from administration to mission. The Athens-Elberton District was recognized as being the top district in paying apportionments, and Athens First United Methodist Church was among the 80 percent of churches paying 100 percent of their apportionments, which has long been a priority for this congregation. North Georgia Conference membership has climbed to 363,383 members and remains the largest conference in United Methodism.

Delegates spent considerable time discussing the future of Simpsonwood, the conference and retreat center located along the Chattahoochee River in Gwinnett County which also serves as headquarters offices for the bishop and conference staff. Having previously directed the conference trustees to seek the best offer for sale, delegates voted to cease operations of the hotel and conference center part of the property at the end of this calendar year. A proposal from churches in the Simpsonwood neighborhood that the property be kept intact was not approved, primarily upon the argument that to do so would tie the hands of the trustees with whom the responsibility lies to determine a best solution. And a proposal from Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries was approved, authorizing them to pursue a feasibility study and master plan on whether Simpsonwood could be repurposed as a camping facility similar to Camp Glisson. Response to these parallel actions may require a called session of the Annual Conference before next June.

The conference tabled action on a proposed resolution to prohibit firearms in the United Methodist Churches of North Georgia, after a legal opinion that a new state law which places such decisions with local congregations is in conflict with church law which gives such authority to the conference. Action also was tabled on a resolution supporting marriage as between one man and one woman, after discussion that both the annual and general conferences have affirmed this point many times over the past two decades, and our position is already clear on the matter without opening up further debate.

At the closing session, it was our great pleasure to hear the reappointment of our four clergy to Athens First United Methodist Church for another year.

Annual Conference will return to Athens for at least the next three years—the current contract runs through 2017. Ours is a significant and prominent church in what is clearly one of the strongest conferences in all of United Methodism. It is our great privilege to serve you as your delegates. Full details of conference actions are at *www.ngumc.org* or you may contact any of us individually for further information.

In Christ,

Arlyn Hawley, Tom Jackson, Mike McCord, and Claire Swann



# 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/sale* to learn more about donating or consigning clothing. Contact: Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442



## Newcomer Orientation | July 13

All guests are welcome to attend our next Newcomer Orientation Sunday, July 13 in Hancock Hall. Two sessions are offered, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m. No need to R.S.V.P. Information about Athens First United Methodist will be shared, including ways to get involved and how to become a member. Visit the Newcomer Orientation page for more information.

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



## Hosting Interfaith Hospitality Network July 20-27

We will be hosting Interfaith Hospitality Network July 20 through 27. Interfaith Hospitality Network provides services and coordinates temporary housing for displaced families in local host churches. During our host week, volunteers are needed to help set up and take down materials, drive guests, prepare a meal, and/or serve as an evening host. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Taylor Miller. Contact: Taylor Miller | *miller*3750@bellsouth.net | 404-272-0418



# 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:

#### Set-up Team

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 is 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 is 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.

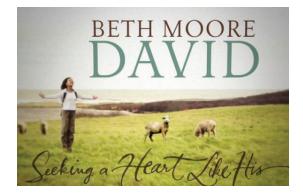
#### Van Driver

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



## Beth Moore Bible Study Begins August 13

The Beth Moore Bible study *David, Seeking a Heart Like His* will be offered, beginning Wednesdays August 13 through October 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. This study explores how David's life proves God's promise that he will never give up on us. Materials for this study cost \$20. Contact Janet Strickland directly to register.

Contact: Janet Strickland | jstrickland@bellsouth.net | 678-910-0039



## Children's Consignment Sale August 15-16

Purchase your children's back-to-school clothes at the second annual Children's Consignment Sale August 15-16. Children's clothes in sizes infant to youth sizes extra large will be for sale. All pieces are carefully screened. During past sales we offered children's brands such as GAP, Ralph Lauren, and Lily Pulitzer. Consignment sale volunteers are invited to shop at the preview sale on August 14. Share this sale with friends at *facebook.com/afumcsale* or visit *athensfirstumc.org/sale*. All proceeds of the sale will fund our Stop Hunger Now event in 2015.

Contact: Betsy Butler | *betsy@athensfirstumc.org* | 706-543-1442

## Sack Lunch Ministry | Weekly Service Opportunity

Every Sunday morning the Sack Lunch Ministry prepares and distributes forty lunches to those in need in our community. This ministry started with five lunches each Sunday five years ago, now we are up to 40 lunches per week! This is a wonderful project for small groups or Sunday school classes to do together. So often when we see those in need we struggle to find a way to respond. Preparing sack lunches a meaningful way to meet a need in our downtown community.

Contact: Kelly Channell | kellychannell@gmail.com

# Churchwide BBQ | August 17

Join us for the Churchwide BBQ on August 17 from 5–7 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park. Delicious food and good music will be provided. If you would like to bring a covered dish, please bring it in a disposable container (serving wear will be provided). There will be golf carts available to chauffeur you from your car to the gathering point. We also encourage you to bring your tailgate tents and lawn chairs and come have a good time! Contact: Cookie Daniel | 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, JULY 6 | GENESIS 24:34-67

- 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, JULY 7 | PSALM 45:10-17

7:00 a.m.	Fashion Fitness GYM
9:00 a.m.	"Go For The Gold" Preschool Story Camp
6:00 p.m.	Volley Performance GYM

### TUESDAY, JULY 8 | PSALM 72

- 5:30 a.m.Fashion Fitness GYM9:00 a.m."Go For The Gold" Preschool Story Camp1:00 p.m.Volley Performance GYM4:30 p.m.Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Lunch Preparation ROOM 1175:30 p.m.Fashion Fitness GYMTagging Tuesday GYM
  - 6:00 p.m. Volleyball Camp GYM

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 | ROMANS 7:15-25

- 7:00 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM Jesus and Donuts BIG CITY BREAD
- 9:00 a.m. "Go For The Gold" Preschool Story Camp
- 11:00 a.m. Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Lunch Delivery
- Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering PANERA BREAD
- 1:00 p.m. Volley Performance GYM
- **6:00 p.m.** Volleyball Camp GYM
- 6:30 p.m. Covenant Bible Study Pilot GROUP ROOM 256

### THURSDAY, JULY 10 | MATTHEW 11:16-19

5:30 a.m.	Fashion Fitness GYM
9:00 a.m.	"Go For The Gold" Preschool Story Camp
1:00 p.m.	Volley Performance GYM
5:30 p.m.	Fashion Fitness GYM
6:00 p.m.	Women's Study: Beth Moore   Esther ROOM 256
6:00 p.m.	Volleyball Camp GYM

### FRIDAY, JULY 11 | GENESIS 25:19-27

9:00 a.m."Go For The Gold" Preschool Story Camp6:00 p.m.Volleyball Camp GYM6:30 p.m.REACH International Bible Study & Dinner YOUTH AREA

## SATURDAY, JULY 14 | GENESIS 27:1-17

## Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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# Athens First United Methodist Church

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