

The background features stylized fish in grey and red outlines, arranged in a circular pattern. A red dot is located in the top-left corner, and another red dot is in the bottom-right corner. A red horizontal line with a central dot is positioned above the text.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Summer Worship

JULY 13, 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.

Sunday School

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

Connect

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/thesteeples 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 given by John Henkel to the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife, Ernestine, and children, Gwendolyn, Sally, Pamela and Jenny.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory God and in celebration of the marriage of Callie DeVore and Clay Sewell on July 12.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Chuck Hodges

Praise & Thanksgiving

HYMN MEDLEY

“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.**

Refrain:

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

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain

**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.**

Refrain

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear;
The hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we’ve been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know its true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems;
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story; ‘tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvatin; from God’s own holy word.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest,
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.**

Refrain

“In Christ Alone”

**In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;**

**From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Chuck Hodges

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

“A Living Prayer”

Rich Born, banjo; Julie Caldwell, guitar; Chris Enghauser, bass; Hans Holzen, mandolin; Adam Poulin, fiddle
In this world I walk alone with no place to call my home; but there's one who holds my hand the rugged road through barren lands; the way is dark, the road is steep but He's become my eyes to see; the strength to climb, my griefs to bear; the Savior lives inside me there. In your love I find release a haven from my unbelief; take my life and let me be a living prayer my God to thee. In these trials of life I find; another voice inside my mind; He comforts me and bids me live inside the love the Father gives.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.
2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat**

and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

THE MESSAGE

"Grow Something Greater!" | Beth Dickinson

Response to the Word

CLOSING HYMN MEDLEY

"Pour Me Out"

**In my weakness, you are strong
In my darkness, you are light
In my sadness, you are joy
In my fear, you are almighty
In my despair, you are hope
In my doubt, you are faith
In my trouble, you are peace
When I tremble, you are unshaken**

Refrain:

**I want to pour me out
So you can fill me up
I want to be a vessel for your purpose, Lord
I want to lay me down
So you can raise me up
A new creation in your perfect love**

“How Great Thou Art”

**O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!**

**And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

Refrain

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”**

Refrain

Sending Forth

THE BLESSING

GOING FORTH MUSIC

GREETERS

Valerie Aldridge, Martee and Foye Horne, Marty and Alex Keller, Kristen and Scott Williams, Garrett Walker, Joe Jordan

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. Curry Cross, Elijah Bullock, John Mobley Cross

9:45 a.m. Eliza Petersen, John Cunningham, Tommy Warner

11:00 a.m. Riley Holland, Georgia Laster, Madison Holland

ATTENDANCE ON JULY 6

Total Worship | 718

Sunday School | 145

8:30 a.m. | 156

9:45 a.m. | 242

11:00 a.m. | 256

Online | 64

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2014 | \$2,431,008

Amount Given YTD | \$1,385,127

Goal for June | \$161,724

Amount after 5 Sundays | \$230,272

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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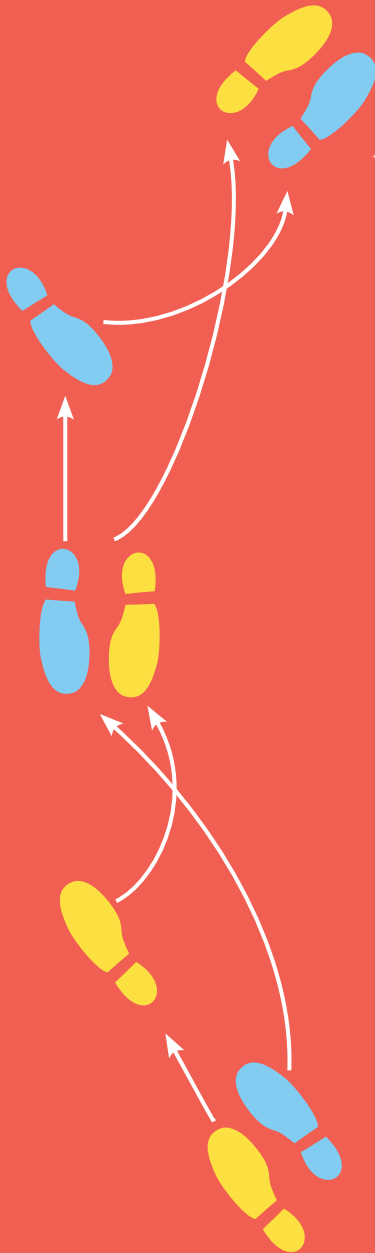
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Take a Step

Join a Bible study this fall.

Even the most complicated dances become simple when you take them step by step. Finding your way through a long list of study opportunities is no different.

Step One: Worship and add a daily devotional to your routine. Take time to read scripture and pray each day.

Step Two: Connect with others in the church for study, fellowship, and service.

Step Three: Connect with a small group for study.

Step Four: Connect with a small group for in-depth Bible study.

athensfirstumc.org/studies

Take a Step | Fall Bible Studies

The following steps are merely a suggested study paths feel free to jump in where ever you feel comfortable.

FIRST STEP

Worship | Sundays

8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Daily Devotion | Read scripture and pray.

The Upper Room or *Jesus Calling* is a great place to start.

SECOND STEP

Adult Sunday School: Various Classes | 9:45 a.m.

Monday Disciplines Bible Study | Mondays

August 18, 1:15-2:15 p.m. | Led by Dianne Morrison

Financial Peace University | Tuesdays

September 23 | 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Led by Joy and Jack Davis

The Daniel Plan | Wednesdays

September 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Led by Therese Wilson

Jesus Calling Express Bible Study | Wednesdays

August 27, 5:15-5:55 p.m. | Led by Annette Nelson

United Methodist Women Circles

Led by Kim Griffith | kimgriffith@bellsouth.net

United Methodist Men

Led by Chris Caldwell | caldwellchrism@yahoo.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry | Wednesdays

August 27, 4:30-5:45 p.m. | Led by Dianne Morrison

Senior Fun

Fourth Thursday of the Month | Led by Dan Maxey

THIRD STEP

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World | Mondays

September 8, 1:15-2:30 p.m. | Led by Dianne Morrison

Acts Bible Study | Wednesdays

September 3, 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Led by Beth Dickinson

The Immanuel Project | Wednesdays

September 10, 7:00-8:00 p.m. | Led by Cole Kelly

Early Book Group: *Immortal Diamond* | Wednesdays

September 3, 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Led by Cindy and George Kuhlman

Later Book Group: *A Hidden Wholeness*

Second and fourth Wednesdays | September 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Led by April and Martin Webb

Men's Study: *The Power of God's Names* | Wednesdays

August 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Led by Keith Wilson

Women's Study: *Blessed and Broken* | Wednesdays

September 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

FOURTH STEP

Creating the Covenant (C1)

- Sundays | September 7, 4:45-6:15 p.m.

Led by Beth and Keith Dickinson

- Sundays | September 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Led by Mark Graham

- Mondays | August 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Led by Bob Noble

- Tuesdays | September 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Led by Beth and Keith Dickinson

- Wednesdays | September 3, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

- Wednesdays | September 3, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Led by Taylor Miller and Tina Powers

- Wednesdays | September 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Led by Pat Morrison and Tom Reichert

- Wednesdays | September 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Led by Don Griner and Alan Cannon

- Wednesdays | September 3, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Women's Study: Beth Moore Study: *David* | Wednesdays

- August 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Led by Janet Strickland

- August 13, 12:30-2:30 p.m. | Led by Janet Strickland

For more information about any of the these studies or to register visits athensfirstumc.org/studies.

Contact: Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

Member Loss

Dallas Tarkenton
July 5, 2014

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Mayree Tarkenton and family in the loss of her husband, Dallas Tarkenton on July 5 in Athens, Georgia.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Tresa and Clay Chappell on the birth of their son, Smith Taylor, on July 5.



Covenant

This fall a new Bible study called *Covenant* is being offered for all adults at Athens First United Methodist Church. *Covenant* is an in-depth group Bible study in which people read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God—and each other—better.

This summer a pilot group met to preview *Creating the Covenant* (C1), the first eight week study of *Covenant*.

After having five weeks under our belt, I can say that it is more than I thought it would be. The way that it shows the connectedness of scripture is very meaningful. The way the covenant is linked from the Old to New Testaments shows that we are children of the Promise.

The study is broken into 3 sessions of 8 weeks -*Creating the Covenant* (C1) *Living the Covenant* (C2) and *Trusting the Covenant* (C3).

I hope that you will consider participating in *Covenant* Bible Study this upcoming year. There will be several times that it will be offered during the week and during the year.

—Don Griner

Outreach Sunday School

The Outreach Sunday School class began with singles and married in their 20's and 30's. Years have passed and now the class sends engraved silver cups to new grandchildren of members. Indeed, concern for others is a hallmark of this class. Its mission statement says: "We reach out to each other, to members of our church, and to people in our community with love, support, help, and a lot of fun as we study God's Word each Sunday." From a class roll of over 130, an average of 50 will attend each week for Bible study, videos and occasional outside speakers. Consistency is another characteristic of this class. The class has had only three teachers in its more than fifty year history and its current popular teacher Charley Whittemore, has been teaching for almost a quarter century. There's coffee and occasional donuts for those who come early each Sunday. Also each Sunday, there is a time to share joys and concerns for any who are sick, grieving or celebrating. Class members are furnished an address list, a weekly email and an effort is underway to provide a pictorial directory of the class. Members of this class will be found in every service project of the church. "Outreach," in fact, is an example of all that's good in Athens First United Methodist Church Sunday School program.

—Bill Simpson

Senior Fun

Ours is a church for the ages. Not just historically, but one with programs, activities, fellowship, and fun for all ages, from those not long from the cradle to those, as an old saying goes, "over the speed limit."

In fact, that expression almost became the name of a program now into its second decade, the Senior Fun Group. But when the speed limit accelerated to 65 and 70, that sobriquet left out too many who had been enjoying the group's fun activities.

Anyone is welcome to participate in the Senior Fun Group, but especially those over the "old" speed limit of 55. The group enjoys a scrumptious catered lunch in Hancock Hall on the fourth Thursday of each month, along with Broadway music and entertaining speakers. The group is not content to stay at home and vegetate, however. Over the years, participants have traveled to such places as Williamsburg, Virginia; Opryland; Myrtle Beach; Branson, Missouri, and to too many towns and sites in Georgia to

mention. Recently, 50 participants reveled in a day-long bus trip to lunch at one of Hendersonville, North Carolina's best restaurants and to enjoy a Broadway-quality production of "My Fair Lady" at the Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of North Carolina. They were able to enjoy all of this at a cost that is less than the ticket price for most touring Broadway shows.

Fifty-five is the new forty, so the current saying goes. So the Senior Fun Group will welcome all those over the old and new speed limits and all of those young in body, mind, and spirit to join with some of the youngest "seniors" you'll ever spend time with. The next luncheon will be Thursday, August 28, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. For more information, feel free to contact Dan Maxey at 706-613-1562.

—Bill Simpson



Newcomer Orientation | Today

All guests are welcome to attend Newcomer Orientation today 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, athensfirstumc.org/newcomerorientation, for more information.

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

Murphy-Harpst Offering | July 20

Murphy-Harpst Children's Center is a nonprofit organization that provides abused children with behavioral

therapy, healthcare and educational services to give them a real chance at life. With their services, they can grow up to hold jobs, maintain relationships, and become productive members of their communities. Your contributions give these children a chance. Visit murphyharpst.org to learn more.

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 | miller3750@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

Children's Consignment Sale August 15-16

Registration is open for consignors at the 2nd annual Children's Consignment Sale. In addition to freeing up space in your home, consignors receive 60% of what their items sell for and 40% goes to Stop Hunger Now. Consignors set the price and tag their own items, and drop them off for review in August. There is a \$10 registration fee to cover sale costs. Unsold items may be returned if indicated. Find out more information online, athensfirstumc.org/consign.

Contact: Diana Zylow | diana@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442



Churchwide BBQ | August 17

Join us for the Churchwide BBQ on Sunday, 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 ware will be provided). 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 13 | GENESIS 25:19-34

- 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
Newcomer Orientation HANCOCK HALL
- 10:00 a.m.** **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE

11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Newcomer Orientation HANCOCK HALL
7:00 p.m. **Adult Pick-up Volleyball** GYM

MONDAY, JULY 14 | PSALM 119:105-112

7:00 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
6:00 p.m. **Volley Performance** GYM

TUESDAY, JULY 15 | PSALM 72

5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
4:30 p.m. **Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Lunch Preparation** ROOM 117
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
Tagging Tuesday GYM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 | PSALM 25

7:00 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
Jesus and Donuts BIG CITY BREAD
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 17 | ROMANS 8:1-11

5:30 a.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
12:00 p.m. **Mission U**
5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** GYM
6:00 p.m. **Women's Study: Beth Moore | Esther** ROOM 256

FRIDAY, JULY 18 | MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

8:00 a.m. **Mission U**
6:30 p.m. **REACH International Bible Study & Dinner** YOUTH AREA

SATURDAY, JULY 19 | ISAIAH 2:1-4

8:00 a.m. **Mission U**

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