

# 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/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 given to
the glory of God
and in loving
memory of Eunice
and Harold Hawk
and Jane Harris
by Beth and
Tom Hawk

and children.

#### **GATHERING MUSIC**

## WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Betsy Butler

# Praise & Thanksgiving

#### **HYMN MEDLEY**

"Come, Thou Fount"

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

"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.

"The Old Rugged Cross"

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suff'ring and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

#### Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

"In the Garden" I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses.

#### Refrain:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own: and the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with Him, though the night around me be falling, but He bids me go; through the voice of woe His voice to me is calling.

#### 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.

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

# Proclamation of the Word

#### THE OFFERING

#### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Iesus Lead Me to Your Healing Waters" | Crowder

Jesus, lead me to your healing waters, take me down to your healing stream. Jesus, lead me to your healing waters, take me down and wash me clean. Many days have gone since I first loved you, now I'm out here wanderin' on my own. Never have I known more that I need you, than out here wanderin' all alone. Jesus lead me to your healing waters, take me down to your healing stream. Jesus, lead me to your healing waters, take me down and wash me clean. Jesus, purify me in your fire, burn me up until I see. Jesus, purify me in your fire, burn me up until I believe. Many days have gone yet still I loved you, never would I make it on my own. This life here and now is where I need you, and then up there is where I'm finally home. Jesus, oh sweet heavenly father, take me up and give me wings. Jesus, oh sweet heavenly father, take me up and set me free. Oh take me up and set me free. Oh take me up and set me free.

#### THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:46-48

An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. 47 But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, <sup>48</sup> and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest."

#### THE MESSAGE

"An Ounce of Love is Worth a Pound of Knowledge" Martha Aenchbacher

# Response to the Word

#### CLOSING HYMN MEDLEY

"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.

Refrain

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home. bright shining as the sun,

Refrain

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've first begun.

Refrain

"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 Savior 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 there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

# 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**

Susan and Don Crews, Melanie and Allan Hixon, Beth and Gib Johnston, Mary and Henry Folsom, Ben Griffith Joanne Timberlake

#### 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.** Kate Williams, John Knight, Jacob Hudson

Jacob Hudson

9:45 a.m. SaraCatherine Pennell,

Margaret Timberlake

11:00 a.m. Isabelle Channell

## ATTENDANCE ON JULY 20

Total Worship | 870 Sunday School | 282

8:30 a.m. | 168 9:45 a.m. | 250 11:00 a.m. | 377

Online | 75

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2014 | \$2,431,008 Amount Given YTD | \$1,508,944 Goal for July | \$153,843 Amount after 2 Sundays | \$123,816

# 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

**Beth Dickinson** Minister of Discipleship athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsbiblestudies beth@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

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**Stephen Mitchell** Director of Music athensfirstumc.org/adultmusicministry stephen@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

**Janis Maxwell** Director of Youth Music & Organist athensfirstumc.org/wyc janis@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

**Rusty Wood** Director of Recreation athensfirstumc.org/recreation rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442 "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me. LUKE 9:48



# Wednesday Night Kick-Off | August 27

On August 27, experience Wednesday night programs and studies offered for adults, youth, and children at Athens First United Methodist Church. This year we will offer catered meals on Wednesday nights and vendors will rotate throughout the year. On August 27 all of our venders will be in Hancock Hall from 5:00-6:30 p.m. so you can see what's on the menu this fall. This *Taste of Wednesday Night* is free, but please register so we can order enough food for everyone.

You can get a taste of more than just food on August 27! If you have not registered for a particular study or are still wondering where to join, this is a great time to preview any of our studies. If you have already selected your study for the fall and are registered, your materials will be available to pick up.

We are kicking off more than just Bible studies. Take this opportunity to check out the Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, encourage your children to try Engage with ONE Student Ministries, attend GPS with Route 56, or give the Children's Choir a shot. August 27 will be a big night at Athens First United Methodist and we hope to see you there.

#### **Wednesday Night Programs**

Adult Bible Studies and Small Groups athensfirstumc.org/studies

Adult Music athensfirstumc.org/adultmusicministry

Children's Choirs athensfirstumc.org/childrensmusicministry

Route 56 athensfirstumc.org/route56

Youth Ministry athensfirstumc.org/youth/students

Register Online | Taste of Wednesday Night athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

## Welcome Ministry | The Helper

We are pleased to introduce a new volunteer role in Welcome ministry. The Helper will be a guide and a new friend, who is knowledgeable, available, and capable.

As visitors try to determine if Athens First United Methodist Church is right for them, the Helper can come alongside them to graciously assist them in their journey. The Helpers can also help members who are entering a new season of discipleship. There are times we all need assistance and encouragement to try new groups.

Our hope is that this servant role will enhance our welcome to new and old friends on Sunday mornings and at special services beginning August 3. They will extend a genuine, deep welcome to everyone who walks through our doors. Using a variety of tools to teach what it means to be a part of the family of faith at Athens First United Methodist Church, they will engage with anyone who needs help. You can help the Helpers help by praying for this ministry effort! Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

# Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Sharon and Tom Milton in the loss of Tom's mother, Deborah Milton, on July 18 in Connecticut.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Penny and Chuck Hodges and family in the loss of Penny's father, Bob Bolkcom, on July 19 in Winterhaven, Florida.

## New Members

On July 20 we welcomed Lory and John Breen, Barbara Howell, Stuart Howell, Adam Scarboro, and Rebecca White to the Athens First United Methodist family.

## Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Katherine Kincaid and Captain Kevin Shouse who were married in our sanctuary on July 19. Katherine is the daughter of Debbie and Phillip Kincaid.



# Kid Check | Attention All Parents

A safe and loving environment is a top priority at Athens First United Methodist. This year we will implement an electronic check-in system which will provide an important level of security for children in our building. This will complement the Safe Sanctuary procedures that we currently follow. We're excited about this opportunity to partner with parents in ensuring the safety of our church's children and youth. Check-in and check-out will be required each time any child or youth between with ages of infant through grade 12 participate in programing (Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening). With your help, we can increase our safety measures significantly. Our system will be used for everyone through grade 12. We ask that all families create an account before August 15 through visiting our website.

Website | athensfirstumc.org/kidcheck Ashley Gottschalk | ashley@athensfirstumc.org

# Promotion Sunday | August 3

On August 3, we begin a year of Joy in Sunday School for children and youth. We are excited to welcome everyone to their new classrooms on August 3. Please visit our website to view your child's new classroom location. Website | athensfirstumc.org/promotionsunday

## Churchwide BBQ | August 17

Join us for the Churchwide BBO on Sunday, August 17 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Park. There will be delicious food and good music. During the BBQ a wonderful bluegrass band will perform. They will be playing a lively variety of bluegrass classics and revival hymns. Let us know you're coming by registering online. Register online | athensfirstumc.org/registration. Website | athensfirstumc.org/bbg Cookie Daniel | 706-543-1442

# Youth funONE at SkyZone August 24

We will be kicking off another awesome year in ONE Student Ministries with a funONE at SkyZone! After the 11:00 a.m. service on August 24, join us for lunch in the youth area. We will leave for SkyZone at 1:00 p.m. and return by 4:45 p.m. The deadline to register is August 17. Register online | athensfirstumc.org/funone Josh Miles Liosh@athensfirstumc.ora

## Route 56 JumpStart | August 23

All students, rising grades 5-6, are invited to join us on Saturday, August 23, for the Route 56 kick-off event at SkyZone! We will begin our year together with a day of fun as we travel, jump, and eat lunch together. The deadline to register is August 17.

Register online | athensfirstumc.org/jumpstart Contact: Leslie Rogers | rt56afumc@amail.com

# Children's Choir | Shine Your Light

This year in Children's Choir our theme is Shine Your Light which focuses on John 8:12; Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We are happy to give a bright welcome to our new choir director, Sarah Lawing. Starting August 27, all children ages 3 (by September 1, 2014) through grade 4 are invited to join us. Worship arts classes including drama, chimes, art, and instruments will be offered to grades 1-4. Registration begins August 3.

Website | athensfirstumc.org/childrensmusic Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org



# On Trend at Athens First United Methodist | September 18

Join us for a night of faith and fashion on September 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. This will be a delightful evening for women to see fall trends provided by local stores and hear fashion tips over punch and dessert. This event is sponsored by the United Methodist Women and is a great opportunity to learn more about this group and our church. There is no cost for this event and we hope to see you there!

Contact: Kim Griffith | kimgriffith@bellsouth.net

# Jesus Calling Express Study Beginning August 27

On Wednesdays beginning August 27, from 5:15 to 5:55 p.m., a group meets to discuss the Jesus Calling daily devotional. This group is open to both men and women. No preparation is necessary, come as you are able. Please bring your Bible and copy of Jesus Calling. If you do not have a Jesus Calling devotional you may buy one for \$8 from a local book store or Athens First United Methodist Church with registration. Jesus Calling Express Study is led by Annette Nelson. Childcare is available with registration. Register online | athensfirstumc.org/registration Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442

# Consign or Donate to the Children's Consignment Sale

Consignor registration is open for the Children's Consignment Sale. In addition to freeing up space in your home, consignors receive 60 percent of the items' sale price and 40 percent goes to fund our Stop Hunger Now event in 2015. Consignors set prices, 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. Donations of clothing are also welcome. Please visit our website to see a list of accepted items and don't forget to tell your friends about the Children Consignment Sale on August 15-16. Website | athensfirstumc.org/saleconsign Diana Zylow | diana@athensfirstumc.org 706-543-1442



# Prayer Shawl Ministry Summer Gatherings

All are welcome to join this group of knitters and crocheters as they create prayer shawls. Skill levels vary from beginner to expert. Completed prayer shawls are prayed over by the group and given to those who are grieving or have special needs. They will gather informally at Panera Bread (off Atlanta Highway) on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m., in the room to the left in the restaurant. Bring your knitting and enjoy each others company. Lunch following knitting is optional. You are also invited to join this group on July 30 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. for a covered dish dinner at the home of Dianne and Pat Morrison. Bring a covered dish and your knitting. This group will meet on August 20 with knitting and a covered dish dinner in Hull Dining Room. Regular meetings in the Parlor will resume on August 27 at

Dianne Morrison | dianne.morrison@gmail.com 706-207-5538

# OVENANT

# Covenant Bible Study | New Series Beginning in August

Covenant Bible study consists of three modules of eight weeks each: Creating the Covenant (C1), Living the Covenant (C2), Trusting the Covenant (C3). Each module of this series builds upon itself as participants read, study, and discuss the Bible together and learn how to love God—and each other—better. Covenant Bible study shows the interconnectedness of scripture while demonstrating how the covenant relationship between God and people is woven through the entire Bible. Covenant represents a relationship —a living, breathing conversation. Preview the course on August 27. Numerous Creating the Covenant (C1) sessions are offered:

- 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.

Register online | athensfirstumc.org/registration Beth Dickinson | beth@athensfirstumc.org

# Men's Study: The Power of God's Names

All men are welcome to this Bible study based on Tony Evans' book, The Power of God's Names. This study, beginning on August 27, looks at how through the names of God the nature of God is revealed to us. This study meets from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and is led by Keith Wilson and Bruce Powers. The materials for this study cost \$12. Register online | athensfirstumc.org/registration Keith Wilson | kcw2236@gmail.com

# Love Stains Bible Study | August 27

The volunteer team of REACH International is called "The Towel Brigade." This name is reflective of the servant leadership Jesus displayed when He performed actions like washing His disciples' feet. The mission of the Towel Brigade is to share the love of Jesus with the world. This fall the Towel Brigade is offering a study on Wednesday evenings that explores how love inspires others to embrace our Savior.

This study is based on the book Love Stains by Bob Johnson, and will encourage participants to break free from any guilt or pressure to "share the gospel" and instead encourage simply "leaking" Jesus wherever they go. This study will meet from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings August 27-October 22. The cost of this study is \$16. Childcare is available by registration. Register online | athensfirstumc.org/registration Lynn Bryant | athens1stism@aol.com | 706-202-9017

# This Week

SUNDAY, JULY 27 | GENESIS 29:15-28 8:30 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR 9:45 a.m. Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR Worship Service SANCTUARY 10:00 a.m. Sack Lunch Ministry HULL STREET ENTRANCE 11:00 a.m. Worship Service SANCTUARY 1:00 p.m. Volleyball Performance GYM 5:30 p.m. Classic City Volleyball Clinic GYM 7:00 p.m. Adult Pick-up Volleyball GYM MONDAY, JULY 28 | PSALM 105:1-11 7:00 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM 6:00 p.m. Volley Performance GYM TUESDAY, JULY 29 | Romans 8:26-39 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 7:00 p.m. Classic City Volleyball Clinic GYM WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 | MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52 7:00 a.m. Fashion Fitness GYM 11:00 a.m. Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Lunch Delivery Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering PANERA BREAD 5:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Covered Dish Dinner HOME OF DIANE MORRISON 6:30 p.m. Route 56 Ice Cream Swap Party HANCOCK HALL THURSDAY, JULY 31 | GENESIS 29:1-8 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 7:00 p.m. Classic City Volleyball Clinic GYM FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 | GENESIS 29:9-14 6:30 p.m. **REACH International Bible Study & Dinner YOUTH AREA** 

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 | PSALM 105:1-11

# Worship Bulletin (614-280)

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## **Athens First United Methodist Church**

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## Postmaster

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