

Celebrating
Consecration Sunday
November 23, 2014

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. For a list of adult Sunday School classes and locations, visit athensfirstumc.org/adultsundayschool.

Connect

We are blessed to have a large congregation. Because of this, we offer many programs and ministries. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to get involved. If you would like a buddy to guide you along this process, please notify a Helper. Helpers serve as part of our Welcome Ministry team. Look for them in the narthex or near the altar. You can also contact a Helper through our website athensfirstumc.org/helper.

Another great way to learn about the life of our church is through attending a Newcomer Orientation held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11 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

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

Gathering

*The flowers on
the altar today
are given to the
Glory of God
and in loving
memory of
Mr. and Mrs.
Milton H.
Pittard and
Pat Cardin*

THE PRELUDE

“Nun Danket alle Gott” | Travis

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Betsy Butler

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

9:45 & 11:00 A.M. “O Be Joyful in the Lord” | Alexander
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 89

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” | HYMN TO JOY

Praise & Thanksgiving

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One,

We long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.

To serve each other in love and humility.

To serve your world with wisdom and energy.

**Forgive us when we stumble over pride,
when our words and actions are not guided by love.**

Turn our hearts when we act in folly.

Restore our energy when it is gone.

Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail.

**But your abundant grace is strong and eternal,
and forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* THE GLORIA PATRI

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

* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Son of
Katie &
Hoke Howard*

11:00 a.m. | Jake Sloan Howard

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Martha Aenchenbacher

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 OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 a.m. "Breath of God" | Caldwell

Show me where you want me, put my feet upon your path. Forgive me if you've made me for something and I've turned my back. Call me and I will listen. I will open up my eyes. I want you, I need you to be glorified in my life. Breathe on me, Breath of God. Tongue of Fire, set a blaze in my heart.

9:45 & 11:00 a.m. "I Will Serve You" | Schram

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir, Celebrate Choir, and Lyric Choir

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to You we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. I will serve You, Creator, Savior. I will serve You because I love you. Every sunrise reminds me, Jesus, You are my Lord, and I will serve You. Lord of all, Creator of all things; Lord of life, Lord of Lords and Kings; Lord of all, this prayer to You we raise: that our life may be a hymn of grateful praise.

* THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

THE MESSAGE

"The Most Amazing Two Words" | Chuck Hodges

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned

away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION AND THE CONSECRATION OF OUR GIFTS

THE MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Julie Caldwell

*** THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for every good gift we have received through the bounty of your love. Guide us along the path of giving that binds us together and connects us with you, the Great Giver. Accept the stewardship of our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness for the work of your Church, so that in every act of mercy and justice, we become conduits of your love. Everything we are, and everything we have, comes as a gift from your gracious hand—a gift which continues to renew us. Accept, O God, the tokens of our love and signs of our pledge and commitment which we have brought forward this day. By your word of blessing and grace, may they blossom forth as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts, and as blessings in your kingdom. In thanksgiving for our life and for the life of Athens First United Methodist Church, we give glory to You, Lord God, the Source of all being, to Jesus Christ, Eternal Word, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Forth

*** THE BLESSING**

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

*** THE POSTLUDE**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | Raney

GREETERS

Brad Bowling, Donna Bowdoin, Sally Anne Cauthen,
Kim Griffith, Jason Miller, Tina Powers, Diane and Olan
Moore, Hayden Hudson, Kerrigan Pruett, Parissa Shedd

NOVEMBER USHERS

8:30 a.m. Jim Belger, Ann and Paul Brown, Larry Deal,
Hugh Larkey, Mack Lowrey, 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, 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, Charlotte Knight

9:45 a.m. Brent Chandler, Charles Clarke,
Joseph Frierson

11:00 a.m. Matt Moseley, John Knight, Greer Moseley

ATTENDANCE ON NOVEMBER 16

Total Worship | 1,476

Sunday School | 347

8:30 a.m. | 216

9:45 a.m. | 312

11:00 a.m. | 932

Online | 83

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2014 | \$2,431,008

Amount Given YTD | \$2,410,654

Goal for November | \$183,324

Amount after 2 Sundays | \$139,778

OUR MINISTERS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister

athensfirstumc.org

chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

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martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

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linsey@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

The Steeple



The scriptures include a story
about ten lepers who were healed.

Only one returned to express
gratitude to Jesus for all he had
received. All ten were healed
physically, but only one was made
whole. Something inside had changed
for the one who offered thanks.





SOUPER SUPPER

Thursday nights in January through April are marked by a ministry called Souper Suppers. At Souper Suppers, volunteers prepare and serve a meal to 150-250 community guests and provide necessary personal items to those in need at the Souper Super Store.

This ministry truly makes an impact in our community and church. We come together as a church family to serve, and we are blessed as we bless others.

There is a place for everyone to be involved with Souper Suppers. You can prepare a meal with your family, small group, or Sunday School class, offer hospitality with friends, or serve individually in many capacities.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/souper supper

Contact | Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org



While We Wait

Family Advent Breakfast & Worship Service November 30

While We Wait...We Gather.

While We Wait...We Hope.

While We Wait...We Worship.

The Advent Breakfast and Worship Service is a very special way for families to begin the Advent season. Our theme is *While We Wait*, an exploration of how we can love and serve others as we anticipate the birth of our Savior.

We will start the morning in Hancock Hall with a pancake breakfast served by Mama's Boy from 8:30- 9:30 a.m., followed by an interactive family worship service at 9:45 a.m. designed to prepare the hearts of little ones as well as parents. This service is in addition to the 9:45 a.m. service in the sanctuary.

There will be no children's Sunday School. Instead, families are invited to attend this service together. If you are unable to attend with your children, please make arrangements for them to be accompanied by another relative or family friend. All ages are welcome, however, and childcare will be provided for infants through age 4 if you choose not to bring your young ones to the service.

Register for breakfast | athensfirstumc.org/adventbreakfast

Sarah Lawing | sarah@athensfirstumc.org

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to John Alexander and Chrissy Alexander Bridges in the loss of their father, Alan Alexander Jr, who passed away on November 7 in Athens, Georgia.



Christmas Poinsettias | Orders Due by December 1

Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one are available for purchase through the church office. The flowers will be placed in the sanctuary by the Altar Guild and a booklet listing all of those participating will be available in the narthex Sunday, December 21. The flowers may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. worship service the same day. Orders with payment may be made at the church office or by mail no later than December 1. The price is \$11 per plant.

Cookie Daniel | cooked@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

Charge Conference | December 1

There will be a Charge Conference on Monday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. We hope you can attend. Please arrive at 6:45 p.m. for refreshments and fellowship.



Interfaith Hospitality Network Christmas Concert | December 2

Please join us for a night of your favorite Christmas songs performed by Callie Waller on Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Athens First United Methodist Church sanctuary. A dessert reception will follow. Admission is free and an offering will be collected for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), a mission partner of Athens First United Methodist Church.

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

Under Wraps: An Advent and Christmas Study | Begins December 3

Under Wraps is a churchwide Advent experience that explores the character of God described in the Old Testament and then revealed through Jesus Christ. This study will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall on Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17. Childcare is available with registration, and the cost is \$10. We hope that you can join us for this special time to grow closer to Christ this holiday season.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

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

Home for the Holidays & Senior Fun December 4

Home For The Holidays is an annual event where we invite church members who are home-bound to a delicious meal and Christmas program. There is no cost for our special guests! If you need transportation, please let us know. If you are caring for an aging parent at home, please know that

you are invited and welcome to attend this special luncheon! Contact Martha with questions.

The Senior Fun lunch will be Thursday, December 4 at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall and is \$6. A delicious meal will be served and the program will be provided by our Director of Music, Stephen Mitchell, who will conduct an outstanding Christmas music program. Call the church office to make your reservation by Monday, December 1. Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

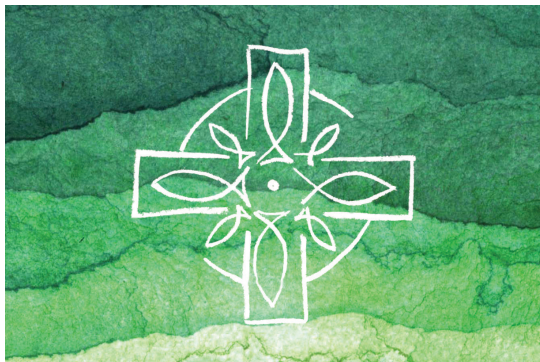


Servers and Casseroles Needed for Snack & Chat: Tree Trimming Party December 5

REACH International will host their annual Snack & Chat: Christmas Dinner & Tree Trimming Party on Friday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall. After dinner the students and volunteers will trim a tree together and sing Christmas carols in various languages. Your help is needed to make this night a festive celebration! Please consider sharing your time to serve and visit with the students, and/or please consider providing a greenbean or hashbrown casserole (9"x 13") or fruit salad. Please sign up online if you are able to provide a dish and contact Lynn if you are interested in serving that evening. Thank you for how you share Christ's love with our international friends!

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

Sign up | athensfirstumc.org/serve



United Methodist Women Luncheon December 8

All United Methodist Women Circle members and any woman interested in the United Methodist Women please bring a salad or dessert to share and come enjoy time together at our annual Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 8. We will enjoy lunch together and sing Christmas carols. R.S.V.P. with Cookie at the church office, 706-543-1442, by Friday, December 5.

Kim Griffith | kimgriffith@bellsouth.net | 706-202-2179

Christmas Community Meal December 11

Please consider serving at the annual Christmas Community Meal on Thursday, December 11 in Hancock Hall. Volunteers are needed throughout the day to cook, set up, serve the meal, host, and clean up. Donations of cooked hams or turkeys are also needed. This is truly a time for our church body to come together in love to serve our community. Sign-up information is online.

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

Sign up | athensfirstumc.org/christmascommunitymeal

Rutter "Magnificat" & Kirchner "Behold New Joy" | December 14

Join us Sunday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary to hear the much-loved Rutter "Magnificat" sung by the Sanctuary Choir with full orchestra and soloists.

Stephen Mitchell | stephen@athensfirstumc.org

706-543-1442

BABY Recognition SUNDAY

Baby Recognition Sunday December 14

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of babies born into our church family during 2014. Families of babies are invited to arrive at 10:15 a.m. for a reception in Hancock Hall. We will then proceed as a group into the Sanctuary for 11:00 a.m. worship where we will recognize babies born into the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Ashley Gottschalk | ashley@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442

A Service of Prayer & Reflection December 21

Join us in the chapel for a time of prayer and reflection on Sunday, December 21, at 5:00 p.m. Songs will be sung and Scripture read. Come light a candle of hope as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

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

Project SAFE and Salvation Army Angel Tree Christmas Adoption

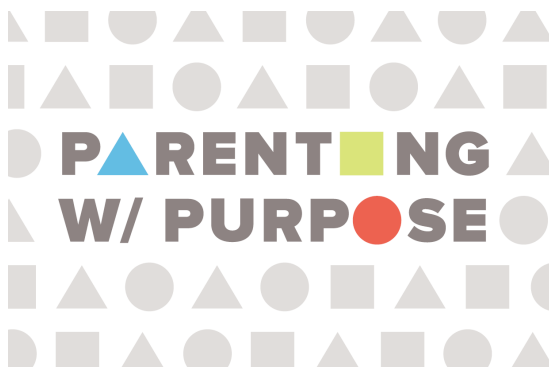
Make an impact on a child, individual, or family's life this Christmas season by adopting them through providing gifts. You may work on your own or with your small group, Bible study, or Sunday School class. Gifts are due by December 5. Contact Diana to adopt a family, or visit the display outside her office.

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

Volunteer Opportunities at Mercy Health Center

Mercy Health Center is a mission partner of Athens First United Methodist Church. Through a community of volunteers, Mercy Health Center provides quality health care in a Christ-centered environment to our under-served neighbors. Mercy seeks licensed healthcare professionals to volunteer: MDs, PAs, NPs, RNs, EMTs, pharmacists, dentists, hygienists, counselors, MSWs, etc. If you would like more information about volunteering at Mercy Health Center, please contact Virginia McKenna.

Virginia McKenna | vmckenna@msn.com | 706-338-3688
Learn more | mercyhealthcenter.net



Parenting with Purpose | February 8

The Children's Ministry of Athens First United Methodist Church is excited to announce our fourth Parenting With Purpose event. Nationally known author and speaker John Rosemond will join us on February 8 to discuss *Parenting with Love and Leadership*. We hope you'll mark your calendars to join us. This event is free and open to the public. Childcare will not be provided for this event. Registration will begin on January 4.

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

This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | ISAIAH 64:1-9

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
- 9:45 a.m. **Adult Sunday School** SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Elementary Sunday School THIRD FLOOR
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word FIRST FLOOR
Worship Service SANCTUARY
The Psalm Tree Connect Group ROOM 103
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Quarter Life Crisis Class ROOM 224
- 11:30 a.m. **Children's Church** CARAVANS
- 12:00 p.m. **Thanksgiving Ingathering**
- 3:00 p.m. **Senior Fun Christmas Tree Decorating** HANCOCK HALL
- 4:00 p.m. **Route 56 Mission & Music Trip** ROOM 120
- 4:30 p.m. **Carillons Rings** ROOM 150
- 5:30 p.m. **Alleluia Rings** ROOM 150

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | PSALM 80:1-7

- 9:00 a.m. **Sanctuary Decorated by Altar Guild** SANCTUARY
- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | PSALM 80:17-19

- 1:00 p.m. **REACH International Leadership Meeting** ROOM 226
- 5:00 p.m. **Children's Basketball** GYM
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts | Troop 1** SAYE HUT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-30

- 12:00 p.m. **Church Offices Close**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | MARK 13:24-37

Church Offices Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | JOSHUA 8:30-35

Church Offices Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | JOSHUA 20:1-9

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