

The Worship of God

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

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God, donated in memory of Ann and Arthur Jarrell by Kitty and Frank Meyran and Fran and Richard Lane.

GATHERING

The Music for Gathering

Pre-service music provided by Athens band, *Check The Signs*, will feature easy-listening jazz—much like the music found on the set of *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood*.

Scott Towe, bass guitar; Melinda Towe, saxophone; Lauren Towe, keyboard; Mason Towe, drums

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Betsy Butler

The Call to Worship

"It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" | Fred Rogers

John Drake, baritone; Janis Maxwell, piano

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine? Could you be mine? It's a neighborly day in this beautywood, a neighborly day for a beauty Would you be mine? Could you be mine? I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you. So let's make the most of this beautiful day, since we're together, we might as well say, would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor? Won't you please, won't you please? Please won't you be my neighbor?

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

*The Processional Hymn

UMH 549 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" | ST. PETER Raina Wood, Organist

*The Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways.

All pray in silence.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*The Passing of the Peace

The Sacrament of Baptism | 9:30 a.m.

Darcy Christine Wiesner-Hawkins, daughter of Michele Wiesner and Josh Hawkins

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

The Sacrament of Baptism | 11:00 a.m.

Vera Frances Lee, daughter of Lauren and Zack Lee

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

The Welcoming of New Members | 11:00 a.m.

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer | Nancy Johnson

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 | 11:00 a.m.

Children of all ages are invited to come to the front for the Children's Message. Following the message, children up to grade 2 are dismissed through the front, lectern side doors to attend Children's Church. They can be picked up at the conclusion of worship in the John Wesley Parlor.

The Song

"Sometimes People Are Good" | Fred Rogers

Abigail McMillan, mezzo-soprano; Audrey Vazquez, soprano; Andy Risley, tenor; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music

Sometimes people are good and they do just what they should. But the very same people who are good sometimes are the very same people who are bad sometimes. It's funny, but it's true. It's the same, isn't it for me and...

Sometimes people get wet and their parents get upset. But the very same people who get wet sometimes are the very same people who are dry sometimes. It's funny, but it's true. It's the same, isn't it for me and...

Sometimes people make noise and they break each other's toys. But the very same people who are noisy sometimes are the very same people who are quiet sometimes. It's funny, but it's true. It's the same, isn't it for me and...

Sometimes people get mad and they feel like being bad. But the very same people who are mad sometimes are the very same people who are glad sometimes. It's funny, but it's true. It's the same, isn't it for me and...

Sometimes people are good and they do just what they should. But the very same people who are good sometimes are the very same people who are bad sometimes. It's funny, but it's true. It's the same, isn't it for me... Isn't it the same for you?

The Offering

The Offertory Anthem

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" | David Cherwein Sung by the Sanctuary Choir The words of this anthem can be found on page 557 of The United Methodist Hymnal.

* $\mathit{The\ Doxology} \mid$ UMH 95 | OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Scripture Reading | Luke 10:25-37

The Message | Jeremy Lawson "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

RESPONSE

*The Hymn of Response

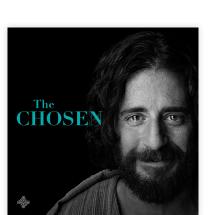
UMH 431 "Let There Be Peace on Earth" | WORLD PEACE

*The Blessing

*The Music for Departing

THE STEEPLE







Churchwide Movie Night | Today!

You're invited to a fun afternoon at the movies! Join us today for our churchwide movie night as we enjoy the award-winning film, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks.

When: Today at 4:00 p.m.

Where: University 16 (at Oconee Connector)

Accessible seating is available. The cost is \$5.00/person — walk-ins are welcome! For more information about the movie, please visit our website or scan the QR code in this bulletin. We look forward to seeing you!

Betsy Butler, Associate Minister | betsy@athensfirstumc.org

The Chosen Bible Study: Season Three Begins March 20

Are you looking to explore the life of Jesus in a dynamic and interactive way? You are in for a real treat! We are excited for you to join a new and innovative Bible study group! Join us as we watch the groundbreaking television show about the life of Jesus called *The Chosen*. We are pleased to have Rhonda Compton leading us through season three of the show. Journey with us into the life of Jesus and his disciples in an amazingly relatable way! The eight-week study will meet on Monday evenings, from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m., beginning March 20, in room 222. If you would like to register to participate in this study, please scan the QR code or visit our website.

Cindy McKoy, Director of Small Groups | cindy@athensfirstumc.org

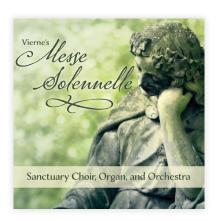
Senior Fun Luncheon | March 23

We invite you to join us on Thursday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall for our Senior Fun Luncheon. The University of Georgia Men's and Women's Glee Club will present our program under the direction of Sarah Gallo. We look forward to an amazing performance! The luncheon cost is \$8. All who are over 50 are encouraged to register now by calling the church office at 706-543-1442. **Reservations should be placed by 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 22. Call the church office to register.**

We would love to have you join our volunteer team to help make the Senior Fun Luncheon a special event! Scan the QR code in the bulletin or visit our website to register to volunteer!

Cindy McKoy, Director of Small Groups | cindy@athensfirstumc.org







Confirmation Information Meeting | March 26

Confirmation for the 2023-2024 year will begin this Fall. An Information meeting will be held on Sunday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. You will learn more about what Confirmation is, what to expect, receive a calendar, meet the youth staff, and hear everything about youth programming and what to expect moving from Route 56 to Youth. This is for 6th graders and their parents, and of course, older students interested in being part of Confirmation are welcome.

We also invite all 6th graders to join in for Route 56 Connections at 4:30 p.m. on March 26. We will bring them up from Connections to Hancock Hall a little before 6:00 p.m. to join you to learn all about Confirmation and Youth programming.

Hannah Stubblefield, Director of Student Ministry hannah@athensfirstumc.org

Vierne's Solemn Mass | April 2

The Sanctuary Choir, with organ and orchestra, will offer Louis Vierne's Messe Solennelle (Solemn Mass) in worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday, April 2. Composed by Louis Vierne (1870-1937), organist of Notre-Dame de Paris, this work calls upon the many tonal resources of our organ as we journey to the cross—from the cries of Lord, Have Mercy to the resolution of The Lamb of God.

All-Star VBS | June 11-15

Are you ready?! VBS Season is almost here, and we are gearing up for an All-Star VBS Experience this year! The All-Star VBS Fan Zone will be open on Sunday, June 11, to kick off this fun week. Each day, Monday, June 12-Thursday, June 15, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, will be filled with pep rallies, crafts in the Spirit Station, team huddles, concessions, and more! You don't want to miss this excitement! Scan the QR code or visit our website to register your child (ages 3-4th grade) and yourself as a volunteer (5th grade-age 100+).

Megan Presley, Director of Children's Ministry megan@athensfirstumc.org

Special Offering on March 26 | North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council

A special offering will be taken on Sunday, March 26, for the The North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council. This administrative agency of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church was created to partner with and support churches and other organizations ministering to those experiencing poverty and homelessness. One hundred percent of your gift will go to church and community ministries serving people experiencing poverty and homelessness. A gift of any amount will help transform the lives of neighbors in need. Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more and donate.

Julie Bridges, Executive Assistant to Senior Minister | julie@athensfirstumc.org.

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam Hugh Ridgway March 3, 2023	Sympathy Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Hugh Ridgway, who passed away on March 3.
Mary Moore March 8, 2023	Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Moore who passed away on Wednesday, March 8.



Ouick Links

The QR code is a direct link to view and learn more about our top 5 featured announcements in this bulletin or visit athensfirstumc.org for more information.

FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

Betsy Butler | Associate Minister betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-714-1559

Nancy Johnson | Associate Minister nancy@athensfirstumc.org | 762-233-4761

Jeremy Lawson | Senior Minister *jeremy@athensfirstumc.org* | 404-304-3574

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for 2023 | \$3,635,506 Amount Given YTD | \$646,165 Goal for March | \$253,633 Received for March | \$80,574

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

327 N Lumpkin St. Athens, GA 30601 • 706-543-1442 | athensfirstumc.org