

# The Church Spire

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And much more!

## Ministry Under Construction - Make Your Voice Count

Have you ever said (or thought) “You know what I really wish our church would do?” Or how about, “My favorite thing about this church is...” Or “I have a great idea for increasing the ministry of Athens First!” Or even, “Boy, if things keep going this way, I’m going to start looking for a new church home.” Well, great news.... the Administrative Council would love to hear your thoughts!

Athens First is about to go through a revisioning process. We want to find out what you, our members, are passionate about and what role you’d like to see our church have in the Athens community. We believe your opinion is important, and we value your input into this process. Even if you don’t have any particular opinions about how our church is doing or what we should be doing, that’s something we’d like to know as well.

Now is your opportunity to make your voice heard in a completely anonymous way. Each member of the Athens First congregation should have recently received a survey in the mail, and if the church has your email address, you should have gotten a [link](#) for filling the survey out electronically. We ask that you fill these out and return them by **November 7<sup>th</sup>**. What a wonderful way to have your thoughts heard even if you don’t want folks to know whose thoughts they are!

Our District Superintendent, Dennis Mohler, will be compiling the results and then working with the Administrative Council to see where we should be focusing our efforts during the next few years.

Your ideas and opinions are important! Please take a few moments and share them with us.

*Kim Mather  
Vice-Chair, Administrative Council*

## Fall – a Season of Rebuilding for FUMC

When I think of Fall, I am reminded of the start of the new school year – not only for our children, but also for many of us who are dependent on an academic calendar for our livelihoods. It’s also a time for us to “rebuild” our faith.

For the Finance Committee, Fall is also time for us to begin our budget planning for the next year. The past few years, this has been challenging in that we were concerned about meeting current obligations while planning ahead.

This year, we’ve been blessed to have been paying all of our bills in a timely manner. This has allowed the committee to be optimistic about our future, hopeful to be able to fortify

some of our programs that we had to reduce financially these past few years.

I have utmost faith that the members of Athens First are ready for some rebuilding of our spiritual beings...and the Stewardship Campaign is a time to do so.

Please put your thoughts and prayers into how you serve our Lord through your prayers, presence, gifts, and service. **On November 7, we will collect pledge cards AND church surveys.** Your input is vital for helping to determine the future of our church.

*--Wendy Merb-Brown, Chair  
Church Finance Committee*

## Thoughts Along the Way from Pastor Mary Jo

Write the vision so that a runner might read it. – The Prophet Habakkuk seems to encourage the people of God to be able to do just this. And, that no matter how it appears, God is faithful in bringing the vision.

As a congregation we are offering ourselves to an intentional time of discerning and welcoming God's faithfulness in bringing the vision. Through the survey, through our pledge campaign, through the visioning retreat on November 14<sup>th</sup> we are paying attention and working together to intentionally bring about the clear vision God has for us.

What might impede us? There may be two significant detractors to our work. Have you heard of the "fight or flight" response to an overwhelming situation? There ARE moments when these are the appropriate reactions. Disappearing, or not engaging, would only delay the work that needs to be done. Destruction, or seeing only one way forward, would amputate the wealth of God's wisdom that comes from the less assertive.

This is not one of those moments when these extreme reactions will work. This is a moment for clear and care-filled thinking. This is a moment of great possibility. This congregation has the momentum of good work in so many ways. It's blessed by the goodness of generations to have a solid facility. And we just plain care! Thanks be to God!

With all of this being true, come people of God, in the midst of a hard time, come together, hear each other and do the work of visioning for this time and this season. Show up by participating honestly and caringly in the survey by November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Be a passionate church member and come to the visioning work session on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-4:30. Make clear that tomorrow is important for the church by bringing your pledge to church on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

God asks us to write the vision so that a runner may see it. And so we shall.

Honor and Blessings,  
Pastor Mary Jo

*Click [HERE](#) to go to the survey*

### Vision Planning Retreat November 14 – Discerning God's Will for Athens First

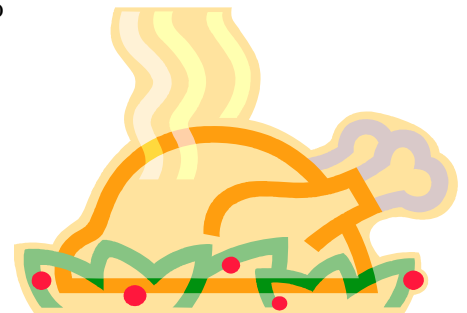
On Sunday, November 14 Dennis Mohler, our District Superintendent, will gather with members of our Administrative Council from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lounge. He will share the survey results and help guide us through a process of discerning God's vision for ministry in our congregation.

While this is a process for members of our Administrative Council, if you would also like to participate, you are welcome to do so. Child care will be provided in the Nursery.

This is an important process as we look to how God wants us to do ministry. Please keep this Vision Planning Retreat in your prayers.

### Thanksgiving Dinner November 14

Tom Turkey and Church Family Life invite you to our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:30 service. Church Family Life will provide the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls, and beverages. If you would like to, you are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert. We are inviting our friends and neighbors of Good Works and Monday Lunch as our guests to share in our blessed feast. Everyone is encouraged to attend, especially college students, whether they bring a dish or not. There is always plenty for everyone!





**Remember to “Fall Back” for the End of Daylight Savings Time** Ah, another reason to love Fall – we regain that hour of sleep we lost when we set our clocks ahead in the Spring. So, be sure to set your clocks back an hour when you go to bed Saturday night, November 6<sup>th</sup> so you can enjoy that extra hour.

### Christmas Bazaar is Almost Here

Mark your calendars! December 4 will be here soon so we hope that you will set aside the date to be a part of the Annual United Methodist Women's Bazaar, from 9 am – 1 p.m. The Bazaar is a great way to share fun and fellowship with members of the church and get some of your holiday shopping done while helping us raise money for local causes. Did you know that the money from this bazaar is used to help many community organizations throughout the year like Habitat for Humanity, My Sister's Place and Good Works. It takes a whole congregation to put on such an event and we need your help!

That's why we're looking for creative people this year to add new items to our bazaar. We need people who can bake, volunteer their time or simply shop at the bazaar. In fact, you may soon be getting a call from one of our bazaar (not bizarre) volunteers to see what you can donate - time, money, talents - to our cause. The more you can

give, the more people we can help throughout this year.

New this year, we will be taking soup orders each Sunday in November so you can be guaranteed to get your favorite quarts. While we will still sell soup by the quart and the bowl at the bazaar, we often run out because our soups are so good. A volunteer will be outside the Chapel (8:45 service) and Sanctuary (10:30 service) after each service to take your order for Chicken Noodle, Vegetable Beef or Vegetarian Vegetable Soup which will be available for pick up at the bazaar. Don't miss out on this great opportunity.

If you would like to volunteer for the bazaar or have further questions about how you can help, feel free to contact Bonita Maze ([dandbmaze@frontier.com](mailto:dandbmaze@frontier.com)), Lisa Dael ([dael@ohio.edu](mailto:dael@ohio.edu)) or Barb Dingle or see us at church.



**Hand Sanitizers Added throughout the Building** The black, hand sanitizer dispensers are located in all the restrooms and in areas where food is served. The sanitizer is foam, alcohol-free and waterless.

**Hospitalizations – When We Know, We Go** With all the new privacy and security regulations, it's more difficult than ever to know who is in the hospital. We encourage you to be sure and let us know when you or your loved ones are hospitalized. Pastor Mary Jo encourages you to contact her directly by calling the church office (593-3977, ext 15) or at (707-0898). She checks both voice mail systems regularly, even when she is out of town.

**Sermons Broadcast Live on WATH** Remember, if for some reason you can't be in worship on Sunday, tune in to WATH (970) at 11 a.m. and hear that portion of our service broadcast live on the radio. Sometimes they begin the broadcast at 10:30 a.m., so be sure to tune in a little early.

**Parking on Sunday Mornings** Parking in the Municipal Parking Garage is free on Sundays and elevators are available. Be sure to park in one of the metered spaces. If you have an OU Parking hang tag, either faculty/staff or retired, you may park in OU Lot 39 (the lot in front of the School of Music and Seigfred).

**The Next Spire Deadline is November 23** If you have news for the December issue, please be sure to get it to the church by Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Prayer Chain** If you have prayer requests, please call 593-7471 or 593-6853 to have your request placed on the church's Prayer Chain.

**Copies of Newsletter Available at the Church** A few copies are printed each month and are in the literature racks in the Narthex and by the Chapel entrance. It is always available to read from our web site.

**Fall Rummage Sale – Thanks for Your Support!** Once again members of our United Methodist Women report a successful Rummage Sale. Thanks to everyone who contributed items, helped organize it, helped with clean up, helped the day of the sale, helped in any way!

## Monday Lunch News

I can't believe we're already two months into OU's fall quarter! A few days ago it hit me: it's already November! This is the time that the number of OU student volunteers begins to drop off, just as the number of guests start to grow.

Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we served 137 people. Usually the number of guests continues to rise through Christmas. This increase of guests happens as we lose our OU volunteers who need to focus on final projects and papers (afterall, they *did* come to Athens to study and go to school).

So, this is all leading up to saying, "**We need your help**" to take up the slack. We will also have more people to feed, so there will be more cooking, serving and washing up. In addition, this is a time when our core volunteers may take a well-deserved Monday or two off.

We could really use your help in the following ways:

- Volunteers to help 1 or more Mondays, especially from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please call me at 592-2122 to let me know when you can come to help.

Sometime **during the week before Thanksgiving (11/15-20):**

- I need one person to meet me at the church to do the lifting required to put many turkey breasts in the oven. This will probably take less than an hour.
- Four to 8 people to slice the turkey and package it to be reheated the day of the meal. They could also help do other prep jobs.

We will also need some **extra salads and desserts for November 22** since we will serve quite a few more people than usual.

Please call me if you can help or have any questions (592-2122)

Thanks so much! —Allene Kilgore

P.S. Remember, just about 50 days 'till Christmas at M.L.!

**Many Thanks to Kappa Phi** Thursday evening, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Vicki Butcher and the women of Kappa Phi spent their evening cleaning our Fellowship Hall Kitchen. They scoured, scrubbed and polished all over the kitchen. It looks great!

They will also be decorating paper lunch bags for our Monday Lunch Christmas Party.

Thanks, and may you have a good break to be ready for 2011.

### 32oz Jars for Bazaar's Soup Sales and

**Monday Lunch Leftovers** Please leave only jars that are exactly 32 oz! These days most jars that look like quart jars really aren't 32 oz (for example, spaghetti sauce jars). Plastic jars like mayonnaise jars are OK as long as they're 32 oz – hot soup is OK for those kind of jars.

Also, while we're on the topic of food containers, please **DON'T** bring containers that have slits or other openings (i.e. plastic containers for mushrooms or cherry tomatoes – we can't use those kind of plastic containers), those made of cardboard (like Pringles containers) or foil trays like those used for baked goods. Things like these just go right into the trash or recycling bins.

Thank you so much for all the other containers you donate, as well as the time and effort you take. Our guests really appreciate it!!!

### 5 Gallon Buckets Needed for Monday

**Lunch** We need one or two empty 5 gallon buckets for Monday Lunch. Just leave it/them in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. Thanks!

## Adult Ministries

### *The View from My Window*

**You Know What? Stephen Ministry Really Works!** This month I am looking at Stephen Ministry and want to share with you a few words of testimony from one of our Stephen Ministers.

She writes, *"Maybe by now you've gotten the email I sent you to let you know that my caregiving relationship has come to a close as of yesterday. It was a positive experience all the way around. I got to be a witness to what Stephen Ministry can do, and it was awesome.*

*My care receiver was able to deal with her precipitating event in an assertive and emotionally healthy way, she feels validated for the decisions she made and the way she chose to act on them and she has a plan for what to do if and/or when the situation arises again. God is good!"*

I hear this time and again during our Stephen Supervision Sessions. And, I also hear them share about how it is not only a wonderful tool in providing care to a specific care receiver, but it's also a wonderful tool in all the relationships in their lives – be it family members, friends, co-workers, those they supervise, even those they encounter briefly at the grocery or hardware stores.

What I also find a blessing is what happens in the lives of our Stephen Ministers as they trust God to provide what is needed when they extend care in whatever situation arises. God is

good and wants to bless us, especially when we step out in service like this.

I pray that you will consider Stephen Ministry ... as a Stephen Minister or as one who would like to receive care.

If you choose the path of Stephen Minister Training, whether you serve in a formal caregiving relationship right away or not, you will be blessed by all that you'll learn during the training and the relationships that develop during the training process.

Please feel free to talk with any of our Stephen Ministers about their experiences. I know they would love to tell you what it has meant to them (but no specific details ... they are very committed to confidentiality when it comes to their care receivers!). They are: Cathy Bigger, Mike Bila, Sky Cone, Elaine Dabelko, Kevin Dael, Barb Dingle, Ken Edwards, Marge Hagerman, Joyce Lambert, Marilyn Martin, Kim Mather, Bonita Maze, Jan Miller-Fox, Matthew Morris, Rick Seiter and Dan Smith.

Training sessions are held Monday nights from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and will begin early January. Please get in touch with me, Dick Schelat (541-3223) or Pastor Mary Jo if you would like more information or would like to reserve a space in the class.

Blessings!!! –Sharon Fink,  
Coordinator of Adult Ministries

**One Plus the Power of You – November Readings Now Available** If you're interested in following the Lectionary Scriptures for Sunday's worship, the November readings are now available – visit the tray next to Pastor Mary Jo's Office and in the last window on the Church Street side of the Sanctuary. She asks that you read through the Scriptures as often as possible, preferably each day, for the week preceding its assigned Sunday. Let's see what will happen by the power of the Holy Spirit when we participate in such a discipline. Honor and Blessings to you!

**Sunday Scripture Texts** As Pastor Mary Jo prepares the worship services and her sermons each week, she will select the Scripture readings from these passages. We offer these to you as you prepare for your worship experience:

**Nov. 7** Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;  
Luke 20:27-38

**Nov. 14** Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

**Nov. 21** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

**Nov 28:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



## Educational Opportunities for Adults at Athens First

### Sunday Mornings

**Trinity Class to Conducting Study on *Christianity and Islam*** - The class meets in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lounge at 9:30 every Sunday morning.

**Women of Faith Class Studies *New Testament Women of Faith*** - The class meets in the Library at 9:30 on Sunday morning.

**Friends of Jesus Sunday School Class Offered for Adults with Disabilities** The classes are held Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in **Room 6**.

**The Seekers' Class** meets in the Student Lounge on the 2nd Floor at 9:30.

### Weekly Studies on the Lectionary Text

**The Men's Prayer Group - Bob Evans Breakfast and Bible Study** Meets Thursdays at 7 a.m. at Bob Evans Restaurant with facilitator, Rick Seiter.

**FOCUS (aka The Brown Bag Study Group)**, meets Thursdays in Fellowship Hall from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Bring your lunch, if you'd like.

**For more information about the groups and classes offered for adults at Athens First, please visit this page on our web site:**  
[www.firstumcathens.org/adultopps](http://www.firstumcathens.org/adultopps)

**The Plains United Methodist Church to Offer *Christian Believer Bible Study*** Starting Wednesday, November 3, 2010, Pastor Joel Harbarger will begin leading a long-term study called "Christian Believer" at The Plains UMC. This is a 30-week study that is patterned after Disciple Bible Study. Each week, we will be asked to focus on a certain theological concept and study the biblical underpinnings for it and read the wisdom of the ages from the ancient to modern Christian writers. We will gather weekly for a video and discussion. It will be a fantastic study to engage with and grow together as people of faith! For more information, please contact the church at 797-4163.

**Women's We Care Group Focuses on Poverty Alleviation** WE CARE met recently and watched the Dateline NBC video on poverty in the US. They profiled three families in the Athens region. Definitely a tear-jerker!

As you know, poor families were disproportionately hurt by the tornado in the Plains and Nelsonville because of their substandard housing. Given our interest in poverty alleviation, we thought this might be a good year to sponsor a tornado family. Ideally, this family would have several family members, including children, with limited access to other help (i.e. no insurance, no strong family network), and most importantly,

would be receptive to our help. WE CARE would not be repairing the roof, but would provide a year's worth of other help to get the family back on its feet. This might include helping over the holidays, helping the family network into appropriate organizations, and offering support for specific requests.

We have not identified a family yet, but right now, we have feelers out to find a family that might be a perfect fit for WE CARE. Hopefully, one of these leads will pan out, and we can help one or more families over the course of the year. If no family seems like a good match, we will get involved with one of the organizations involved in disaster relief. Watch for details which will be publicized as they become available.

## Blessing of the Honduras Missioners on November 21

In worship on Nov. 21 we will gather to bless and commission those persons going on our FUMC-sponsored mission trip to Honduras Dec. 4-11. Participants are Pete Mather (group leader), Bob Woodworth, Wendy Merb-Brown, Molly Tampke, Grant Perry, Grace Vaught, Michael Williams, George Bain, Herb Mather, and David Boop. Included are church members, a former member, students, a relative, and friends—an amazing gathering of believers willing to do faith-based service to God's family in the world. The Global Missions Committee asks you to help send them off with your prayers on Nov. 21, and keep them in your prayers during their trip.



**Kids Support Honduras Mission Trip** The Children's Sunday school is looking forward to their next Mission and Munchies Sunday, November 21st. We are planning a special activity to learn more about our church's upcoming mission work in Honduras. Part of our efforts that day will include assembling a special project or care package for the kids in Honduras (more details coming soon). **Noisy Bucket Sunday** will be that day as well, so please bring lots of change as we collect in support of the upcoming mission trip. Thank You!

**Come One, Come All to Sunday School Rally** Day was great fun, with lots of kids and young people involved during Sunday school. However, we know that there are lots more kids in our congregation, and we'd love to see them be a part of our Sunday school. Remember, there are several Sunday school classes for adults, so please consider making Sunday school a family activity, and join us soon!

**Bible Sunday Observed November 21** November 21st promises to be a meaningful day. This is also the Sunday when the Kindergartners and Fourth Graders of the congregation will receive their own Bibles. Come and offer your encouragement to the children on this special Sunday!

**The Holy Hands Puppeteers Are Off to a Great Start** We begin by offering a performance for the Thanksgiving Luncheon, Nov. 14, in the fellowship hall. "What Can I Be Thankful For" beginning with the perspective of a child and her best friend. You will also have a surprise performance from some characters from the past rejoining us for fun and fellowship as we sing fun songs about being thankful.

A reminder to puppeteers that we have **practice Sunday Nov. 7, 12:30 - 1:15**. If you have any questions about the puppet ministry, you can contact Kamile Geist [geistk@ohio.edu](mailto:geistk@ohio.edu) or 740-707-6267.

### Growing Tree November News

November already!! At Growing Tree, we'll begin the month by thinking about the themes of sharing and feasting. We'll focus on the folk tale, "Stone Soup." We'll be reading several different versions of the story to compare and contrast as well as acting out the story and retelling it with flannel board pieces. We may even prepare a pot of our own "stone soup" for sampling. The remainder of the month will be all about getting ready for Thanksgiving. There will be stories about the first Thanksgiving and our modern-day celebrations. There will be funny songs about turkeys and thoughtful journaling about being thankful. There will be Native American arts and crafts as well as our traditional Thanksgiving centerpieces. All in all, a very busy and special month.



Please note the following dates:

November 4 and November 5—PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES-No class sessions

November 25,26,29—HAPPY THANKSGIVING-Growing Tree closed

In this time of counting blessings, we at Growing Tree are most grateful for the continuing love, support, encouragement and prayers of the congregation of this great church. God bless you all and Happy Thanksgiving!

-Cathy Bigger, Director of Growing Tree Preschool

# THANKSGIVING NAME CARDS


When you set your table this Thanksgiving, use these homemade name cards with a special message for each guest.

**What you need:**

- Index cards, any size (one per person)
- Markers
- Fall stickers (optional)
- Fall foam shapes (optional)

**What you do:**

1. List everyone who will be at your Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Fold each index card in half so it can stand.
3. On one side of each card, write a person's name.
4. Decorate around each name with markers, stickers or foam shapes.
5. On the blank side of each card, write a different Bible verse about blessings or giving thanks. Suggestions include 1 Chronicles 16:34; 1 Chronicles 29:13; Psalm 107:8; Psalm 118:21, 28; or 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
6. Another idea is to write one or more words from one verse on each person's card (depending on the number of guests and words). You can write the verse in order and have people read around the table, or you can mix up the words so guests have to put them in the correct order. (Remember to list the Scripture reference.)



**Just for KIDS**

## Multiply your thanks

We have so many reasons to give thanks to God. When we take time to count our blessings, we realize they just keep multiplying and adding up.

**Use your multiplication or addition skills to answer each equation. Then use the word key below to write out Psalm 100:4 (NIV).**

**WORD KEY**  
 22= him 16= courts 4=gates 24=name 9=praise 8=and 2=to  
 12= his 18= give 6= with 10= Enter 20= thanks 15= thanksgiving

“

$5 \times 2$ or $5 + 5$	$12 \times 1$ or $7 + 5$	$2 \times 2$ or $3 + 1$
$6 \times 1$ or $5 + 1$	$3 \times 5$ or $5 + 5 + 5$	$4 \times 2$ or $6 + 2$
$6 \times 2$ or $6 + 6$	$8 \times 2$ or $8 + 8$	$3 \times 2$ or $3 + 3$
$3 \times 3$ or $3 + 3 + 3$	$9 \times 2$ or $9 + 9$	$10 \times 2$ or $10 + 10$
$1 \times 2$ or $1 + 1$	$11 \times 2$ or $16 + 6$	$8 \times 1$ or $3 + 5$
$9 \times 1$ or $5 + 4$	$3 \times 4$ or $4 + 4 + 4$	$8 \times 3$ or $8 + 8 + 8$

”

Answer: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name;" (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

## Youth News

[www.firstumcathens.org/youth](http://www.firstumcathens.org/youth)

### Sunday School – We’re Back at the Church with a New Study

We’ve enjoyed gathering at The Donkey these past few weeks, and now it’s time to return to our Youth Lounge. Join us for the next few weeks as we look at *ME: The Me I Want to Be*. 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

### Youth Plan Service Project in November

Soon it will be time for thanksgiving. One way to give back is to participate in the service project. November 29th, we’ll meet at Central Avenue UMC to head over to do some work with a local food pantry. Time hasn’t been set yet, so watch for more details.

### Calling Youth to help with the BAZAAR!

The Christmas Bazaar and the UMW need our help! On December 2nd, the UMW has asked for our help after school in setting up tables for the bazaar which will be held on December 4th. It shouldn't take long to arrange everything and then we will have fellowship with food and

fun. We would meet in fellowship hall after school (between 2:30 and 3:00) and end no later than 4:30 PM. If you think you can help, please call Meg Van Patten at 594-7308 or email her at [vanpattenfamily@mac.com](mailto:vanpattenfamily@mac.com).

### Youth Activities, Looking Ahead...

**Winter Party** December 19 here in our Fellowship Hall, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**Middle School Retreat in Indiana** – January 21-23 – “Inked, What does it Mean to be a Follower of God?”

**High School Retreat** – February 18 – 20

**Youth Blog** A new way to check out what’s going on at *now* is through our new blog! Check it out for updates, spiritual musings, and even contests! The link is <http://anthonylivoti.wordpress.com/>. Pretty simple!



## News from the Center From Ally Ballentine, our WSC Intern

[www.firstumcathens.org/campus](http://www.firstumcathens.org/campus)

Hello, everyone! WSC has gotten off to a great start this year. We were all very sad that Rick was unable to continue with us this year, but Pastor Mary Jo is doing so much to help us out right now.

We had the first Common Ground (combination of WSC, Newman Center, and the students from Christ Lutheran) meeting October on 20. It was great to be able to meet with other Christian student organizations, and there was an excellent program provided by S.T.A.R.s (students teaching against racism).

We have recently begun opening our weekly WSC meetings with Taizé worship in the Sanctuary. It originates in France, and is a worship style that is sung in different languages and emphasizes meditation. As Pastor Mary Jo describes, "It is a power-nap for the spirit." Anyone is welcome to come and experience it, so please come join us!

The next event on the WSC calendar is Midnight Breakfast, which will take place on November 12 at, of course, midnight.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for supporting WSC! We truly appreciate it!

### Students Appreciate Snacks While They Study

As has long been our tradition, the Student Lounge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is transformed into a study space during finals week each quarter. One of the much-appreciated features of Student Study Hours is study fuel (aka, snacks). Nothing helps the process like something yummy, especially if it’s home-made, so we invite you to whip up a batch of cookies, brownies, etc. and bring them by. They will be eagerly gobbled up by very appreciative students. Fall quarter study hours will be observed November 17, 18 and 21.



\$ 25,973.17 Income for September  
 35,209.74 Expenses for September  
 (9,236.57) Net loss for September  
 \$ 22,406.41 Net gain for the year

The net loss for September seems alarming, but with our payroll schedule, September was one of two months this year when we had three pay dates. Those months always generate a loss for the month. What we need to focus on is the bottom line, which still looks good.

**Second Mile Giving Funds reported through October 27:**

- Food Pantry – Goal \$2,000 – received \$2,601 - Goal Achieved!
- Habitat for Humanity – Goal \$3,500 – received \$842.46
- Hope and Possibilities – Goal \$1,500 – received \$692.31 (plus \$381 from Easter offering)
- PET Project – Goal \$2,000 – nothing received yet

As you can see, several of our Second Mile Funds could use a boost if we are to meet our goals in the next two months. It's exciting that we have exceeded our goal for the Food Pantry! Even though we have, our Food Pantry friends will use whatever we provide. The need never goes away.

**Special Offerings Provide Funds to Help Meet Special Needs** Many special needs have been expressed recently, and, as usual, our First Church Family has responded in positive ways. One example is through the special offerings that have recently been received. Reporting as of October 25, we have received:

- World Communion Offering - \$55
- Tornado Recovery - \$522.46
- Honduras Mission Trip - \$2,895

Thank you, First Church Family, for your generous responses to these needs!

**Radio Sponsorships – Funding Needed to Complete the Year** The weekly broadcast of our

10:30 worship service through WATH provides an opportunity for those who cannot leave their homes to join us for worship every Sunday. Your specific donations make this possible, and what we have collected so far will only fund this through the end of this month.

Thanks to your responses, the list of Sundays that still need sponsors is growing smaller. **These dates still need sponsors: November 21, November 28, December 5, December 12, and December 19.** If you would like to help sponsor this ministry, we welcome your contributions. A full sponsorship is \$150, and full or partial sponsorship are always welcomed.



Yes, I/we want to participate.  
 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Memorial/Dedication (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Our Connection to the World

**This comes to us through “News.Net” an email publication by the West Ohio Conference Communications Division:**

**Bishop’s Response to Storm Damage** September 16, devastating tornados and gale-force winds ripped through SE Ohio along a path from Nelsonville through Athens, nearly reaching the Ohio River Valley. People in our communities have experienced damage or destruction of private property, as well as fear and anxiety for their livelihoods and homes. The United Methodist Church is and will continue to respond. Click [Here](#) to read Bishop Ough’s recent letter in response to the needs.

**African United Methodists Desire a Greater Voice**, more sharing of power and the ability to adapt some church rules to local contexts. And a study committee exploring the global nature of the denomination is listening. The committee studying the global nature of the church visited Africa in August as part of its mission to hear representative voices throughout the denomination before it makes its recommendations to the 2012 General Conference, the church's top legislative body. [More](#)

**Calling All Vocalists and Bell Ringers Interested in a Short-Term Commitment** Many of those who participate in the Chancel and Handbell Choirs leave Athens during the OU break between Fall and Winter Quarters. That’s just the time when we have an opportunity to sing and play that wonderful music we enjoy at this special time of the year.

Won’t you consider joining these choirs during these next few weeks? It’s a great way to celebrate the season! Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings: the Bell Choir from 6 to 7 p.m. in the music room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the Chancel Choir from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 6. Child care is provided. Note: if you need child care during the bell rehearsals, please contact Cathy Bigger in advance – 593-3977 ext 14 or [bigger@firststumcathens.org](mailto:bigger@firststumcathens.org)



**Habitat for Humanity Rummage Sale Raises Funds for Projects.** Many thanks to all who donated items for the fall rummage sale. We had a large supply of things to offer our shoppers. Thanks also to those who dropped by to shop. And special thanks to those who both donated and shopped! The sale went well, raising \$625.00, which will buy lots of lumber for our next Habitat family home. This was our first rummage sale in the fall, and its success assures you that we will now have both a fall and spring rummage sale each year.

### **Upcoming Habitat Dates for your Calendar:**

**Saturday, November 6** – Faith Build Coalition Scrap Metal Collection at the Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (plus cell phones and printer cartridges).

**Sunday, November 7** – O.U. Habitat Annual Run/Walk for Cover, at noon, Ping Center. \$15 entry fee includes a t-shirt. Contact Skyler McCully ([sm259906@ohio.edu](mailto:sm259906@ohio.edu)) for more information.

**Feb. 26:** 6:00 p.m. A Taste of Athens ~ Battle of the Chefs. Thirty local restaurants and chefs have been invited to participate in this fund raiser for Habitat. More details will be provided as the date approaches.

**District Information Available on the Internet** There are lots of things going on in our Foothills District. You can find the web site at: <http://www.foothillsdistrict.org>

**Calendar Information Available 24/7** Remember, if you need to check on dates and times of church events, that information is available on our web site ([www.firststumcathens.org/calendar](http://www.firststumcathens.org/calendar)) and also on the automated portion of our phone system (extension 3) - *available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.*

## November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p><a href="#">Home</a></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch</p> <p>6:00 PM Stephen Supervision</p> <p>7:00 PM Choral Union/Singers Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>8:00 PM Choral Union/Singers Performance</p> <p>9:00 PM Greek Life Bible Study CCC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00 PM Korean Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:10 PM WSC Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>12:10 PM F.O.C.U.S.</p> <p>5:30 PM Kappa Phi Yule Log</p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p> <p>7:00 PM Disciple OT</p> <p>7:00 PM Bd of Trustees</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>5:30 PM AA</p> <p>6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p> <p>Daylight Savings Ends</p> <p>8:45 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM CHECM</p> <p>11:45 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>12:15 PM Puppet Rehearsal</p> <p>2:30 PM Korean Worship</p> <p>4:30 PM Korean Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch</p> <p>7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>6:00 PM Widow/Widower Support Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Council Children's Ministries</p> <p>9:00 PM Greek Life Bible Study CCC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00 PM Korean Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:10 PM WSC Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>12:10 PM F.O.C.U.S.</p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p>5:30 PM AA</p> <p>6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p> <p>8:45 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:45 AM Thanksgiving Dinner</p> <p>1:30 PM Vision Planning Retreat</p> <p>2:30 PM Korean Worship</p> <p>4:00 PM OU Honors String Festival</p> <p>4:30 PM Korean Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch</p> <p>6:00 PM Stephen Supervision</p> <p>7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00 PM Korean Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <p>Student Study Hours</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p>7:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>12:10 PM F.O.C.U.S.</p> <p>1:00 PM All Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p> <p>Student Study Hours</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p> <p>8:45 AM Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11:45 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>12:15 PM Puppet Rehearsal</p> <p>2:30 PM Korean Worship</p> <p>4:30 PM Korean Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p> <p>Student Study Hours</p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch</p> <p>7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p>Spire Deadline</p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>7:00 PM SPRC</p> <p>7:30 PM Lydia Circle</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Korean Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Thanksgiving Day</p> </div> <p>12:00 PM AA</p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>5:30 PM AA</p> <p>6:00 PM Korean Students Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p>6:00 PM AA</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>First Sunday in Advent</p> </div> <p>8:45 AM &amp; 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Monday Lunch</p> <p>7:00 PM Troop 71</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p>12:00 PM AA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p><a href="#">Home</a></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2 South College Street  
Athens, Ohio 45701

[www.firstumcathens.org](http://www.firstumcathens.org)

Rev. Mary Jo Yeakel, Pastor

Phone: 740-593-3977

Fax: 740-593-7293

E-mail: [firstumc@firstumcathens.org](mailto:firstumc@firstumcathens.org)

Pastor Mary Jo Yeakel: [yeakel@firstumcathens.org](mailto:yeakel@firstumcathens.org)

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Editor: Sharon Fink

[fink@firstumcathens.org](mailto:fink@firstumcathens.org)

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### Worship Schedule

**Sunday Morning Worship 8:45 and 10:30**

**Sunday School Classes, 9:30 a.m.**

**Worship Broadcast on WATH Sundays 11-11:30 a.m.**

**Child Care Provided During 10:30 Service**

**Free Parking in the City Parking Garage on Sundays**