Athens Christian Church
8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM Worship Services

VERSE of the WEEK

November 1, 2026

"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

John 12:24

Welcome to Athens Christian Church

If this is your first visit, we're so glad you're here. To help us stay connected, please fill out a visitor card located at the back of the chair in front of you and drop it in the offering box. If you'd like to receive our monthly church newsletter by email, be sure to include your email address on the card.

We're thrilled you've joined us for worship today! During the service, the Lord's Supper is available to all believers. Please feel free to make yourself at home. On your way out, don't forget to stop by the foyer to pick up a complimentary Bible.

We look forward to seeing you again next week!

At ACC, we strive to be a loving family of Christ-followers, bringing light into a dark world. Please call on us when we can help:

Ministry Contacts:

Ken Gennicks,
Senior Minister/217-415-5724

Shane Baker,
Associate Minister
217-415-9035

Lorna Baker,
Children's Minister
217-502-1256

Ashley Cantrall,
Worship/Tech Minister
217-652-5433

Evan Noggle,
Youth Minister/217-415-5644

Morgan Wells, After School Program/217-414-5433

Elders:

Jeremy McDaniel,
217-971-9416

Doug Wendler,
217-652-2133

Jack Brown,
217-741-0381

GriefShare Ministry:

Carla Knox,
217-415-5032

Download the ACC app

1411 E. Route 29, Athens IL 62613
217-636-8463
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www.facebook.com/athenschristianIL

8:00 am Traditional Service

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-4

Victory in Jesus #82 (v. 1-3)

Blessed Be the Name #352 (v. 1-4)

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

There Shall Be Showers of Blessing #580 (v. 1-4)

Parent/Child Dedication: Lorna Baker
Parents participating: Dustyn and Annika Nance
Parent/Child Dedication Video

Sermon: Ken Gennicks
"People of the Bible:
'Paradoxes for Parents & Pilgrims'"
(2 Cor. 12:9; James 1:2-4; I Peter 5:6)

Invitation Hymn:
Jesus Is Calling #434 (v. 1 & 4)

Communion & Offering Hymn:
Rock of Ages #108 (v. 1 & 2)

Communion & Offering Meditation: Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering tables before exiting.

9:15 & 10:30 am Worship Services

The Lord Will Provide / Jireh / I've Witnessed It

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

9:15: Parent/Child Dedication Video
10:30 Parent/Child Dedication & Video: Lorna Baker
Parents participating:
Jeremy and Heidi Foulk, Kinser and Madison Hodson, Evan and Emma Noggle, Evan and Kayla Ogden, Chris & Peyton Thomas, Shawn and Melissa Wheeler

Sermon: Ken Gennicks
"People of the Bible:
'Paradoxes for Parents & Pilgrims'"
(2 Cor. 12:9; James 1:2-4; I Peter 5:6)

Cornerstone / Heart of Worship

Communion & Offering Meditation: Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering tables before exiting.

AM Sermon Notes

"People of the Bible:
'Paradoxes for Parents & Pilgrims'"
(2 Cor. 12:9; James 1:2-4; I Peter 5:6)

INTRODUCTION

Our Bible studies are from people of the Bible. Every Sunday we study and apply God's Word. *These things happened…and were written…for us* (I Cor. 10:11) *to give us endurance, encouragement and hope* (Rom. 15:4). As we dedicate our church's children, consider the paradoxes of our faith (a paradox is a statement that seems to contradict itself or go against common sense, but upon deeper thought, reveals a hidden truth):

1: We find _____ in _____ (2 Cor. 12:9)

2: We find _____ in _____ (James 1:2-4)

3: The way _____ is _____ (I Pet. 5:6)

4: The way to _____ is through _____ (Gal. 2:20)

5: We overcome our _____ by _____ them (Mt. 5:44)

6: We _____ our life by _____ it (Mt. 16:25)

7: We are saved by _____, not by _____ (Eph. 2:8-9)

8: We _____ to enter _____ (Heb. 4:11)

9: The _____ in the kingdom is the _____ (Mk. 10:43)

10: We meet our _____ needs by seeking the _____ first (Mt. 6:33)

11. We _____ by _____ away (Lk. 6:38)

12. We become _____ by committing ourselves to the success of _____ (2 Tim. 2:2)

CONCLUSION

These are the "mysteries" of the faith. Knowing these paradoxes answers life's five consequential questions:

1: _____: where did I come from?

2: _____: who am I?

3: _____: why am I here?

4: _____: how should I live?

5: _____: where am I going?

Prayer Requests

At Memorial: David Gessaman (Ashton/Oliver Russell's grandpa)

At Chicago: Drew Hawk (Ryan Knox's friend)

At FL hospital: Bill White (Mary Minikin's b-in-law)

At TN hospital: Carol Council's cousin (ICU)

Tests: Bonnie Russell, Karla Daubs (surgery/10th), Bob Folkerts, Tammy Garner, Debbie Bolton, Geri Gesling, Nancy Bell, John/Jacqui McDaniel, Jeff Lopian, Sr., Linda Caldwell, Jerry Basso, Brian O'Neill's sister, Landin Evans, Larry Wise (29th/Mem.), Patty Tobias, Bill Woolsey, Terry Wunderle, Jaelyn Foulk, Tami Olson/Diane Meador, Jessica Kennett, Pat Halberstadt, Rhonda Leinberger, Ken Barba, Mary Magee, Joel Bell's folks, Kade Gleason

At home: Rena Hiatt, Dave Primm, Marvin Vance, Nancy Nale's mom, Tom/Ruth Novy, Kevin/Carrie Lee/Colton Ingham, Dawn Medley, Charlie Ford, Jerry Purcell, Jill Cleer (Arcadia), Joyce Cary, Chris McIntyre, Nancy Rudolph (surgery/3rd), Shelly Roat, Mike Sleight, Donna Sandidge, Jared Richards, Hayes Johnson, Sue Furlong, Deb Selby, Brenda Schnapp (Dawna Raikes' mother), Lori Richardson

Touched by death: Larry Lasswell family (Brad's dad), Judy Bryant family, Velora Kollmann family (Kendall's mom), Wilma Powell family, Dick Sybert family

Transitions: Erna Weatherby (Hopedale), Dick Bachman/ Steve Gutierrez/Charles "Butch" Mester/Rosalie Ingram (Villa), Mary Prior (Mason City), Jan Schoenhard/Bob Moore (Countryside), Carolyn Cole (Concordia), Marge Ray (Vonderlieth), Chuck VanHuss (Jacksonville), Kevin Kennett (Hillsboro), Earl Furlong (EverVella/White Hall), Linette Hughes' dad, Stephen/Andrew Briggs, Marsha Tibbs (Randall Residence), Paul Harris (job interview/Houston)

International Conference on Missions: Nov. 12-14/St. Louis

20 to Passion Conference: Dec. 29-31/TX/Ages 18-25

13 to ACC Mission to Kenya: March 4-14, 2027

Vacation Bible School: June 7-11, 2027/all ages

91 to Christ In Youth Conference: July 12-16/gr. 8-12/ Wheaton

Love Your Neighbor Workcamp: July 19-24/Springfield-area

Blake Canterbury: facebook.com/monroechurchplant

Capital Stewardship Campaign: EXCEL (2026-2028)

Our missionaries/military/terrorism/nation

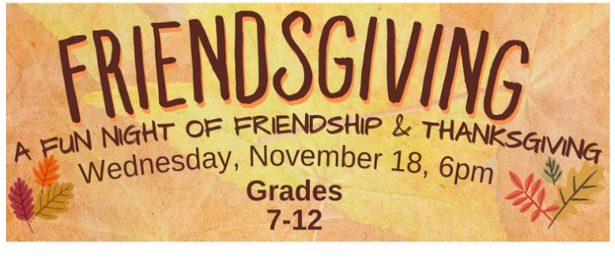
Each other/unspoken needs



















Applying Today's Sermon to Your Life

1. As we dedicate our church's children to God today, we surface a dozen paradoxes or mysteries of the Christian faith. How would you define the word "paradox?" Our verse-of-the-week today is John 12:24, *"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."* The paradox of life through death is illustrated in the plant world. This illustrates what principle for the Christian?
2. How can a Christ-follower find strength in weakness (James 1:2-4)? Why will Christian parents want to learn such paradoxes and mysteries in order to thoroughly teach them to their children and grandchildren? Will you commit to this today? Why, or why not?
3. Romans 15:4, in the New Testament, speaks of the Old Testament, saying, *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.* Today's Bible study surfaces a dozen paradoxes or mysteries of the Christian life. Which of the twelve do you find the most fascinating, and why?
4. Read I Peter 5:6 and explain how the way up is down!
5. How can our study of Christian paradoxes and biblical mysteries foster our humility and dependence as well as our trust and surrender? Explain.
6. Answer True or False, then explain each paradox:
   - T F We die daily, yet we are renewed inwardly day by day (I Cor. 15:31).
   - T F We are perfect in Christ, yet called to strive for perfection (2 Cor. 12:9f).
   - T F We are seated with Christ, yet we are on a journey (Eph. 2:6; Phil 3:13f).
   - T F We are free in Christ, yet bondservants of Christ (Gal. 5:1; Rom. 6:18).
   - T F We are God's masterpiece, yet a work in progress (Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:6).
   - T F God is Creator, yet became part of His creation (Col. 1:16; Phil. 2:6-7).
7. God is beyond human comprehension. Three and a half pounds of brain tries to figure out God. How does this effort encourage awe and worship in us when we try?
8. The most dramatic paradox is seen in our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is both the Lion (Revelation 5:5) and the Lamb (John 1:29)! Christian paradoxes have immense spiritual value as they highlight profound truths about the nature of Christ, His kingdom, and our Christian lives. What's the value of pressing into these challenging parts of Scripture, and teaching them to our children and others?
9. In light of this Bible study, I will:

Today & This Week

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - TIME CHANGE SUNDAY
- 7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)
- 8:00 am Traditional Worship Service & Parent/Child Dedication (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)
- 9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages:
  - •Adult Classes:
    - » The Bible Recap, led by various ACC members (Rm. 223)
    - » Deep Divers, led by Anthony Bolton (Rm. 106)
    - » Kingdom Seekers, led by Terry Henrikson (Rm. 202)
    - » Christian Living, led by Harry Schirding & Doug Wendler (Rm. 203)
    - » The Ambassadors, led by Dan Haynes (Rm. 105)
  - •Jr./Sr. High School (Rms. 112/113/114)
  - •Kids C.L.U.B. for 4 yrs.-kind., 1st-3rd gr., 4th-6th gr.
  - •Childcare for birth-3 years
- 10:30 am Contemporary Worship Svc. & Parent/Child Dedication
  - •Kids C.L.U.B. K-6th gr./Childcare birth-4yrs
- 1:00 pm Pick-up Basketball for Ages 13+ (FLC)
- 2:00 pm Kids' Christmas Musical Practice (Kids Wing/WC)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 HEBREWS 12
- 5:30 am ACC Workout (FLC & Rm. 208)
- 9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION DAY HEBREWS 13
- 5:30 am ACC Workout (FLC & Rm. 208)
- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Rm. 223)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 JAMES 1
- 5:30 am ACC Workout (FLC & Rm. 208)
- 7:15 am Wed. Morning High School Study (Youth Rm & Rm. 112)
- 9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)
- 5:00 pm Help set up for Wednesday Night Connection
- 5:40-6:15 pm Dinner (meatloaf, corn, baked beans, salad)
- 6:30-7:30 pm Classes for all ages (Jr. High & GriefShare til 8)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 JAMES 2
- 6:30 pm Finance Team Meeting (Rm. 106)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 JAMES 3

Church Office Closed
- 9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

11:00 am Wanda Lasswell Memorial (Funk's Grove)
12:00 am Mona Brown Celebration of Life & Dinner (FLC)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - VETERANS DAY SUNDAY

Joe Effinger & Team Guest Worship Leaders, All Services
- 7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)
- 8:00 am Traditional Worship Service (nursery birth-2 yrs/3-5 yrs.)
- 9:15 am Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages/Childcare for birth-3yrs.

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service
- •Kids C.L.U.B. for K-6th grade/Childcare for birth-4yrs.

11:30 am Kenya Mission Trip Planning (Rm. 223)
- 1:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball Ages 13+ (FLC)
- 2:00 pm Kids' Musical Practice (Kids Wing/WC)
- 4:00 pm Elders' Meeting (Rm. 105)
- 5:30 pm Prayer Gathering Led by Shane Baker (WC)