

ATHENS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM

WORSHIP SERVICES

April 12, 2026

"I PRAY THAT YOU MAY BE ACTIVE IN SHARING YOUR FAITH, SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF EVERY GOOD THING WE HAVE IN CHRIST."

Philemon 6

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/Technology
Minister
217-652-5433
Evan Noggle,
Youth Minister/217-415-5644
Morgan Wells, After School
Program/217-414-5433
Jaelyn Lasley, Children's
Ministry Intern
217-691-4015

Elders:

Jeremy McDaniel,
217-971-9416
Curt Reichling,
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Doug Wendler,
217-652-2133
Jack Brown,
217-741-0381
GriefShare Ministry:
Carla Knox,
217-415-5032
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Download the
ACC app



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217-636-8463
www.athenschristian.net
www.facebook.com/athenschristianIL

8:00 am Traditional Service

Call to Worship: Psalm 116:1-5

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing #349 (v. 1-5)

Blessed Assurance #67 (v. 1-3)

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Beneath the Cross of Jesus #253 (v. 1-3)

Acts of Worship: Don Randle

Sermon: Ken Gennicks

"People of the Bible:

"How They Shared Their Faith"

(Lk. 5:27-32; Jn. 4:28-29; 9:25;

Acts 2:22-24; 9:36; 17:16ff)

Invitation Hymn:

Lead Me to Calvary #407 (v. 1 & 4)

Communion & Offering Hymn:

Alas and Did My Savior Bleed #274 (v. 1 & 4)

Communion & Offering Meditation: Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering
tables before exiting.

9:15 & 10:30 am Contemporary Service

Graves Into Gardens

Who Else

Holy Forever

Announcements Video

Prayer Requests & Praises: Ken Gennicks

Acts of Worship: Ava Gennicks & Leilah Link

Sermon: Ken Gennicks

"People of the Bible:

"How They Shared Their Faith"

(Lk. 5:27-32; Jn. 4:28-29; 9:25;

Acts 2:22-24; 9:36; 17:16ff)

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Great Are You Lord

Communion & Offering Meditation: Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering
tables before exiting.

AM Sermon Notes

"People of the Bible:

"How They Shared Their Faith"

(Lk. 5:27-32; Jn. 4:28-29; 9:25;

Acts 2:22-24; 9:36; 17:16ff)

INTRODUCTION

Our Bible lessons are drawn from the lives of "People in the Bible," timeless life lessons from real people who point us to Jesus! Today's Bible study surfaces six New Testament people who illustrate six different approaches for sharing our faith. Which one best fits you?

I. Matthew's _____ approach
(Luke 5:27-32)

II. Peter's _____ approach
(Acts 2:22-24)

III. Paul's _____ approach
(Acts 17:16-18, 22-27, 31-32)

IV. Samaritan woman's _____ approach
(John 4:28-29)

V. Dorcas' _____ approach
(Acts 9:36)

VI. Blind man's _____ approach
(John 9:25)

CONCLUSION

God custom-designed you to invite people to follow Him. Each of us has contact with people every day who need to know Jesus. With eternity in the balance, will you discover and use your God-given approach for inviting people to follow Jesus (Philemon 6)? Don't go Heaven alone. Dutch evangelist, Corrie ten Boom, wrote of Heaven,

"When I enter that beautiful city,
And the saints all around me appear,
I hope that someone will tell me:
'It was YOU who invited me here!'"

Prayer Requests

At Memorial: Mike Sleight, Julia "Judy" Witmer (Russ' mom), David Primm

At St. John's: David Powell, Sr. (Justina Harlan's grandpa)

At Lincoln hospital: Susie Pollistina (Peg Biggs' relative)

At St. Louis hospital: Mary Jane Hurie, Linda Ethell's brother

At FL hospital: Kieran Ward (Sarah Rempel's relative)

Tests: Tammy Garner (13th/29th), Dave/Sandy Magee, Dwayne Rudolph, Laurie Ingram's brother, Linda Hoffman's son, Alice Lasswell's brother, Sue Bishop's sister, Judy Bryant, Debbie Bolton, Bayleigh Gillum's grandpa, Katie Calhoun, Sandy Magee's daughter, Jim Daugherty, Jerry Judd's niece, Raina Halford, Stephanie Fricke's brother, Brad Ferrill's dad, Aaron Richardson, Cole Halsey, Landin Evans (Alix/Derik's baby), Mary Magee, Madison Wells, Bree Chandler (surgery/May 20), Angie Sutheard, Kevin Blakeman (Patti Squires' b-in-law), Beverly Nolting

At home: Marvin Vance (comfort care), Nancy Bell, Terry Wunderle, Nancy Nale's mom, Tom/Ruth Novy, Jill Cleer (Arcadia), Kevin/Carrie Lee/Colton Ingham, Jack/Betty Ethell's daughter, Jo Ellen Croft's mom, Dawn Medley, Dalton Worthington, Linda Caldwell, Ernie Gentry's friend, Ken/Sarah's nephew, Jackie Hines' nephew, Gwen Griffiths' friend, Nancy Rudolph, Shari Fletcher's dad, Jackie Hines' brother, Fran Curry

Transitions: Fred Mason (Bruce Kennett's nephew/hospice), Louie Murray/Dick & Elaine Bachman/Steve Gutierrez/Charles "Butch" Mester/Al Betz/Joann Kirchgessner (hospice)/Rosalie Ingram/Nancy Oliver (Villa), Mary Prior (Mason City), Roberta Clark (hospice)/Marlene Wegner (Sunny Acres), Erna Weatherby/Jane Schoenhard/Bob Moore (Countryside), Carolyn Cole (Concordia), Marge Ray/Vivian Rankin (Vonderlieth), Chuck VanHuss (Jacksonville), Cory Craig, Jr./Josh Harris/Nicholas McDaniel (Ozark Christian College), Kevin Kennett (Hillsboro), Jordan Barnes, Kylie Renfro

Children's Ministry Intern: Jaelyn Lasley/until June 15

Vacation Bible School: June 8-12, 6-8:00 p.m./all ages

112 to Christ In Youth Conf.: July 6-10/Lincoln, NE

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

ACC Mission Trip to Kenya: March 5-14, 2027

Blake Canterbury: [facebook.com/monroechurchplant](https://www.facebook.com/monroechurchplant)

Capital Stewardship Campaign: EXCEL (2026-2028)

Our missionaries/military/terrorism/nation

Each other/unspoken needs



Alpacas of Indian Point Hills

Tuesday, April 14

9:30 Free Blood Pressure Checks

10:00 Alpacas of Indian Point Hills Presentation

11:00 Free Chicken Tenders (County Market), mashed potatoes, gravy, corn & rolls

Devotion by Melba Baker



SENIOR TRIP Saturday, May 2 Train Museum & Downtown Restaurants

- Meet at ACC at 9:00 AM
- Train leaves museum 11:00 AM
- Cost: \$12 tour & meal
- Seniors only
- Sign up in the lobby

Applying Today's Sermon to Your Life

- Our 2026 Bible studies focus on *People of the Bible* and inspiring life lessons about following Jesus today. Our *Verse-of-the-Week* is Philemon 6, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." How is the Christian life more exciting when you are actively sharing your faith? How does our walk with Christ grow mundane, stuffy, and boring when we don't? Explain your answers and discuss this with a friend or group.
- Jesus always invited people to follow Him. Now He wants you to invite people to follow Him. How does this make you feel?

Excited	Prayerful	Unable	Apathetic
Challenged	Ready	Unworthy	Like a failure
Energized	Nervous	Refusing	Committed
- In light of how they shared their faith in today's Bible study, answer True or False:

T	F	I don't share my faith because it's just too awkward.
T	F	I don't want to offend anyone, so I keep my faith to myself.
T	F	Faith and politics are personal and never to be discussed in polite company.
T	F	I've never invited anyone to come to church with me.
T	F	Good news wants to be shared.
T	F	God custom-designed me to share my faith like a person in today's study.
- Do you think most of us feel inadequate and hesitant about sharing our faith? Why? Do these feelings relieve us of our responsibility to share our faith? What's the right way to handle these negative feelings?
- God has prepared some people to hear from an authentic Christian who won't beat around the bush, but who'll clarify the truth and invitation of Christ, and help them take the action step. Why couldn't that contagious Christian be YOU?
- Today's Bible study surfaces six biblical approaches for actively sharing our faith, as highlighted in the book, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, by Mark Mittelberg and Bill Hybels. Which of these six styles best fits you? Or do you see yourself as a blend of two or three of these styles? How so?
- 2 Corinthians 5 says, "We try to persuade men . . . for the love of Christ compels us . . . we are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us . . . be reconciled to God." Make your own personal list in writing of five people, by name, whom you will pray to actively share your faith with now and in the days ahead. Pray for God to give you an opening with each of the five. Be brave. Be ready. Enjoy the adventure!
- In light of today's Bible study, I will:

Today & This Week

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 - VBS Supply Board in Lobby

7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)

8:00 am Traditional Service (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 (Rm. 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 Service

•Kids C.L.U.B. K-6th gr./Childcare birth-4yrs

1:00 pm Pick Up Basketball for ages 13+ (FLC)

4:00 pm Elders' Meeting (Rm. 105)

4:00 pm Missions Team Meeting (Rm. 203)

5:30 pm Prayer Gathering led by Doug Wendler (WC)

MONDAY, APRIL 13

JOHN 3

9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

JOHN 4

8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Rm. 223)

10:00 am Young at Heart (FLC)

5:30 pm CIY meet to ride bus to serve at Inner City Mission

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

JOHN 5

7:15 am Wednesday Morning High School Study (Youth Rm.)

9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)

6:00 pm Worship Team Practice (WC)

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

JOHN 6

10:00 am Prophecy Watch Study (Rm. 106)

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

JOHN 7

Church Office Closed

9:00 am Chair Aerobics (FLC)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

9:00 am Athens-Area Food Pantry Monthly Distribution (Rt. 29)

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Representative Here from Little Galilee Christian Camp (Clinton)

VBS Supply Board in Lobby

7:30 am Prayer with the Pastors (WC)

8:00 am Traditional Worship Svc. (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.

11:00 am-1:00 pm Free Athens Lions Club Senior Citizen Dinner

(ages 55+ in Athens School Dist. @ Athens Community Ctr.)

11:30 am Kenya Mission Trip Lunch & Learn (Rm. 223)

1:00 pm Pick-Up Basketball for ages 13+ (FLC)

VBS June 8-12, 2026
SURPRISE PARTY!
REGISTER HERE →  **VBS FOR ALL AGES!**
The unexpected Grace of Jesus

Help us get ready for VBS!! Here are some ways:

- Today & Next Week: the VBS Supply Board Will be in the Lobby. Please choose an item(s) to donate to help with cost.
- Sunday, May 3: All Supplies Due Back to Church
- Wednesday, May 6: 6-8:00 PM: Work Night on Float Decorations
- Friday, May 8: 5:30-7:30 PM: Finish Float for Glory Days Parade
- Saturday, May 9: 10-2:00 PM: Athens Glory Days
- Monday, May 11 & 14: 6-8:00 PM: Decoration Work Kids Wing
- Thursday, May 28: 6-8:00 PM: Set Lobby and Foyer

Mother/Child Tea
Sunday, May 3, 11:30 am-1 pm
Bows & Blessings
ENJOY LUNCH, DECORATING A BOW TIE OR HAIR BOW, AND SHOOTING A BOW
SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY, ON-LINE, OR SCAN THE QR CODE
CONTACT LORNA BAKER WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Parent-Child Dedication
SUNDAY, MAY 10
8:00 OR 10:30 AM
SERVICES
All parents are invited to dedicate themselves to raise their child (of any age) in a Godly way -prayerfully-until he or she can make this decision on his or her own to follow God.
PLEASE SUBMIT A CHILD PHOTO AND FAMILY PHOTO BY FRIDAY, MAY 1, WHEN YOU REGISTER ONLINE.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION
SUNDAY, MAY 17
8:00, 9:15, 10:30AM
FOR ALL 8TH GRADE, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, TRADE SCHOOL AND TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES
Register today on the church website or ACC app.
Submit a baby photo, childhood, and current photo by May 6.
SUBMIT PHOTOS HERE Questions: evan@athenschristian.net

MISSIONS OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL
LED BY LORNA BAKER & MORGAN WELLS
KENYA MISSION TRIP DATES: MARCH 5-14, 2027
Lunch & Learn in ACC Room 223
Sunday, April 19, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Athens Christian Church
Room 105
Sunday, May 17
2-4pm
Scan the QR Code to register online (griefshare.org/findagroup) and sign up in the lobby
Questions: contact Carla Knox at ck15501@outlook.com or call the church office at 217-636-8463

MOVE 2026
KINGDOM WORKERS
CHRIST IN YOUTH
Lincoln, NE, July 6-10
for current 8th -12th graders
99 STUDENTS REGISTERED!!
JOIN THE WAITLIST!