

ATHENS
christian
CHURCH

the lifeline

AUGUST 2026

wednesday night CONNECTION



REGISTER
NOW!



SEPTEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 11

Supper: 5:40-6:15 pm

Study: 6:30-7:30 pm

7 adult classes

- GriefShare
(6:30-8:00)

KIDS Club
birth-6th grade

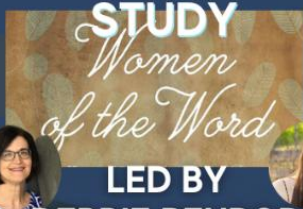
ROOTED
Jr./Sr. High
(6:30-8:00)

MEN'S STUDY



LED BY
DARIN FRITZ &
BRAD LASSWELL

WOMEN'S STUDY



LED BY
DEBBIE PENROD
& JJ BREAZEALE

YOUNG ADULTS



LED BY
KENNEDY HALE
& OLIVIA BAKER

FIRM FOUNDATIONS



LED BY
SHANE BAKER &
JARROD REMPEL

MARRIAGE STUDY



LED BY
KEITH & RACHEL
GENNICKS
MATT & TSOETSY
HARRIS

GENERAL BIBLE STUDY



LED BY
ANTHONY BOLTON
& DOUG WENDLER

GRIEF SHARE



LED BY
CARLA KNOX &
SHELLY CURRY

JR HIGH



SR HIGH

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS
THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE GOSPEL

ACC KIDS C.L.U.B

4 years-3rd grade

4th - 6th grade group



FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART

KEN GENNICKS, SENIOR MINISTER
KEN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Use Summer & Fall to Grow with Us in the Lord!

Bring someone to Worship, Connect and Serve the Lord together with you in this season:

- Church Camps at Lake Springfield & Little Galilee: through August
- Our FUSE Summer Camps at ACC: Monday-Friday, July 27-31, August 3-7, & 10-14
- Young Adult Sunday & ACC Summer Connection: August 2: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
- Prayer led by Ozark Christian students, Jaelyn/Tsoetsy/Nic/Josh/Cory: Sunday, August 9, 5:30 PM
- Tsoetsy Harris concludes her Summer Ministry Internship: Friday, August 14
- Wednesday Night Connection: September 2 - November 11, 5:40 - 7:30 PM
- "Trail Life" Sunday at ACC: Sunday, September 13
- Mission Sunday: September 20, Rusty Hedger from OCC preaching (9:15 AM Mission Fair)
- Ministers Appreciation Day: Sunday, October 4; Casey McCormick preaching
- Joe Effinger & Evansville team: Sunday, November 8

Volunteer Visitors Needed, Please!

Would you please help us care for our growing church family by visiting members and friends in homes, nursing homes, and hospitals? I'll provide your training, and I can match you with an experienced partner to help you get started.

Please contact me now to join our team!

Wednesday Night Connection: September 2 - November 11

Plan to bring everyone Wednesdays for supper, then groups for all ages, including:

- Young Adults: The Ten Commandments (Kennedy Hale/Olivia Baker)
- GriefShare: (Shelly Curry/Carla Knox)
- Ladies Study: Women of the Word (Debbie Penrod/J.J. Breazeale)
- I Corinthians 16:13-14 Men's Study: (Darin Fritz/Brad Lasswell)
- Marriage: (Matt/Tsoetsy Harris & Keith/Rachel Gennicks)
- I & II Peter: (Anthony Bolton & Doug Wendler)
- Firm Foundations: (Jarrod Rempel & Shane Baker)

EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 2026-2028

We're thankful for everyone who is faithfully giving in spite of today's challenges. You can give either to our general operating expenses or toward paying off our mortgage. Many made a faith promise for the years 2026-2027-2028. Such a commitment goes like this, "If the Lord provides, I will give \$_____." This is called a "faith promise", or a "faith commitment." This commitment is by faith, with no obligation if your life situation changes. Our current faith promise effort is called, "EXCEL," from 2 Corinthians 8:7, "But just as you EXCEL in everything: in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in your love for us, see that you also EXCEL in this grace of giving!" Please pray daily for such grace from God so each of us will EXCEL in giving. The hope of the world is a healthy, local church!

Thank You

- To Our Athens Church Family, My family lost a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Sandy always served others before herself. Several years ago, God led Sandy and me to Athens Christian Church. It was home after our first visit, as we felt the warmth of the pastors and congregation. It brought back memories of what church was like in the 60's and 70's. As I sit today reading the many cards and notes sent over the last several months from members of this church, I know why God placed us here. These cards and notes will be kept in a small box with our memories of Sandy. Our family would like to thank those who prepared the wonderful food for the dinner after the service and those who waited on us at the tables. Our family could not be more pleased with the way this church family cared for us.

God bless you all, The Family of Sandy Magee

(continued on Kid's CLUB & Family Matters)



TOGETHER 4 HIM
SHANE BAKER, ASSOCIATE MINISTER
SHANE@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



What is Summer Connection, why do we do it, and what will happen?

WHAT: Summer Connection is a chance for our whole church to enjoy an afternoon together!

WHY: Because we strive to minister well to 5 generations, we have to do things other churches may not do. Since we provide a traditional service and two contemporary services on Sunday mornings, there may be people who are part of our church whom you haven't met if you attend the same service each week. So Summer Connection is a way to bring our entire church family together for fellowship and to give thanks to God for all He has done this past year.

WHO: The Entire Church Family

WHEN: Sunday, August 2 | 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

- Lunch in the Family Life Center (11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)
- Lunch Provided: Hamburgers/hotdogs, buns, pasta salad, chips, ice-cream
- Sign up in the lobby or online so we can prepare accordingly.

Outside (12:30 – 2:00 PM)

- Pickleball Tournament
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Sign up in the lobby or during lunch at the event
- Playground
- Gaga Ball
- 9 Square
- Car & Tractor Show
- Kids Water Games

Inside (1:00-2:00)

- Volleyball in FLC
- Cards and Board Games in lobby

Come enjoy a great afternoon of food, fellowship, fun, and celebration as we connect with our church family!



**SUNDAY
AUGUST 30**

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**ATHENS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
BABY
shower
FOR
Evan and Emma
~ Noggle ~



**HOSTED BY
FRIENDS**

**PLEASE RSVP TO
Sarah Rempel
217-671-2448**



**REGISTERED AT:
<https://my.babylist.com/babynoggle>
and
TARGET**



New Baby!

Congratulations to **Gary and Pegg Biggs** on the July 7 birth of their great-granddaughter, **Margot Polistina** (8 lbs., 3 oz.; 18.5 in.) in Florida!
God bless you all!

*Financial
Update:* **June, 2026**

Building Fund: Offering: \$5,758.19
Loan Payment: \$6,663.85
*No additional will be paid down on principal.

General Fund:
Offering \$67,296.46
Expenses \$89,245.66



WHOLE HEARTED WORSHIP
ASHLEY CANTRALL, WORSHIP/TECHNOLOGY MINISTER
ASHLEY@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



August always feels like a season of transition. Summer vacations begin to wind down, school is just around the corner, and many of us start settling back into familiar routines. Summer often means we don't see one another as consistently, but even through changing schedules, God has remained faithful. Week after week, He has continued to provide exactly what His church has needed. Different faces have filled different roles, and we've been reminded that this is His church, and He is faithfully at work.

As we look ahead, we're excited for the opportunity to gather more consistently again. There's something special about worshipping together, encouraging one another, and growing alongside our church family. Those rhythms help keep our hearts focused on Christ and remind us that we were never meant to walk this journey alone.

We're especially looking forward to Wednesday Night Connection returning in early September. We hope you'll make plans to join us as we continue growing in faith and community together. Whether you've been traveling all summer or have been here every week, we're grateful you're part of the Athens Christian Church family. We can't wait to see what God has in store for this next season.

Community Christian Events



INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
MISSIONS

November 12-14, 2026
America's Center
Convention Complex
St. Louis, MO

ACC has covered the admission
cost for anyone from our church
family who would like to attend.



Students 5th - 8th grade
enjoyed 5 nights of
FUN, FOOTBALL, & FAITH!



Thank you, Cory, for sharing
your love of football and your
love of God with all these
young people.

Community Prayer & Worship

- Athens Community Park
- 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM
- Contact Darin Fritz with any questions

Rough Edges, Virginia, IA

- Last Friday of Every Month
- 6:00 PM
- Contact Darin Fritz with any questions

Communion & Pew Stocking

Communion Preparation:

August
Barry & Carol Boeker
September
Jeanne Wunderle



Pew Stocking:

August
Clint & Deanna Clark
September
Diane McCormick





Last month, we returned home from Lincoln, Nebraska, after a successful trip to Christ In Youth (CIY) Move! We were able to take 99 students and 13 leaders on a week-long trip to worship with nearly 2,000 others. It was amazing to see what God has done and is continuing to do in the lives of the students in our community. During our trip, we had many conversations about what it takes to accept Jesus as your Savior. We will be continuing those conversations throughout the year! Over 18 students committed their lives to Jesus for the first time, and many rededicated themselves to living for Jesus daily! We are praising God for all He did!

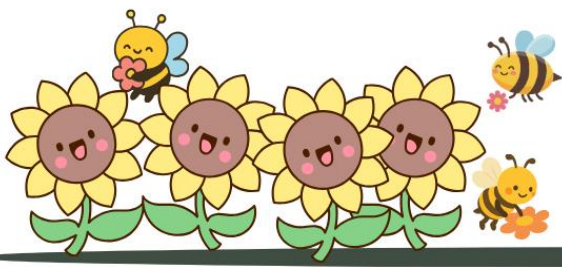
Below are some quotes from students who went to CIY.

- "My experience at CIY was life-changing because I decided to follow Christ for the first time. My favorite part was worship because it helped me feel close to God in a way I never had before. I left encouraged, excited to grow in my faith, and thankful for everything God did in my life that week." - Freshman Girl
- "I would definitely recommend this trip to anyone wanting to learn more about the word of God and looking for a group of people who are all interested in the same thing." - Senior Boy
- "My experience this year was amazing, because it helped me recommit my life to Jesus. The story we heard through Ephesians helped me better understand how I should follow Christ." - Graduate Boy
- "This year at CIY I got baptized, which was a life-changing decision. I also became a lot bolder in my faith and started seeing myself as a mentor to the girls around me." - Senior Girl

We are looking forward to continuing the impact of CIY through our Wednesday Night Connection starting September 2, Wednesday Morning Bible Studies (9th-12th) starting September 2nd, and our first 5th Quarter date on August 28th from 9:30-11:30 pm.

New Members *Please welcome our new members with a card or warm greeting!*

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celia Corrigan
Baptized: July 5
23104 Digiovanna AVE
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lane Morrow
Baptized July 12
446 N State ST
Greenview, IL 62642 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shawn (Father), Jackson (Son) Kuhlmann
Both Baptized: July 12
406 W. Washington, #29
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwin Yambo, Jr.
Baptized: July 26
200 S Lumber ST
Athens, IL 62613 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Wiker
Baptized at CIY: July 7
24390 Hackman RD
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preslie DeVaney-Barnard
Baptized: July 12
201 E. Washington ST
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noah & Ezra Sokolis
Brothers Baptized: July 19
PO Box 58
1983 W. State RT 29
Cantrall, IL 62625 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maklinee Ford
Baptized July 26
310 Dutchman Way
Chatham, IL 62629 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson Bruning
Baptized: July 12
13677 Harris RD
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payton Bell
Baptized: July 12
505 S. Mill ST
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Hesson
Baptized: July 19
24344 Burr Oaks LN
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah McKee
Baptized July 26
415 Douglas DR
Decatur, MI 49045 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brady Drone
Baptized: July 12
6201 Cantrall Creek RD
Cantrall, IL 62625 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenley Seifert
Baptized: July 12
301 W. Madison ST
Athens, IL 62613 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwayne Rudolph
Baptized: July 25
5342 Irwin Bridge RD
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Churchill
Baptized July 26
2126 Catalina LN
Springfield, IL 62702 |



KID'S CLUB & FAMILY MATTERS
LORNA BAKER, CHILDREN'S MINISTER
LORNA@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Praying for the 2026–2027 School Year

As we begin the 2026–2027 school year, let's commit to covering it in prayer. Whether students are learning in a public school, private school, homeschool, or micro-school, every student, teacher, administrator, support staff member, and family needs God's wisdom, strength, and peace. Let's pray for everyone involved in education this year.

- **Pray for wisdom and understanding.**

- "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." — Proverbs 24:3–4

- **Pray for perseverance and diligence.**

- "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." — 2 Chronicles 15:7

- **Pray for peace instead of fear.**

- "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:6–7

- **Pray for joy.**

- "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." — John 16:33

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we lift up every student, teacher, administrator, support staff member, parent, and volunteer as this school year begins. Whether learning takes place in a public school, private school, homeschool, or micro-school, fill each person with Your wisdom, strength, peace, and joy. Protect them, help them grow in knowledge and faith, and may they honor You in all they do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Let's begin this school year united in prayer, believing that God will work powerfully in every classroom, every home, and every heart.

Thank You

- Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the prayers, cards, calls, texts, and visits during my stay in the hospital and my continued recovery. A big shout-out to the After School Program for the wonderful handmade cards from the kiddos & staff! You have all made something very difficult a little easier. Thank you!!!! Jamie Roemer
- Hi Everyone, I would like to thank each one of you for the care you have given me. I am doing as well as I can. What used to take me 5-10 minutes is getting to be 30 minutes or more. I can't walk without help, and my breathing isn't all that good, but I pray that will change soon. You all know how much I love being at church, and I really do miss it, but I am trying to hang in there as much as I can. Please say hi to everyone for me, and I will be there as soon as the Lord wishes that for me. God Bless All of You, Mary Magee.
- Thanks so much to all of the helpers and those who prepared food for Judy Witmer's Celebration of Life. The food was delicious, and everyone really appreciated it. A special thanks to Linda Ethell for decorating the tables so beautifully! You all made a difficult time a little easier. Russ and Heather Witmer



Thinking about joining us for Passion 2027? Athens Christian Church is taking a group of young adults (ages 18–25) to Arlington, Texas, December 29–31, 2026, and we'd love to connect with you! If you'd like more information about attending with our group, fill out the form below and someone will be in contact with you about next steps. Because space is limited, completing the form helps us plan and answer any questions you may have. Interest Form: <https://forms.gle/SFZctHELKJ6s5nGu9>
We can't wait to see what God has in store through this experience!



FUSE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
MORGAN WELLS, DIRECTOR
MORGAN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Back-to-School with FUSE!

Summer flew by, and it's officially back-to-school season! We are thankful for the many memories children made this summer - vacationing with family, attending camps (including ours!), and enjoying time with friends. All families with children attending Cantrall Elementary and Cantrall Intermediate this fall are invited to join us on Tuesday, August 18, from 5:30–7:00 p.m. at the Cantrall Park during Meet the Teacher Night. Stop by to enjoy a free walking taco meal, learn more about our program, and connect with several community organizations that will also be present. We'd love to see you there!

2026–2027 FUSE Registration

Planning is well underway for another exciting year of FUSE! We currently have 84 children enrolled, and we are praising God for His faithful provision. With 84 kids and counting, we still have room for more! Registration remains open for students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Enrollment is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration is required. If you or someone you know would benefit from our program, please contact Morgan Wells at morgan@athenschristian.net or 217-636-8463 for more information. If you have a passion for investing in the next generation in a Christ-centered environment, please contact Morgan for more information.



FUSE
After School Program
Athens Christian Church

**NOW ENROLLING FOR THE
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

CONTACT MORGAN WELLS
FOR MORE INFORMATION
morgan@athenschristian.net
or 217-636-8463

- KINDERGARTEN-6TH GRADE
- AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 5:30PM
- MONDAY-FRIDAY

JOIN US AT CANTRALL PARK FOR MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Tuesday August 18 5:30-7:00pm

All families with children in CES & CIS welcome!

MEET OUR STAFF, LEARN ABOUT FUSE,
AND ENJOY FREE WALKING TACOS!



GENERAL MINISTRY INTERN
TSOETSY HARRIS
TSOETSY@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



As my summer internship continues, I am incredibly grateful for the many opportunities God has provided to grow in ministry. So far, I have had the privilege of serving in a variety of ministry settings, including attending the Christ In Youth (CIY) conference as a leader, serving with campers at local church camps, and helping behind the scenes during Sunday services. I have also been preparing for and leading FUSE Summer Camp, which has challenged me to grow in leadership, planning, teaching, and teamwork. Each experience has strengthened my faith and reminded me that ministry is about faithfully serving others while pointing them to Christ. Thank you to everyone who has prayed for me, encouraged me, and supported me throughout this journey. Your prayers have been a tremendous blessing, and I look forward to the rest of this internship and all that God has in store.

August

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER

Chair Aerobics (FREE for All Seniors):

Weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays,

9:00-10:00 AM, Family Life Center

- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Powerlight Abe Lincoln Car Show: August 1
- LSCA Summer Bash: August 1, 11:00-2:00 PM
- Young Adult Sunday: August 2, All three services
- Summer Connection: Sunday, August 2, 11:30-2:00 PM
- FUSE Summer Day Camp at ACC: August 3-7
- Monthly Prayer Gathering at ACC: Sunday, August 9, 5:30-6:00 PM
- FUSE Summer Day Camp at ACC: August 10-14
- "Move Beyond" High School Nights: Wednesday, August 12, 6:30-8:00 PM, Youth Room
- Meet the Teacher Night with FUSE at Cantrall Park: Tuesday, August 18, 5:30-7:00 PM
- Powerlight Fest at IL State Fair: August 23, 2-9 PM
- Trail Life Open House at ACC: Tuesday, August 25, 5:30-7:00 PM
- Worship Workshop: Wednesday, August 26, 6:30-8:30 PM
- 5th Quarter (7th-12th grade students): Friday, August 28, 9:30-11:30 PM
- Youth Sunday: August 30, All three services
- Noggle Baby Shower: Sunday, August 30, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Family Life Center

- Chair Aerobics (FREE for All Seniors): Weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection Begins: Wednesdays, September 2-November 11, Athens Christian Church, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM)
- Labor Day-Church Office Closed: Monday, September 7
- Young at Heart Senior Fellowship: Tuesday, September 8, 10:00-Noon (Blood pressure checks at 9:30 AM)
- Trail Life: Tuesdays, September 8 & 22, 6:00-7:00 PM
- 5th Quarter (7th-12th grade students): Friday, September 11, 9:30-11:30 PM
- Monthly Prayer Gathering at ACC: Sunday, September 13, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Trail Life Sunday: September 13, All three services
- Missions Sunday: September 20, Guest Speaker, Ozark Christian College, Rusty Hedger, 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM services; Missions Fair, 9:15-10:15 AM in the Family Life Center

Trail Life Troop IL-0109 at Athens Christian Church this Fall

Open House Tuesday, August 25 5:30-7:00pm

www.traillifeconnect.com/connect/tkz2eog5uduk



"athenschristianil"
www.facebook.com/athenschristianil

www.athenschristian.net
217-636-8463
(Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30)

Please check the church website, App, Facebook, or call the church office for the most up-to-date information.

Athens Christian Church
PO Box 260
Athens, IL 62613

Return Service Requested

Senior Minister, Ken Gennicks	217-415-5724
Associate Minister, Shane Baker	217-415-9035
Worship/Technology Minister,	
Ashley Cantrall	217-652-5433
Children's Minister, Lorna Baker	217-502-1256
Youth Minister, Evan Noggle	217-415-5644
After School Program Director,	
Morgan Wells	217-414-5433
General Ministry Intern,	
Tsoetsy (Cho-chee) Harris	618-303-2865

July 30, 2026

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