



the lifeline

SEPTEMBER 2026

Mission Sunday, September 20

- **8:00 AM** Traditional Service with Rusty Hedger, Director of Donor Engagement from Ozark Christian College
- **9:15-10:15 AM** Missions and breakfast in the Family Life Center. Come enjoy breakfast and see the 17 missions ACC supports! You can visit with some of our local missions, and we will end our time praying over these missions! (No worship service or Sunday School at 9:15)
- **10:30 AM** Contemporary Service with Rusty Hedger, Director of Donor Engagement from Ozark Christian College



To help with planning, please sign up in the lobby, online at athenschristian.net, or scan the QR code to let us know you plan to attend the breakfast.



Pray 🙏 Serve 🤝 Love ❤️

HOMELESS BLESSING BAGS

Collecting NEW socks, hats, and gloves! At the Mission Fair we will build bags and make a scripture card for each bag.

**DROP OFF ITEMS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY
SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 6 & 13.**



INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
MISSIONS

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

Register at: <https://www.theicom.org/attendees>

- Adults: \$75 (only \$20 with code)
- College Students: \$10
- Kids and Jr/Sr High students: FREE

ACC Discount Codes:
Family: 2026STLFAMILY
Individual: 2026STLADULT

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR MISSION PROJECT

ACC MISSION TRIP INTEREST LUNCH
Calling tradesmen & women,
interested high school students,
and parents!

Come learn about an upcoming ACC
Mission Trip & how you can serve.



Sunday, September 27
11:30 AM-1:00 PM
Room 223

Serving local families in the
Springfield, IL area.
Trip dates: July 18-24, 2027



FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART

KEN GENNICKS, SENIOR MINISTER
KEN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Worship, Connect, & Serve Sundays & Wednesdays!

Please bring a friend to Worship, Connect and Serve the Lord together with us every week:

- Youth Sunday: August 30, 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
- 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 & his Evansville team: Sunday, November 8
- International Conference on Missions: November 12-14/St. Louis Center (theicom.org)
- Jr./Sr. High students "Friendsgiving" supper/party: Wednesday, November 18, 6-8:00 PM
- Young Adult Sunday: Sunday, November 29, 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 AM
- Kids' Christmas Program & Cookie Fellowship: Sunday, December 6, 4:00 PM
- Youth Sunday: Sunday, December 13, 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30 AM
- Christmas Coffee & Pastries: Sunday, December 20, 8:30-11:00 AM
- Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion: Thursday, December 24, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6:00 PM

Volunteer Visitors Needed!

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. Thank you for making a financial commitment-by-faith for 2026-2028, which we call, Let Your Light Shine (Mt. 5:16). Your 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. The hope of the world is a healthy, local church!

Come PRAY & CONNECT with us!

Our elders and ministers host prayer gatherings on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 PM (Ephesians 6:18), led by volunteers:

- Sunday, September 13, 5:30 PM: led by Evan Noggle
- Sunday, October 11, 5:30 PM: led by Harry Schirding
- Sunday, November 8, 5:30 PM: led by Shane Baker

Sarah and I will be in Helena, Montana with church family to marry our very own Sarah McKee and Riley Lopian in early September! "Let all the earth praise the Lord" (Psalm 148)!" Let's Worship, Connect and Serve Him together every week! Please invite a friend and join us! A healthy local church is the hope of the world!



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



Firm Foundations

Several months ago, Ken approached our staff with some material from a church he had visited about discipleship. He challenged us to develop something that would help those who attend Athens Christian Church to mature in their faith. Our Worship Minister, Ashley Cantrall, our After School Program Director, Morgan Wells, and I started from scratch, developing something specific to our church. We spent many hours, learned a lot, and began developing material that would serve us well.

At one point, our ministries pulled our focus away from this effort. While we were focused elsewhere, Ken again brought us additional materials from another church. After reviewing the material and meeting with their pastor, we began to develop what we have come to know as our Firm Foundations class. To date, we have offered this class in the Spring of this year and then again as an adult class during our Vacation Bible School. Our next offering of the class will be led by Jarrod Rempel and myself during the Fall semester of Wednesday Night Connection that starts September 2!

Our desire is that at one point or another, everyone within our church will participate in the class. There are roughly ten lessons.

- Lesson 1 – Firm Foundations: The Purpose & the Path
- Lesson 2 – The Gospel: The Foundation of Our Faith
- Lesson 3 – Baptism
- Lesson 4 – The Lord's Supper
- Lesson 5 – Scripture: Our Authority & Guide
- Lesson 6 – The Church: God's Design & Purpose/The Restoration Movement & Our Church's Story
- Lesson 7 – Gifts Assessment
- Lesson 8 – Mission, Vision & Values/Leadership & Accountability
- Lesson 9 – Spiritual Disciplines & Prayer
- Lesson 10 – Living It Out: Next Steps in Discipleship

Senior News

Young at Heart

• TUESDAY, SEPT. 8 •

10:00 AM: PRESENTATION BY ATHENS
FUTURE FARMERS OF
AMERICA



MIKE BUTLER & STUDENT LEADERS



LUNCH: PIZZA CASSEROLE, SALAD, DESSERTS



DEVOTION BY
TERRY HENRIKSON

Cost for the next **Senior Trip**
on September 10 is \$20.

Payment must be paid to the
church office by August 31.



The **Dessert Team** for
September's **Young at Heart**
will be **Team 2**:

- Mary Magee • Polly Wise
- Deb Weil • Donna
- Patty Tobias Sandidge

Senior Trip

• THURSDAY, SEPT. 10 •

— to —

LSCA SENIOR DAY OUT

8:00 AM



Cost
\$20

BEFORE 8/31



WHOLE HEARTED WORSHIP

ASHLEY CANTRALL, WORSHIP/TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

ASHLEY@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



Over the past several months, our Worship Ministry has spent time together in a series of Worship Workshops. We've covered everything from music theory and song mastery to lessons from theater and, most recently, the theology of worship. The topics were different, but they all pointed toward something I hope we never lose: the willingness to keep learning.

We practice spiritual disciplines like prayer, Scripture reading, and gathering together not because we expect to master them eventually, but because following Jesus means continually growing. I think the same should be true of the ways we serve Him. Ongoing training helps us sharpen our skills, but it also keeps us humble, curious, and teachable. Excellence isn't about creating a perfect Sunday morning—it's about faithfully stewarding the gifts God has given us to serve His Church.

I'm thankful for a team willing to invest the extra time to learn and grow together. My hope is that we never decide we've "arrived," but continue becoming better musicians, better worship leaders, and, most importantly, more faithful followers of Jesus.

P.S. We're trying something new this Christmas season! We'll be caroling to some of our Friends to Remember on Sunday, December 13, after church. Save the date and watch for more details to come!

Community Christian Events

Lake Springfield Christian Assembly

- Senior Day Out: Thursday, September 10, \$20
- Ladies Retreat: Friday, September 11-Saturday, September 12, \$55

Community Prayer & Worship

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

Little Galilee Christian Camp

- Senior Saints Day: Friday, September 11, \$20
- Ladies Day: Saturday, October 3, \$30

Rough Edges, Virginia, VA

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

Financial Update

July, 2026

Building Fund: Offering: \$7,473.24
 Loan Payment: \$6,869.20
 *110.70 extra will be paid towards principal.

General Fund:
 Offering \$63,784.39
 Expenses \$67,486.73

Communion & Pew Stocking

Communion Preparation:

- September: Jeanne Wunderle & Angie Sutheard
- October: Colleen Baker & Melissa Wheeler



Pew Stocking:

- September: Diane McCormick
- October: Clarence & Carole Yancy





NEWS & EVENTS
EVAN NOGGLE
EVAN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



I have bad news for many Junior Highers and High Schoolers out there... School is Back! Although you may not be looking forward to sitting in class again, there is some good news that goes along with it... Our Rooted Youth Ministry is back too, and we're excited to kick things off! Wednesday Night Connection starts September 2 from 6:30–8:00 PM for anyone in 7th grade through high school. High school students—don't miss Wednesday Morning Bible Study starting September 2! Every Wednesday that Athens School District is in session, we'll gather from 7:15–7:30 AM for breakfast and catching up on life, followed by our Bible Study from 7:30–8:00 AM.

Mark your calendars for See You at the Pole on Wed, September 23. We'll meet at Athens High School before school to pray for our school, community, and nation. We will meet at 7:15 AM to pray and will have a hot breakfast in Mr. Butler's classroom afterwards!

With the start of school comes the start of sports, including football! We'll be hosting 3 more 5th Quarters after home football games for both junior high and high school students on September 11, October 2, and October 16 from 9:30–11:30 PM. Make sure to bring a friend with you!

We've got some fun fall outings planned, too! Junior High will head to Bomke's Patch on Saturday, September 26 from 1:00–3:00 PM. We will have a bus available at the church that leaves at 12:30 PM and gets back at 3:30 PM. High School, don't worry, we have something for you too! You will take on the night corn maze at Rader Family Farms on Saturday, October 24, leaving by bus from ACC at 5:30 PM and returning by 10:00 PM. Make sure to bring cash for both trips!

We can't wait to see you at these events—let's make this a year of growth and fun!

CHRIST IN YOUTH

MOVE

6-DAY SUMMER CAMP FOR
CURRENT 8TH THRU 12TH GRADE STUDENTS
JULY 5–10, 2022
WHEATON, IL

Register Here!



come to me

September 23

SEE YOU AT THE POLE
GLOBAL DAY OF STUDENT PRAYER

- Jr. High & High School students meet at the Athens High School flag pole at 7:15 am.
- Student leaders are Ellen Wiker and Leilah Link
- FREE Hot breakfast to follow in Mr. Butler's room

JUNIOR HIGH TRIP
to
BOMKE'S PATCH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1-3 PM

A BUS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 12:30 AT ACC
AND WILL RETURN AT 3:30PM
605 COUNTRY LAKE RD, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711
\$10/PERSON FOR ADMISSION PLUS SPENDING MONEY

REGISTER NOW



ACC 5:30 AM WORKOUT

MOVE. CONNECT. HONOR GOD.

MONDAY - THURSDAY | 5:30 - 6:30 AM | AT ATHENS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PICKLEBALL
FUN. FRIENDLY. ALL LEVELS.

WORKOUT ON THE TV
WOMEN ONLY

BRING A WATER BOTTLE & A FRIEND! | ALL FITNESS LEVELS! | FOLLOW ALONG TO CHRISTIAN MUSIC

START YOUR DAY STRONG IN BODY, MIND & FAITH

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 1






Wednesday Night Connection in the ACC Kid's C.L.U.B.

We are excited for another great session of Wednesday Night Connection! Our fall session will run September 2–November 11 from 6:30–7:30 PM, with dinner available from 5:40–6:15 PM. At ACC Kid's C.L.U.B., our goal is to partner with families as we help kids know Jesus, grow in their faith, build relationships, and learn to live out God's Word in their everyday lives. We want every child who walks through our doors to know they are loved, welcomed, and an important part of God's family. With this mission in mind, our plans for Wednesday Night Connection came together around creating meaningful, age-appropriate opportunities for kids to know God more and grow in their understanding of His Word. We're excited for the following plans for Fall 2026!

- Pre-K & Kindergarten and 1st-3rd Groups will be studying the Names of God. Kids will discover some of the names God uses to describe Himself in the Bible and learn what those names teach us about who He is and how much He loves them.
- Our 4th–6th Grade students will be on an adventure with Spyence – Season 2. Students will dig deeper into God's Word as they learn where the Bible came from, why we can trust it, and how to study, understand, remember, and apply Scripture.

Thank You

- Dear Hospitality Crew of Athens Christian Church, Thank you immensely for opening your doors to us! You went way above and beyond in providing service and fabulous food. Thank you for giving yourselves in tribute to my mom and family. With gratitude, The Mester Family
- Dear Church Family at ACC, Thank you for the card, encouraging words, scripture, and prayers. They have made a difficult time a little easier to bear as we move forward after Dad's death. Tracy & Satu Allen
- To Ken, Hank Daubs, Elynor Nance, and all those who assisted with her service-we thank you for the beautiful service, songs, and organ playing. She would have loved everything about the service. To those that donated the delicious food and helped with the dinner and table decor after her service-we thank you for making it special. She was an amazing cook and baker, and we know she would've loved everything that was provided. She will be missed and never forgotten, and your thoughtfulness meant so much to our family. Blessings to you all. The family of Elaine Bachman
- To Pat Halberstadt-no words can ever express how much your visits to my parents and bringing them goodies while they were still at home and then after their move to The Villas meant. You have been there for them in so many ways, singing hymns, praying, and you have been there for me as well through these difficult times. You are one of a kind and your friendship and faith has helped us through so much and especially as we went through losing Mom. May God bless you always. With love, Vicki Chiles and Dick Bachman
- We would like to express our appreciation to the staff and congregation of ACC. The hospital visits, the communion, the cards, prayers, and food are all very much appreciated. The journey is not over yet but with God's help and the support of the ACC church family, we will persevere. Thank you all and God Bless. Hank and Karla Daubs



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



FUSE Summer Camp

This summer, FUSE Summer Camp returned for three weeks, each with a different theme - Wonderful World of Color, What's Cookin'?, and Mission: Wisdom (Undercover for Christ). Through Bible lessons, projects, crafts, field trips, and games, our campers had lots of fun while being pointed toward Jesus and His Word.

This summer was also special as Tsoetsy Harris completed her ministry internship, helping plan and lead our Summer Camp program while gaining experience in various areas of ministry. It has been a pleasure watching her learn and grow, step into greater leadership, and use her gifts to love and serve our kids. We are thankful for the ways God continues to grow and equip her for ministry!

Next up - FUSE After School Program!

Our staff for the 2026–2027 school year includes: Molly Alderman, Ava Gennicks, Emma Harris, Tsoetsy Harris, Christy Hibbs, Charlotte Ingram, Emma Isenhardt, Ronna Lewis, Braydon McNeal, Cassie Sokolis, Audri Walters, Tami Walters, and others who will help serve our students throughout the year. With 98 children enrolled, we are excited to see what God will do in and through FUSE this school year! Our mission remains simple: to share God's love while providing a safe place for children to have fun, learn, and grow. I am fully convinced that God handpicks each member of our team for a purpose, and we are eager to see how He uses them to love, encourage, and impact young lives for His glory. Please join us in praying for our children, families, and staff as we begin another year of FUSE!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (GRADES K-6TH) NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2026/27 SCHOOL YEAR

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



REGISTER NOW

SCAN HERE

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

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| • Teegan Bermel
baptized August 2
11382 Timber View LN
Athens IL 62613 | • Quinton King
baptized August 2
1006 Green Acres LN
Springfield IL 62707 | • Catherine Britz
baptized August 9
1983 W State RT 29,
PO Box 58, Cantrall IL 62625 | • Abbi Janssen
baptized August 23
24495 Brierwood AVE
Athens IL 62613 |
| • Emma Crispen
baptized August 2
335 Bourbon ST
Springfield IL 62707 | • Avery Humphres
baptized August 9
14040 Pioneer DR
Athens IL 62613 | • Marilyn McCarthy
baptized August 9
20466 Deal ST
Greenview IL 62642 | • Grace Rempel
baptized August 23
903 W. Wind Rose LN
Athens IL 62613 |
| • Avery Curry
baptized August 2
206 Pokeweed
Athens IL 62613 | • Evie Canning
baptized August 9
17009 Ruppel ST
Petersburg IL 62675 | • Emily Marcum
baptized August 16
5483 S. Cantrall Creek RD
Cantrall IL 62625 | • Isaac Frank
baptized August 23
11831 Goneaway LN
Glenarm IL 62536 |



- **Jordan Bridgman** baptized August 23
521 Chester RD, Unit A, Petersburg IL 62675





- Chair Aerobics (FREE for All Seniors): Weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- ACC 5:30 Workout: Mondays-Thursdays, September 1-October 1, 5:30-6:30 AM
- Wednesday Morning High School Bible Study: Wednesdays, while school is in session, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection Begins: Wednesdays, September 2-November 11, 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
- Senior Trip to Lake Springfield Christian Assembly Senior Day Out: Thursday, September 10, 8:00-3:00 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
- Mission Sunday: September 20, Guest Speaker, Ozark Christian College, Rusty Hedger, 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM services; Mission Fair, 9:15-10:15 AM in the Family Life Center **(No Sunday school or service)**
- Junior High Trip to Bomke's: Saturday, September 26, 1-3 PM (Bus leaves at 12:30 PM and returns at 3:30 PM)
- Chair Aerobics (FREE for All Seniors): Weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Wednesday Morning High School Bible Study: Wednesdays, while school is in session, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection: Wednesdays until November 11, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00 PM)
- 5th Quarter: Friday, October 2, 9:30-11:30 PM, 7th-12 graders
- Washington Street Mission Breakfast served by ACC: Saturday, October 10, 7:30-10:30 AM
- Monthly Prayer Gathering at ACC: Sunday, October 11, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Young at Heart Senior Fellowship: Tuesday, October 13, 10:00-Noon (Blood pressure checks at 9:30 AM)
- Trail Life: Tuesdays, October 13 & 27, 6:00-7:00 PM
- 5th Quarter (7th-12th grade students): Friday, October 16, 9:30-11:30 PM
- Senior Trip to Pere Marquette: Saturday, October 24, 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
- High School Trip to Radar Farms: Saturday, October 24, Bloomington, IL, 5:30-10:00 PM
- Trunk or Treat: ACC Parking lot, Sunday, October 25, 2:00-4:00 PM
- Impact Life Blood Drive: Saturday, October 31, 8:00-11:00 AM



"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

August 27, 2026

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Published Monthly