

## DRIVE AWAY HUNGER

Our annual Drive Away Hunger Campaign is almost here! On Sunday, November 23, from 7:30-11:00 AM, we'll be "Filling the Truck" in the ACC parking lot. This year, we're collecting non-perishable food items to support the Athens Food Pantry. Simply look for the truck on Sunday, November 23, and our volunteers will be ready to help unload your donations.

In addition to food donations, we're also "Filling the Envelopes" to support the Central Illinois Foodbank through monetary gifts. The Foodbank's mission is to provide food and create solutions for food insecurity, serving more than 140 partner agencies across 21 counties in central and southern Illinois. Their vision is that every person has access to healthy food and the hope it brings.

You can participate by picking up a giving envelope in the lobby and placing it in any offering box between November 2 and November 23.

Together, we can make a real difference in the fight against hunger—thank you for helping to feed our neighbors!







November 2 is time change Sunday. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour!





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

SERMON BY PASTOR SHANE BAKER

\*REMEMBER: DAYLIGHT SAYINGS TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 2! DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR

## FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART

KEN GENNICKS, SENIOR MINISTER KEN@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



### A Healthy Local Church is the Hope of the World

Back in the 1990s, ACC's leaders resolved not to continue building or remodeling at our old Main Street location. We prayerfully concluded our church family's best future was to relocate. We studied a half-dozen sites for a new church campus until prayerfully choosing our current 25 acres. We knew it would be expensive, but we believe the mission for Christ is worth it all! Since then, because our congregation is self-supporting, we've hosted nine capital stewardship campaigns through the years to fund our efforts. Six Sundays this Fall, October 19 - November 23, our Bible studies are highlighting Bible people who inspire our faith, commitment, finances, generosity, and sacrifice:

- Sunday, October 19: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Widow's Oil" (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- Sunday, October 26: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Rich Fool'" (Luke 12:13-21)
- Sunday, November 2: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Macedonian Churches'" (2 Cor. 8)
- Sunday, November 9: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'The Widow of Zarephath'" (I Kings 17)
- Sunday, November 16: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'Barnabas'" (Acts 4:33f; 9:23f; 11:19f)
- Sunday, November 23: "EXCEL in this Grace of Giving: 'Solomon on Finances'" (Proverbs)

The New Testament says, "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" (2 Corinthians 8:7). This "faith promise" is between you and God as you're saying to Him, "Lord, if You provide, I will give \$ by faith during the next three years of 2026, 2027 and 2028, with no obligation if my life situation changes." The decision to align your financial choices with your faith is pivotal. At ACC, we value Giving! Please pray daily for such grace from God so each of us will EXCEL in this Grace of Giving. A healthy, local church is the hope of the world! There are a lot of great causes but this outranks them all!

### Worship, Connect, & Serve the Lord with Us!

We hope you will Worship, Connect and Serve the Lord together with us now:

- Wednesday Night Connection: 5:40-7:30 PM, Now-November 12
- EXCEL Capital Stewardship Campaign: Sunday, October 19- Sunday, November 23
- Joe Effinger & Evansville team: Sunday, November 2
- · Veteran's Day Sunday: November 9
- · Youth Sunday: November 16, led by our youth all morning
- Drive Away Hunger Food Drive: Sunday, November 23
- · Celebration Reception for Linda Ethell: Sunday, November 23, 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM

- · Christmas Candle Lighting: Sunday, November 30- Sunday, December 28
- Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: October/November
   Hanging of the Greens: Monday, December 1, 10:00 AM
  - Kids' Christmas Program: Sunday, December 7, 4:00 PM
  - Christmas Around the Piano: Sunday, December 14, 6:00 PM
  - Christmas Coffee & Pastries: Sunday, December 21, 8:30-11:00 AM
  - Farewell Reception/Offering for Josh Harris, Preaching Intern: Sunday, December 21, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
  - Christmas Eve Services (30 minute services): Wednesday, December 24, 2:00, \*3:00, 4:00, 5:00, & 6:00 PM (\*childcare open for birth-4 years)

### Fall Preaching Intern: Josh Harris, until December 24

One of our young men, Josh Harris, is serving as our Fall Preaching Intern through our Christmas Eve services as he prepares to attend Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri in January. Please pray for God's call upon Josh's life now!

### **Monthly Community Prayer Gatherings**

Join us when our elders and ministers host prayer gatherings on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. (Eph. 6:18), led by volunteers:

- Sunday, November. 9, 5:30 PM: Terry/Sandy Knoles
- Sunday, December 14, 5:30 PM: Angie Fritz

Please invite a friend to Worship, Connect and Serve together every week!



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



### 20 Years at ACC!

As I prepare, this I am just a few days away from my actual 20 year anniversary of being a minister at Athens Christian Church. Growing up in the church, and watching ministers come and go from churches I attended, it became my goal (if God would allow) to stay in one place to do ministry. As I started my internship in Bettendorf, Iowa, one of the ministers who interviewed me had been there almost 30 years! I felt that was a good sign that this was a place I could settle in. As Lorna began looking for a teaching job, I received a call out of the blue asking if I would interview at Athens Christian Church. That was just a little over 20 years ago and God has blessed us by allowing us to remain here serving alongside all of you.

I tried to recall and research my path with dates, but some of it is a little unclear to me. So I'll just share my path. My official start date was October 17, 2005. We used to have church on Sunday nights and I was given the opportunity in November of 2005 to preach a Sunday Night Sermon. As a Children's Minister, I enjoyed preaching about 2-4 times a year. Along the way I felt God calling me to shift my focus from kids to the family unit as a whole. Specifically to help families with marriage and parenting. We hired a new Children's Minister and while helping to train them, I begin leading Married Night Outs and teaching classes on marriage and parenting. After a couple of years in this role, our Children's Minister moved on and I added Children's Ministry back into my responsibilities. Eventually my wife Lorna, who has always been by my side in Children's Ministry, became our full-time Children's Minister.

Around 2017, I moved into my current role as Associate Minister. To be honest, this wasn't really on my radar. But I think (and hope) the way God gifted me made this a good fit for our church. In this role, I have wore many different hats (kinda what an Associate Minister does!) and I love it! I helped organize the worship ministry for a season until we hired Ashley. I supported the Youth Ministry as Lorna led it until we hired Evan. I help lead our ACC Outdoors ministry. And although I did not study preaching while at Lincoln Christian, I love preaching and have been able to learn from Ken. And Ken has graciously shared the pulpit more and more through the years giving me many opportunities to preach.

There is so much more I could say about this church. My wife grew up in this church and is a faithful follower of Jesus. My kids grew up here and are faithfully following Jesus. And I get to be a part of helping you and your family become and remain faithful followers of Jesus, hopefully for many more years to come!



Linda Ethell began serving as the church treasurer at ACC in 1993. For the past 32 years, she has faithfully used her gifts to honor the Lord and bless our church family in countless ways. We are excited to celebrate Linda's incredible service with a reception on **Sunday, November 23, from 11:30 AM–12:30 PM.** Join us for sandwiches, fruit, chips, and cupcakes as we thank Linda for her many years of dedication and love for Athens Christian Church. We will also take time to recognize and celebrate Linda in all three of our worship services that Sunday.

Although Linda is stepping down from her role as church treasurer, you'll still see her serving here at ACC—in the kitchen ministry, nursery, missions and in many other ways as she continues to bless our church family. Come share your appreciation and gratitude as we honor Linda for her faithful service!



## WHOLE HEARTED WORSHIP ASHLEY CANTRALL, WORSHIP MINISTER ASHLEY@ATHENSCHRISTIAN.NET



### What's Coming Up at ACC

There's so much to look forward to this season!

- November 2 Guest Worship: Joe Effinger & team lead us in worship.
   (All 3 services)
- November 9 Veterans Sunday: Honoring those who have served.
   (All 3 services)
- November 16 Youth Sunday: Our students take the lead in worship and service.
   (All 3 services)
- November 30 Christmas Candle Lighting Begins: Preparing our hearts for the season. (All 3 services)
- **December 7 Kids Christmas Program:** Our kids share the story of Jesus' birth. (4:00 PM with cookie fellowship to follow)
- December 14 Christmas Around the Piano: A joyful evening of carols and community. (6:00 PM)
- **December 21 Christmas Coffee & Pastries:** Fellowship in the FLC with festive treats. (8:30 11:00 AM)
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 2:00, \*3:00, 4:00, 5:00, & 6:00 PM (\*childcare for birth-4 years available): Candlelight, worship, and celebration of Christ's birth.

Join us for a meaningful season of worship, community, and celebration!

You can still sign your 1st-6th grade kids up to be in our Christmas program! Scan the QR code to register.





## Communion & Pew Stocking

Communion Preparation:

November - Gary & Sharon Clark

December - Terry & Sandy Knoles

Pew Stocking:

November - Vickie Freeland

December - Sharon Clark & Sharon Schirding

## Community Christian Events

### Lake Springfield Christian Assembly

- November 1: LSCA Fall Night Out, FREE, 6:30-8:00pm
- November 7-9: Pre-teen Retreat, \$135, 3rd-5th graders
- November 15: Fall Work Day
- November 22: Game Show Fundraiser, \$65

For more information or to register, please go to www.lscacamp.org

### Little Galilee Christian Camp

- November 11: Veterans Dinner, FREE meal & program!
- December 6: Christmas at Camp, FREE Fun for the Family.

For more information or to register, please go to www.littlegalilee.org



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 6:00 PM

19125 RUPPEL LANE VIRGINIA, IL 62691 FREE DINNER - DEER & NOODLES TEACHING - TBD TESTIMONY - DENNIS LANGLEY OPEN TO MEN OF ALL AGES!





As we step into November, I'm reminded how much I have to be thankful for this year! God has been moving in the lives of our students in amazing ways. Through Sunday Morning Classes at 9:15, Wednesday Night Connection, and events scattered throughout, we have seen a ton of growth from our Junior Highers and High Schoolers! One of my favorite events each year is our Friendsgiving, and it's right around the corner on November 19, from 6:00-8:00 PM! This is for anyone in grades 7-12! Come join us for a free dinner, spend time with friends, and win some prizes!

We also will be attending "The Event" at Ozark Christian College on November 6-8. High Schoolers who go on this trip will have a chance to take a break from the hustle of life and be able to take some time focusing on their relationship with God. During the trip, we will get a chance to visit OCC's campus and get to know some of the students, professors, and staff at the school! If you are interested in attending this trip or hearing more about it, let me know as soon as possible! Spots are filling up fast!

Speaking of spots filling up fast, we're already getting excited for CIY Move next summer! This week is always a life-changing experience for our high school students—five days of worship, teaching, and community that God consistently uses to deepen faith and introduce the love of Jesus to students for the first time. We have less than 20 spots left, and they're going fast, so if your student wants to be part of it, don't wait to register! We are taking 2 charter buses this year so we can take a total of 112 students and leaders. It's going to be an incredible summer, and I can't wait to see how God continues to move in our students' lives in the months ahead. If you would like to know how you can help support us on the trip, reach out to me!











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



### Proverbs 17:22a - "A thankful heart is good medicine."

November is the perfect time to help our kids understand what it means to have a thankful heart! Gratitude brings joy and reminds us of God's blessings every day.

Here are a few fun ways to practice thankfulness at home:

- Thankful Tree: Make a tree from construction paper and add a leaf each day with something your family is thankful for.
- Thankful Pumpkin: Write or draw thankful words on a pumpkin all month long.
- A–Z Thankfulness Game: Take turns naming something you're thankful for starting with each letter of the alphabet.

Let's model thankful hearts to our children and those around us this season—because a thankful heart truly is good medicine!

### You're Invited! Kids' Christmas Musical - Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 PM

Join us at Athens Christian Church as our kids share the joy of the season through song and story! Families, mark your calendars and invite your friends for this special evening celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. A cookie fellowship will follow the performance.

1st-6th graders are invited to be part of the musical!

#### Practices:

- Sundays in November (Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30) 2:00–3:30 PM
- Saturday, December 6 9:00–10:30 AM
- All practices will be held in the Kids' Wing and Worship Center.

Come sing, learn, and shine as we share the story of Christmas together!



# PACK A SHOEBOX OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 9 Pick up a box in the lobby and return it by November 9 Send Good News, Great Joy in Jesus' Name!

### Veterans Pictures Needed

we will honor all veterans and active military on Sunday, November 9 Any New Photos need to be at the church office or emailed to ashley@athen schristian.net by Sunday, November 2.





We are excited to talk about our third Fruit of the Spirit - peace - during the month of November! As we enter a season filled with gratitude, we'll explore how true peace comes from trusting that God is in control and He provides everything we need. When our hearts rest in Him, we can be thankful in every circumstance and content no matter what's happening around us. The kids will learn that peace isn't just the absence of conflict - it's the calm confidence that comes from knowing God's love never changes.

One of the ways God has helped me grow in this area over the years is through serving others. We want to help the kids at FUSE develop that same "others-minded" heart, and we're thrilled to participate in Operation Christmas Child again this year!

The children will get to pack shoeboxes during FUSE, send them off together, and even track where their boxes go. This has become one of our favorite annual traditions! We'll have stations set up with toys, trinkets, clothing items, and more for the children to choose from as they fill their boxes. They'll also get to color a picture or write a note to include inside. It's always such a joy to see their excitement as they share God's love in such a tangible way. Please be praying that God will use this project to grow the children's faith and deepen their understanding of what it means to live with His peace.

## Senior News



### Dinah the Comfort Dog

Tuesday, November 11

9:30: Free Blood Pressure checks

10:00: Presentation on Dinah the **Comfort Dog and Kare-9 Ministries** 

11:00 lunch: Turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn casserole, and roll

**Devotion by Lorna Baker** 

The next Young at Heart will be on Tuesday, November 11 from 10:00 AM-Noon. Free blood pressure checks will be available from 9:30-10:00 AM. November's presentation will be on Dinah the Comfort Dog and Kare-9 Ministries. Devotion will be by **Lorna Baker** and a free hot meal will be turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn casserole, and a roll. Sign up in the church lobby. If you have any questions, please call the church office. **Team 1 is** doing desserts.

### SENIOR TRIPS







- **Shirley Wasilewski**
- **Carol Council**

Team 1:

Sign up now for the next two Senior Trips. November's Senior Trip will be to the Conklin Barn Dinner Theater in Goodfield, IL on Friday, November 21. Cost is \$75, and will need to be paid by November 2. Meet at ACC at 4:00 PM. December's Senior Trip will be on Saturday, December 6 to watch the Vespers at Millikin in Decatur, IL. Cost is \$12 plus your meal and is also due by November 2. Meet at ACC at noon to carpool.





Since I started my Fall preaching Internship on September 29, I've been beyond blessed with how amazing and welcoming the staff and the congregation of Athens Christian Church have been. So far, I've been able to go with other ministers and take communion to people of the community, be a part of staff meetings, help come up with games for the youth for Wednesday Night Connection, and even be able to lead communion a couple times so far! I also work at the After School Program at ACC with an amazing staff. I love working with kids while spreading God's love. I can't wait to see what God has in store for me with the rest of my internship. I am so blessed again to have this opportunity and learn from all the amazing people at ACC!

## Meet New Staff!

Help us welcome our new staff members starting in 2026! Haley is our new Treasurer and Patti is our new Bookkeeper!



Hi, I'm Haley Corrigan. I live in Athens with my husband Kyle and our four daughters. I last worked as an accountant for Prairie State Plumbing & Heating, but have been a stay at home mom for the past eight years while also managing the bookkeeping for our farm.



My name is Patti Squires. I have lived in Athens all my life. I grew up at ACC and was baptized at ACC. I'm married to Don, and we have a daughter and a son and 5 grandkids. I enjoy reading, cooking and spending time with my family. I look forward to working with the ACC team.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!**

Looking for couple able-bodied men to help 'our crew' on **Monday after Thanksgiving, December 1,** to transport Christmas trees, tubs and bags from our storage shed into the entryway of church. We will need four large trees and 1 smaller tree to be "assembled." Also, two large wreaths need to be placed (HIGH) on the back wall of the Worship Center.

Guys -please be here at 9:30 AM and meet up with Dennis Richardson in Family Life Center.

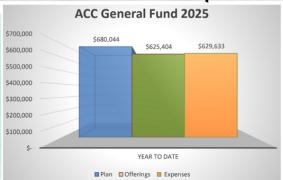
In addition I am looking for two gals this year to 'take on' decorating of the Children's Area tree. Lets make this tree joyful and fun for the kids! *To all my 'gal' volunteers - please plan to be at the church at 10:00 AM* to open tubs, bags, etc as the guys bring them in. We'll fluff bows/wreaths/garland and get things placed on walls and tables. The more volunteers we get, the faster it goes!!

Also mark your calendar for **Monday after Christmas**, **Dec 29 at 10:00 AM**, for removal & boxing up of all decorations to be returned to the storage shed. (This goes pretty fast.) If you haven't participated in **"Hanging of the Greens"** activity, why not give it a try this year. Come help the team beautify ACC for the Christmas season! THANKS SO MUCH, Nancy Winterbauer.

## New Baby!

## Financial Update: September, 2025

Congratulations to Jonah and Danielle Kadyk on the birth of their daughter, Ruby. Ruby was born on October 19, 2025 and weighed 6lbs 5oz.



### **General Fund**

Offering \$53,472.23 Expenses \$61,959.69

### **Building Fund**

Offering: \$7,375.10

Loan Payment: \$8,138.31

\*An additional \$1,003.47 will be paid

down on principal.

## HELP KEEP OUR SIDEWALKS CLEAR THIS WINTER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ATHENS OVER 15 OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY...WE NEED YOU!

### **Protective Bollards Being Installed**

At Athens Christian Church we are always observing and studying everyone's safety and security. You will soon notice that we are installing protective bollards (posts to prevent traffic from entering an area) at our playground and at our main glass lobby. Please pardon any inconvenience as we do a few upgrades now. Thank you.

Thank You

- Dear ACC Family, We are deeply grateful for your love and thoughtfulness during Pastor Appreciation month. Thank you for your prayers, meals, cards, kind words, and generous gifts. Your encouragement blesses us more than words can say, and reminds us of God's goodness in every season. "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians 1:3). With gratitude and love, Ken, Shane, Evan, Ashley, and Lorna.
- Ken & Members, Ken, I can't thank you enough for coming to the hospital and praying with us and for Dan.
   The prayers from the congregation, the card and kind words was much appreciated. Thank you, Missy Minor & Family.
- Athens Christian Church, Thank you so much for letting me come and share about what God has been doing and inviting me into! I'm so thankful for your partnership and prayers! You all are amazing! Praying for your church family always! **Kalie Reavis**
- To ACC Family and the food ministry, Thank you for all the prayers and especially for the warm hospitality and funeral meal. Thank you, Jeremy & Heidi Foulk, Max, Mollee, & Hannah

## New Members

Help us welcome our newest church family members! Please welcome them with a card or warm greeting!

Scarlet Bosie
6429 S. Cantrall Creek
Cantrall, IL 62625
Baptized: September 23

11187 Fitschen RD.
Cantrall, IL 62625
Baptized: September 28

Sheila Fitschen

Dakota & Jessica Shaffer 18721 14<sup>th</sup> ST 3 Petersburg, IL 62675 Baptized: October 5

er Brad Lasswell 315 Casson ST. PO BOX 283 Williamsville, IL 62693 Baptized: October 12

Ella Hesson 24344 Burr Oaks LN. Athens, IL 62613 Baptized: October 12 Valerie Woodrum 23956 Oak DR. Athens, IL 62613 Baptized: October 19

Brian Lewis 700 East Hargrave ST. Athens, IL 62613 Baptized: October 19 Kristy Behrends 19220 Wisteria LN. Petersburg, IL 62675 Baptized: October 26





- Monday Morning High School Bible Study: Mondays thru December 15, 7:15-8:00 AM
- Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Chair Aerobics: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 9:00-10:00 AM
- Fall Wednesday Night Connection: Wednesdays, thru November 12, Athens Christian Church, Supper 5:40-6:15 PM, Classes 6:30-7:30 PM (GriefShare/Youth Group 6:30-8:00PM)
- Impact Life Blood Drive: Saturday, November 1, 8:00-11:00 AM
- JH/HS trip to LSCA, Fall Night Out: Saturday, November 1, 5:45-8:45 PM
- Guest Worship, Joe Effinger & Team: Sunday, November 2, All three services
- High School Only, "The Event": November 6-8, Ozark Christian College
- Veteran Sunday: November 9, All three services
- Monthly Community Prayer Gathering: Sunday, November 9, Worship Center, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Youth Sunday: November 16, All three services
- Youth Friendsgiving: Wednesday, November 19, 6:00-8:00 PM
- Senior Trip (50+) to The Barn III, Goodfield, IL:
   Friday, November 21, Meet at ACC at 4:00 PM
- Drive Away Hunger: Sunday, November 23, 7:30-11:00AM

- Monday Morning High School Bible Study: Mondays thru December 15, 7:15-8:00 AM
- · Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
- Chair Aerobics: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 9:00-10:00 AM
- Hanging of the Greens: Monday, December 1,
   9:30 AM until complete
- Senior Trip (50+) to Millikin Vespers: Saturday,
   December 6, Meet at ACC at Noon
- Kids Christmas Musical: Sunday, December 7, 4:00 PM, Cookie fellowship to follow.
- Young at Heart: Tuesday, December 9, 9:30 AM -Noon
- 5<sup>th</sup> QTR Christmas Party: Friday, December 12, 9:00-11:00 PM
- Monthly Community Prayer Gathering: Sunday, December 14, Worship Center, 5:30-6:00 PM
- Christmas Around the Piano: Sunday, December 14, 6:00-7:00 PM
- Christmas Coffee & Pastries: Sunday, December 21, 8:30-11:00 AM
- Senior Trip (50+) to Hoogland Theater: Sunday,
   December 21, Meet at ACC at 1:00 PM
- Christmas Eve Services (30 minutes): Wednesday,
   December 24, 2:00, \*3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 PM
   (\*childcare open for birth-4 years)



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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

Preaching Intern, Josh Harris

### **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

217-971-8371

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