

FILLED TO
Overflowing

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 | 9:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please ask a member of our Welcome Team for assistance.



THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of Senator Paul and Margaret Broun by Sharon and Michael Broun.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"I. Allegro" from *Concerto in A minor*, BWV 593 | Antonio Vivaldi

Transcribed by Johann Sebastian Bach

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Choral Introit

"Eat This Bread" | BERTHIER

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 731 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" | AUSTRIA

**The Prayer of Confession*

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

**The Gloria Patri* | MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Passing of the Peace*

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer | Rev. Lisa Lawrenz

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering and Offertory Anthem

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" | Harold W. Friedell
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

The text for this anthem can be found on page 632 of The United Methodist Hymnal.

**The Doxology* | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise
the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PROCLAMATION

The Scripture Reading | John 2:1-12

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Message | “More than Enough” | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.* Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: **Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, given for you.

Sung: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

*During the singing, those serving communion are invited to the Chancel. *In the United Methodist Church, grape juice is used for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

The Receiving of the Bread and Cup

At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available in the Narthex. The altar is open for prayer.

The Music during Communion

"Softly and Tenderly" | Arr. Hugh Alexander

Sung by Sofia Castillo, mezzo-soprano

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response* | UMH 181 "Ye Servants of God" | HANOVER

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | John Rutter

**The Postlude* | "III. Allegro" from Concerto in A minor | Vivaldi/Bach



Flower Guild

The Athens First UMC Flower Guild celebrated 10 years last week! We are so thankful for the way they serve our church. Each week, the Flower Guild creates beautiful floral arrangements that enhance worship and minister to our congregation. These fresh flowers are provided by donors who dedicate arrangements in loving memory or in honor of a loved one. Multiple donors and dedications are encouraged each week, and both the donor's name and dedication will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$75.

If you are interested in learning more or joining Flower Guild, contact Evelyn Dukes at ekcdukes@yahoo.com. New participants are always welcome! To dedicate flowers, contact Patty Lutz at patty@athensfirstumc.org or by calling the church.



Men's Breakfast | September 19

The Athens First Men's Ministry will be hosting a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, **September 19**, from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall. Bob Beckwith from the UGA Wesley Foundation will be speaking, and Ward Simonton will share a devotional.

Men of all ages are encouraged to attend and bring friends and neighbors! The cost is \$15 per person.

Please register on Realm or by calling the church office, (706) 543-1442, by Wednesday, September 16!

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Associate Minister | lisa@athensfirstumc.org



Guatemala High School Mission Trip Meeting September 20

Students at Athens First UMC are excited to return to Guatemala in 2027 for our High School Mission Trip over Spring Break. We will serve alongside Impacto Ministry in the mountains surrounding the beautiful Lake Atitlan the week of **April 3 - 10, 2027**. This mission trip is open to all current high school students. On Sunday, **September 20**, you are invited to learn more about the mission trip. We will gather in the Student Center after the 11:00 a.m. service for a light lunch and to discuss details you need to know about joining us! We also invite adults who may be interested in helping us lead this trip alongside our students.

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister | montana@athensfirstumc.org

Quick Links | This QR code will allow you to quickly access information for events, giving, prayer, and more.



College Care Packages

Student Ministry at Athens First will be sending College Care Packages to our college students living outside of Athens. We will assemble the packages on **October 18** as part of our Sunday Night series focusing on how we can continue to share our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness with our greater church community. These packages will contain essentials for surviving the final half of the semester!

Please register your student(s) to receive a Care Package by October 10.

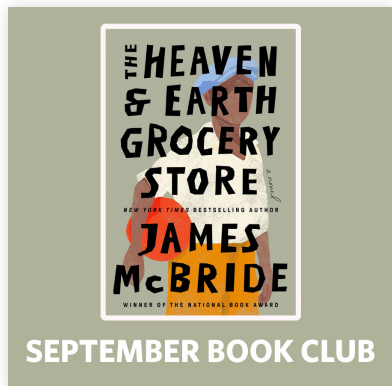
Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister | montana@athensfirstumc.org



Agape Adults Lake Day | September 20

On Sunday, **September 20**, the Agape Adults will leave directly after the 11:00 a.m. service for the Kincaid's lake house on Lake Oconee. Don't forget your swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen! Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements to the lake. Contact Emma Baughn for more information and to sign up.

Emma Baughn, Agape Coordinator | emma@athensfirstumc.org



Book Club | September 27

Love to read? Join our Monthly Book Club, led by Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Callie Waller, and Nate Roberson. Each month, we'll gather for a thoughtful intergenerational conversation about a selected book and explore how its themes intersect with our daily lives and faith. Our first gathering is **September 27** at 4:00 p.m., when we'll discuss James McBride's *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*.

Purchase your own copy and read at your own pace before we meet. Scan the QR code to register and let us know you're coming!

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister
natalee@athensfirstumc.org

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

Bobby Poss
August 28, 2026

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Bobby Poss on August 28.

Baptisms

We celebrate that Anne Foster Sigg, daughter of Brittany and William Sigg, received the sacrament of baptism on August 30.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED

The Church Photo Directories are now available for pickup in the Connecting Hall (the hallway between the Sanctuary and Hancock Hall). Every person/family who sat for a photo session receives a free directory. If you did not sit for a photo session but would like to purchase one, please stop by the church office or contact Kelly Roberson, Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister, at kelly@athensfirstumc.org.

WEEKLY MENUS

college lunch

NO COLLEGE LUNCH TODAY | Join us September 13

*All college and graduate students are invited to join us for a **free lunch** in Hancock Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service next Sunday, September 13. **Menu: Olive Garden***

Wednesday NIGHT DINNER

SEPTEMBER 9: Pork Loin, served with collard greens, black-eyed peas, and cornbread.

Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan the Steeple QR Code to register online or Call the Church Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT As of September 1, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Total Revenue:** \$2,218,105 | **YTD Total Expenses:** \$2,254,074

WAYS TO GIVE



OFFERING PLATE:

Fill out the envelope located in your pew.



ONLINE:

Scan to be taken to Realm, our online giving platform.



TEXT-TO-GIVE:

Text "AFUMCTTG" to 73256.

FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

Rev. Jeremy Lawson | Senior Minister
jeremy@athensfirstumc.org | 404-304-3574

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby | Associate Minister
natalee@athensfirstumc.org | 404-414-1701

Rev. Montana Hamby | Associate Minister
montana@athensfirstumc.org | 770-633-3140

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz | Associate Minister
lisa@athensfirstumc.org | 706-338-6952

REQUEST PRAYER | Have a prayer request? Scan the QR code located in your bulletin and select "**Needing Prayer**" to fill out a form to submit your prayer request. If you desire for the request to be shared with our Prayer Ministry team, please indicate that in your submission. Prayer requests can also be made directly via email prayer@athensfirstumc.org.

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

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