

FILLED TO
Overflowing

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 honor of Jamee and John Bailey in celebration of their marriage on September 18 by the parents of the bride, Gay and David Crowe.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Priere à Notre Dame” from *Suite Gothique* | Leon Boëllmann
Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 64 “Holy, Holy, Holy” | NICAEA

**The Morning Prayer* | Howard Thurman

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. Here is the citadel of all my desiring, where my hopes are born and all the deep resolutions of my spirit take wings. In this center, my fears are nourished, and all my hates nurtured. Here my loves are cherished, and all the deep hungers of my spirit are honored without quivering and without shock. In my heart, above all else, let love and integrity envelop me until my love is perfected and the last vestige of my desiring is no longer in conflict with Thy Spirit. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. 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 Welcoming of New Members | 11:00 a.m.

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 Hymn

UMH 402 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" | I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

During the singing of the hymn at 11:00 a.m., children grades Kindergarten through grade four are dismissed through the front, lectern side doors to attend Children's Church. They can be picked up at the conclusion of worship in room 320.

The Offering

The Offertory Anthem

“The Storm Is Passing Over” | arr. Barbara W. Baker

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir and Sanctuary Choir; Beth Rector, piano

9:30 a.m. | Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry

11:00 a.m. | Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

Have courage my soul and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home.

Thanks be to God the morning light appears. The storm is passing over. The storm is passing over,

Halleluia. Charles Albert Tindley

**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 | Matthew 25:14-30

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Don’t Waste Your Talent”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 398 "Jesus Calls Us" | GALILEE

**The Blessing*

**The Choral Response*

"The Storm Is Passing Over" | Baker

**The Postlude*

"Fanfare" | Keith Chapman



We're Glad You're Here | If you are visiting with us, we welcome you to Athens First! We invite you to visit our Hospitality Table in the Narthex following the service.

Membership at Athens First | If you are interested in becoming a member of our church community, please contact Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby (natalee@athensfirstumc.org) or Caroline Anne Chapura (carolineanne@athensfirstumc.org).

College Lunch | College and graduate students, join us in Hancock Hall for lunch and fellowship following the 11:00 a.m. service.



Wellroot Special Offering | Today

Today, our congregation will join churches across the North Georgia Annual Conference to support Wellroot's Amazing Grace Special Offering. For more than 155 years, Wellroot has partnered with churches to care for children, youth, and families. Their evidence-based programs are designed to keep families together whenever possible, provide short-term foster families when needed, and nurture and educate teens and young adults to break the cycle of trauma in their lives. In 2025, Wellroot served over 3,840 children and families. This special offering will be taken during both worship services. You may also give online or mail a check to the church office with "Wellroot" in the memo.



Financial Peace University | Begins Today

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-week class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and invest for your future. This class will meet for an introductory session at 6:00 p.m. in the Hull Conference Room and will dive into course material next Sunday, September 27. All are welcome! For more information, contact Rev. Lisa Lawrenz.

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



3rd Grade Bibles | Registration Closes Today

One of our most exciting milestones is when children receive their very own Bible from their church family. This Bible represents our church's care for our youngest disciples, helping them begin their journey of better understanding God's word and developing a personal relationship with God. We will celebrate this special morning with our third graders and their families during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on September 27. Immediately following the service, our 3rd graders and their parents/guardians are invited to gather in Hancock Hall for lunch and a "How to Use Your New Bible" workshop led by one of our clergy. Childcare and lunch will be provided for siblings. Please register using the QR code. If you are unable to attend on the 27th and would still like your child to receive a Bible, please let us know.

Traci Lowry, Director of Kids at Athens First | traci@athensfirstumc.org



Sweet Life Luncheon | September 24

The Sweet Life is a gathering of our Athens First UMC members and friends who are age 50 and up.

This month's luncheon on **September 24** will feature a special program by the **UGA Glee Club**. Lunch, catered by The Master's Table, begins at **12:00 noon** in Hancock Hall, and the performance starts at **12:30 p.m.** Please RSVP by noon on Wednesday, September 23.

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



Churchwide BBQ | October 4

Join us for our Churchwide BBQ on Sunday, October 4, in Hancock Hall! Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. Henry Garrard and his family will be serving up their famous BBQ, and Mitch Bain will be preparing delicious sides. **You're invited to bring a favorite dessert to share**; please remember that Athens First is a peanut-free campus. Throughout dinner, we'll put our Athens First knowledge to the test with Athens First Trivia and enjoy an evening of food and celebration as we give thanks for all God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in the year ahead at Athens First UMC.

Please register online or by calling the church office by October 1. We hope you'll join us for this special evening together!



Join the Wesleyan Youth Choir

It's not too late to join a choir! The Wesleyan Youth Choir, singing in worship today, would love to add you to our family. We welcome students in grades 6 - 12. No audition is needed, and you don't have to be a member of this church. Through singing, worship, travel, and special events, we offer life experiences, faith building, and growing friendships that will last a lifetime. Rehearsals are on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. **Join by October 4 in order to be ready to sing with us at Christmas!**

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry
janis@athensfirstumc.org

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

John Dunleavy
September 1, 2026

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Mary Ann Sullivan and her family in the loss of her mother, Barbara Lee Hicks, on August 31.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of John Dunleavy on September 1.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Roxanne Webb and William Parker on their marriage on September 10 in our Chapel.

WEEKLY MENUS

college
lunch

TODAY'S MENU: Pizza and salad.

*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.*

Wednesday
NIGHT
DINNER

SEPTEMBER 23: Chicken Stir Fry served over rice with a egg roll.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT As of September 15, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Total Revenue:** \$2,344,706 | **YTD Total Expenses:** \$2,284,814

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

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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