

FILLED TO
Overflowing

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 27, 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 Leo West on his 90th birthday by Julie and Oscar Webster.

There will be no 11:00 a.m. Children's Church for Kindergarten to Grade 4. We are excited to invite children to remain in worship with their families to celebrate our Third Grade Bible Milestone.

Little worship bags are available outside the Sanctuary door and in the Narthex.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." | Dan Locklair

Raina Wood, Organist

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

The Choral Call to Worship

9:30 a.m. | "Praise Him, Praise Him" | Carol Huffman Dickerson

Sung by the Cherub, Sonshine and Joy Choirs

Directors Stuart McCurry, Amy McCollum and Patti Pitts; Rosemary Belger, piano

Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, praise Him when the sun goes down. Serve Him. Love Him.

After singing at the 9:30 a.m. service, children will be taken to Sunday School. Please pick up children 3s through Pre-K in the nursery area and Kindergarten children in Hancock Hall after worship.

11:00 a.m. | “Created to Serve” | Ruth Elaine Schram

Sung by the Lyric and Celebrate Choirs; Directors Alex Gilliam and Erin Towe; Cathy Felton, piano

We are created, created in Christ to walk in the light. We are created, created to love and to serve. All the gifts God gives to us, God gives to us to share. All the gifts God gives to us, we use to show we care. We are created, created in Christ to walk in the light. We are created, created to love and to serve.

After singing at the 11:00 a.m. service, children will sit together during worship. Please pick up in the Children’s Choir Room after worship.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 154 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” | CORONATION

**The Affirmation of Faith* | “The Apostles’ Creed”

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 Receiving of Bibles by Third Graders | 11:00 a.m.

Traci Lowry, Director of Kids at Athens First

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 395 "Take Time to Be Holy" | HOLINESS

Verses 1 and 3

The Offering and Offertory Anthem

"This is the Day" | John Rutter

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

This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it. O praise the Lord of heav'n: praise him in the height. Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host. Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light, let them praise the Name of the Lord. For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways. The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand; so that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in: from this time forth forevermore. He shall defend thee under his wings. Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord. Text from Psalms 118, 148, 91, 121, and 27

**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 | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Overflowing Joy”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 568 “Christ for the World We Sing” | ITALIAN HYMN

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | John Rutter

**The Postlude*

“And thanksgivings may follow.” from *Rubrics* | Locklair



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.



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!



Children's Music Ministry | Join by October 7

It's not too late to join a choir! The Children's Music Ministry Choirs are singing in worship today, and we would love to add you to our family. We welcome children 3 years old (by September 1, 2026) through Grade 5. No audition needed, and you don't have to be a member of this church. We are off to a great start, and we have room for YOU. Please join us by October 7 in order to be ready to sing with us at Christmas.

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

Wednesday Night Dinner Missions Night October 7

Join us Wednesday, October 7, as we collect cold weather clothing items and put together hygiene kits for The Sparrow's Nest's "Keep Warm Project." Cold weather clothing items include: new or gently used jackets and coats of all sizes (including children's sizes), hats, gloves, and scarves. These items will then be taken over to The Sparrow's Nest and will be distributed to our neighbors in need in preparation for this coming winter. This mission opportunity will take place in Hancock Hall during our Wednesday Night Meal time from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org





Ingathering | Save the Date

Save the date for this year's annual Ingathering with Student Ministry at Athens First UMC! Students and families are invited to join us on **November 23** at 5:00 p.m. to serve and share a Thanksgiving meal with our neighbors within our Athens community. Your family has the opportunity to volunteer together this holiday season to cook a warm meal, serve our community, and make meaningful connections with our neighbors. Every year, over 100 volunteers from our Student Ministry families join us for this incredible night of service together. **Registration will open online on Sunday, October 4.**

Brynn McGlamery, Assistant Director of Student Ministries
brynn@athensfirstumc.org



Biltmore Trip | Register by October 1

This December, the Sanctuary Choir is hosting a trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, and everyone is invited! Events will include admission to Biltmore Estate, Sanctuary Choir Concert in the Winter Garden of Biltmore House and evening Candlelight Tour, National Gingerbread House display at Grove Park Inn, with meals, overnight stay, and motorcoach travel. Those who are not members of the choir will enjoy the sights and sounds of the historic Biltmore Estate along with us. Dates: Friday, December 4 - Saturday, December 5. The cost is \$525 per person (double-occupancy). **There are 10 spots left, and registration will close on October 1.** \$125 deposit due at registration.

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship | ryan@athensfirstumc.org



Jazz Vesper Service | October 18

Mark your calendars and invite a friend for an evening service with Theodicy Jazz Collective and the Sanctuary Choir on Sunday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. Theodicy Jazz has held worship residencies around the world, including the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Washington National Cathedral, and Canterbury Cathedral. This service, entitled "Love Is the Way," will explore the hope, justice, compassion, and love of the Spirituals and freedom songs. You won't want to miss this special jazz service!

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship | ryan@athensfirstumc.org

MEMBER NEWS

New Members

On September 20, we welcomed Rebecca, Jon, Isabelle, and Joe Cochran, Mary Katherine Loomis, and Lane McAfee to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Jamee Crowe and John Bailey on their marriage on September 18 in our Chapel.

WEEKLY MENUS

college lunch

TODAY'S MENU: Chick-fil-A on a Sunday!

*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 30: Beef Stroganoff served with egg noodles, green beans, and a roll.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT As of September 22, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Total Revenue:** \$2,391,562 | **YTD Total Expenses:** \$2,290,312

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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