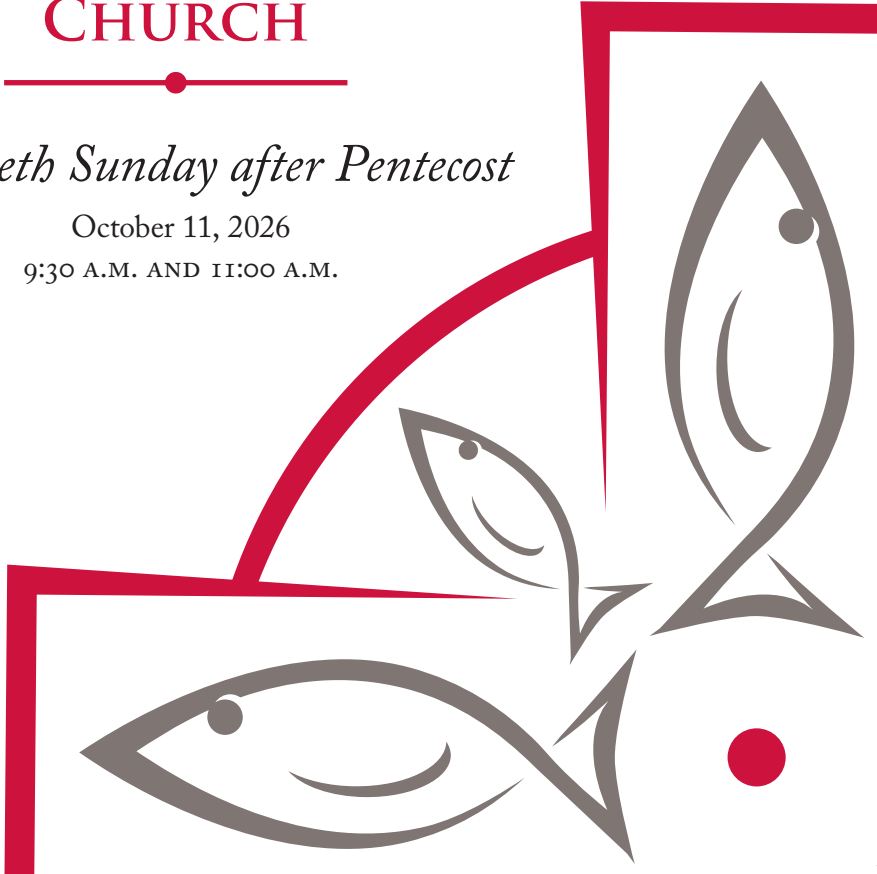


ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

9:30 A.M. 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 honor of Debbie and Charley Whittemore by Sharon and Michael Broun, Carlyn Haley, Susan and Dick Haynes, Karen and David Kee, Dianne Wall, Gail and David Walton, and Evelyn and Bob Winstead.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Dialogue for the Trumpets” from *Mass for the Parishes* | François Couperin
Raina Wood, Organist

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

The Call to Worship

“A Joyous Bell Peal” | Douglas Wagner
Rung by the Carillon Handbell Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 92 “For the Beauty of the Earth” | DIX

**The Affirmation of Faith* | “A Modern Affirmation”

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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 Responsive Reading | Psalm 100

Choir: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

All singing: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God’s presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

We are the Lord’s; we are the people of God, the sheep of God’s pasture.

Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise!

Give thanks and bless God’s name!

For the Lord is good;

God’s steadfast love endures forever; God’s faithfulness to all generations.

All singing: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

The Sacrament of Baptism | 9:30 a.m.

Amelia Elizabeth Mamuhewa, daughter of Hashina and Dev Mamuhewa

Amelia, Amelia, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Amelia, Amelia, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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 496 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" | SWEET HOUR

During the singing of the hymn at 11:00 a.m., children from Kindergarten to grade 4 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 and Offertory Anthem

"Prelude on THAXTED" | arr. Michael Helman

Rung by the Carillon Handbell Choir

The text associated with this hymn tune can be found on page 2009 of The Faith We Sing 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 | Philippians 4:4-9

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

The Message | Rev. Montana Hamby

“Rejoice, Always”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 160 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” | MARION

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | Phillip Stopford

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm up on your face; the rains fall soft down up on your fields. And until we meet again, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**The Postlude*

“Fugue in C Major” | Georg Böhm



Jazz Vesper Service | October 18

Invite a friend and join us next Sunday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. for an evening service with Theodicy Jazz Collective and the Sanctuary Choir. 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



Children's Basketball

Are you ready to shoot some hoops? Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited to join us this winter for our Children's Basketball League. All teams are co-ed and divided by age. This year, our Basketball Season will kick off the week of November 16 with our Basketball Skills Clinics. Official team practices will begin in December, and games will be held on Saturdays beginning in January. Each team will have one practice and one game per week. Scan the QR code above to find a full schedule of the season showing dates for clinics, coaches' meetings, and a full practice and game schedule. The cost is \$125.

Brynn McGlamery, Director of Recreation | brynn@athensfirstumc.org



Thanksgiving Ingathering Registration

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. Families have 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. Register using the QR code above!

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



Welcome New Staff Members!

We are excited to welcome new staff at Athens First UMC! Rebecca Cochran is the new Small Groups and Older Adult Ministry Coordinator. In her role, Rebecca is helping create opportunities for connection, spiritual growth, and care for our adult small group ministries at Athens First. Tracy Frost of Frost Financials has been serving as our Interim Director of Finance and has now officially stepped into the role of Director of Finance. Tracy works closely with the Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and staff, providing oversight and guidance for the church's financial and business operations. We are grateful to have Rebecca and Tracy on our team and are thankful for the gifts they bring to Athens First. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Rebecca and Tracy!



Aldersgate Special Offering | Next Sunday!

We are invited to join with churches across the North Georgia Conference to collect a special offering for Aldersgate Homes. Aldersgate Homes is an organization in North Georgia dedicated to serving the disability community through advocacy, learning opportunities, retreats, and recreation. Through their many ministries, they work with churches and individuals to help support those with disabilities and to create a community where people of all abilities are welcome. Situated on Lake Oconee, Collinswood offers a beautiful and fully accessible retreat center for individuals or groups. You may give during either worship service on October 18. You may also give online or mail a check to the church office with "Aldersgate" in the memo.



Georgia Unifying Conference

United Methodists from across Georgia gathered Saturday, September 26, 2026, for the historic Unifying Conference, marking one of the final steps in bringing together the North Georgia Conference and South Georgia Conference into a single Georgia Annual Conference. During the meeting, clergy and laity celebrated their shared future while voting on the rules, budget, and leadership that will guide the new conference beginning January 1, 2027. The Unifying Conference built on actions taken earlier this year when both the North Georgia and South Georgia Annual Conferences voted overwhelmingly, with 96% approval, to unite as one conference. The unification plan received its final authorization on August 11, when delegates to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference unanimously approved the formation of the Georgia Annual Conference and its official launch on January 1.

SERMON NOTES:

WEEKLY MENUS

college lunch

NO COLLEGE LUNCH TODAY! Join us next Sunday for Taco 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

OCTOBER 14: Killer Crust Pizza Night

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

FINANCIAL REPORT As of October 6, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | YTD Total Revenue: \$2,568,602 | YTD Total Expenses: \$2,469,291

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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