

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 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 Frances Brown by Ellen Bryson and Frank Sweezey.

In loving memory of Bruce Armstrong by his daughter, Mary Stone.

In loving memory of Kathryn Spratlin by the Charles Elder family.

In loving memory of Bobby Poss by his wife, Sandra Poss.

In loving memory of Jim Moncrief by Karen Moncrief.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Fugue in D minor, BWV 565" | Johann Sebastian Bach

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Moment for Clergy Appreciation

Steven Dasher, Chair of Staff-Parish Relations Committee

The Call to Worship

"A Festive Intrada" | Cynthia Dobrinski

Rung by the Athens First Ringers; Erin Towe, conductor

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 110 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” | EIN FESTE BURG

**The Affirmation of Faith* | “The Nicene Creed”

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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. 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 452 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" | OLIVET

Verses 1-3

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

"Reflections on CANDLER" | Derek K. Hakes

Rung by the Athens First Ringers

The text associated with this tune can be found on page 386 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 20:19-23

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson
“The Most Dreaded Part of Worship”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 377 “It Is Well with My Soul” | VILLE DU HAVRE
Verses 1, 2, and 4

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | Philip 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*

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” | Timothy Albrecht



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.



Wednesday Night Dinner Costume Party

Get ready for a spooktacular Wednesday Night Dinner on October 28. We'll have a costume contest and parade, so wear your best, funniest, silliest, or most creative costume! All ages are encouraged to participate: kids, youth, adults, and the young at heart! Fried Chicken will be served for dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m., and the costume contest will begin at 5:45 p.m. We can't wait to see you Wednesday night for dinner and a little extra Halloween fun!

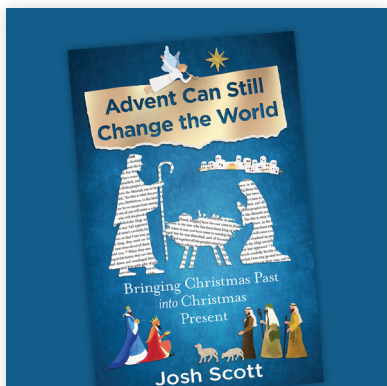
Alisha Bain, Administrative Assistant | alisha@athensfirstumc.org



Navigating Grief in the Holidays | Next Sunday

We invite you to our "Navigating Grief in the Holidays" luncheon in Hull Conference Room following the 11:00 a.m. service on November 1. Together, we will spend time reflecting on the ways grief can be especially present during the holiday season and share some practical tools for navigating this time with care. To RSVP for lunch, please register using the QR code above or call the church office at (706) 543-1442. This will also kick off our Grief Support Group that will meet during the Advent Season and throughout the Spring of 2027.

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



Churchwide Advent Study

Join us this Christmas season for our churchwide Advent study *Advent Can Still Change the World: Bringing Christmas Past Into Christmas Present* by Josh Scott. Christmas is a nostalgic time for many, often with memories of twinkling lights, presents, carols, meals around the table, and intentional effort spent with family. In this 4-week study, Josh Scott brings the warm feelings of Christmas cheer into the past as we navigate the historical and cultural background of the time surrounding the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Books will be available for pickup at the front desk beginning October 28. Find a Sunday School or small group for this year's study. Contact Rebecca Cochran for more information.

Rebecca Cochran, Small Groups and Older Adult Ministry Coordinator
rebecca@athensfirstumc.org

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



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

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 today!

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



Student Ministry Winter Retreat January 15-18

Join Student Ministry the weekend of January 15-18 as we head to Chattanooga, Tennessee for our Winter Retreat! This retreat is open to all students in grades 6-12. We will stay in multiple cabins (girls' cabin and boys' cabin), worship, fellowship, and enjoying some Winter fun in Chattanooga enjoying the nature and beauty of the mountains. The retreat cost is \$275 and covers lodging, a sweatshirt, all meals, and activities for the weekend. Registration will close on Sunday, January 4. Space is limited to the first 34 students to register, so make sure to register early!

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

SERMON NOTES:

WEEKLY MENUS

college
lunch

TODAY'S MENU: Taziki's

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 28 | HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

Fried Chicken served with roasted potatoes, corn, 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 October 20, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | YTD Total Revenue: \$2,669,014 | YTD Total Expenses: \$2,575,384

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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