



ALL SAINTS' DAY

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

November 1, 2026



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 AND HOPE GARDEN ARE GIVEN TO
THE GLORY OF GOD**

In loving memory of Eleanor Holtz and son Jim Holtz by Hal Holtz and Family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Cortège” | Marcel Dupré

Raina Wood, Organist

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

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional of the Bells*

UMH 711 “For All the Saints” | SINE NOMINE

Rung by the Athens First Handbell Choirs; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

**The Litany for All Saints*

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us.

For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

The Ringing of the Bells

God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, and who have inspired us to have hope.

By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.

The Ringing of the Bells

God of grace and peace, we praise you for those who reflected your love into our world.

Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

The Ringing of the Bells

God of all saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this community who have departed our company over the past year. We thank you for their courage amidst strife and their hope in the face of death. We remember so many other saints who have walked this road with us, whom we name before you in our hearts.

Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.

The Ringing of the Bells

Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

Before the collection of the offering at 11:00 a.m., children Kindergarten up 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 Offertory Anthem

"Introit" from *Requiem* | Maurice Duruflé

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Translation from Latin: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. A hymn, O God, becometh Thee in Zion, and a vow shall be paid to Thee in Jerusalem:*

O Lord, hear my prayer, all flesh shall come to Thee. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

**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 5:4

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

"Good Grief"

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: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations. 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.

Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you.

Donald Butch Clifton	William Lorenzo Moss II
Mollie Jones Culpepper	Laura Davis Patterson
William “Mike” Donehoo	Helen Henderson Plymale
John James Dunleavy Jr.	Robert Ernest “Bobby” Poss III
Elizabeth Rose Fenchak	James King Reynolds Jr.
Helen Barrie Davis Finney	Harold Wayne Seaton
Lisa Moore Frierson	Dr. James Leon Smith
Dr. Eugene VanLandingham Herrin	Kathyrn Adelia Spratlin
Chris John Holland	George M. Whitton
Rev. Ernest Kenneth Kulp	Mary Nell White Zittrouer

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. 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.

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. *In the United Methodist Church, grape juice is used for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

The Music during Communion

“No Night There” | Dan Forrest

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Rachael Fischer, violin

This anthem has been placed in the choir library to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our sister, Jackie Herron Gilmer, by Donna and John Herron.

The strings for this anthem are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of his beloved wife, Jackie Herron Gilmer, by The Rev. Dr. Harry Gilmer.

God is with us; God is for us; do not be afraid. There shall be no night there, no crying there, God shall wipe away ev'ry tear from their eyes. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us, I will fear no evil; God is for us. Lo, I am with you always, even to the end. There shall be no night there, no crying there, God shall wipe away ev'ry tear from their eyes. God is with us, do not be afraid. I am with you, I am for you. Do not be afraid. No night there. Text from Psalm 118:6; 23:4, Matthew 1:20, 23; 28:20, Luke 1:13, 30; 2:10 and Revelation 21:3-4, 22:5.

RESPONSE

**The Prayer*

Almighty God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unborn. Before your throne we are one with a great multitude which no one could number, and in praising you, we join with people from every nation. Grant to your church on earth that as we celebrate the triumph of your saints in glory we may profit by their example and enter with them into the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | Peter Lutkin

**The Postlude*

“Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter auf Erden, BWV 650” | J. S. Bach
Translation from German: *Come thou, Jesus, from heaven to earth*

CHURCHWIDE ADVENT STUDY 2026

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 time spent with family. This 4-week study brings the warm feelings of Christmas cheer into the past as we navigate the historical and cultural background surrounding the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Discover how Old Testament prophecy finds its fulfillment in the incarnation of Jesus. Together, we'll see how the Christmas story can bring fresh meaning to our hopes, challenges, and celebrations this season.

Rebecca Cochran, Small Groups Coordinator
rebecca@athensfirstumc.org

Register on Realm to participate with a Small Group, Sunday School class, or for personal study. When registered, books are available for pickup at the front desk. The following Sunday School classes and Small Groups plan to participate in this year's Advent Study:

- Open Doors
- High Point
- Marthas and Marys
- Outreach
- Pathfinders
- Stepping Stones
- Partners
- HC Tuck
- Men's Wednesday Night Bible Study
- Tuesday Women's Bible Study (12:30 p.m.)
- College & Young Adult Small Group
- Wednesday Night Bible Study
- Friday Morning Mom's Group



ADVENT 2026

Schedule of Events

Advent One | HOPE

Sunday, November 29 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Family Advent Breakfast

Sunday, November 29 | 9:30 a.m.

Advent Two | PEACE

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 6 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Advent Three | JOY

Baby Recognition

Sunday, December 13 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Candlelight Carols

Sunday, December 13 | 7:00 p.m.

Advent Four | LOVE

Sunday, December 20 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

The Longest Night Service

Monday, December 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Thursday, December 24

3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m.



Poinsettias

You are invited to place a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special this year. Donating \$15 will help fill our sanctuary with poinsettias on Sunday, December 20. On that day, we will list the names of honored persons in the Sunday worship bulletin.

You may place your order by scanning the QR code above. Orders may also be made by filling out the needed information at the reception desk in the church office and including a check for payment.

The last day to make a poinsettia donation is Monday, December 7.

Kelly Roberson, Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister
kelly@athensfirstumc.org



Family Advent Breakfast | November 29

The 2026 Advent Breakfast is set for Sunday, November 29. Our entire church family is invited for a meaningful, joy-filled morning together. Enjoy a delicious breakfast served by Waffle House beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall. Breakfast is \$15 per person. Through Scripture and readings, we'll discover the meaning of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas. Each family will receive *The Legend of the Candy Cane*, a story that connects this sweet Christmas treat to Jesus and reminds us of His love. Children are invited to gather for a Christmas Processional at 10:45 a.m., ending with the lighting of the Sanctuary Christmas trees during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Following the tree lighting, children will be dismissed to Children's Church. **Register online by November 20.**

Traci Lowry, Director of Kids at Athens First | traci@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 enjoy a time of worship, fellowship, and winter fun in Chattanooga while taking in 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



Agape Muffins | November 8

Have a muffin on us! Our Adult Ministry is offering muffins to those attending church and Sunday School on Sunday, November 8. You can find them from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. in two locations: the connecting hallway and just outside the chapel doors. Our Agape participants are looking forward to greeting you and sharing their baking skills! There is no cost for the muffins, but donations to the Agape program - our special needs ministry - are gladly accepted. This ministry exists to reflect Christ's love through belonging and inclusion. Let's support them this Sunday!

Emma Baughn, Agape Coordinator | emma@athensfirstumc.org



Serving Through the Holidays

November 18 | Extra Thankful Bags Grab a bag from our front desk and fill with the listed items. These bags will then be shared with our guests at Ingathering.

December 1 | Red Cross Blood Drive from noon – 5:00 p.m. in the gym. Sign up to give the gift of blood this season. Scan QR code above.

December 2 | Salvation Army Angel Tree Sponsor a child in our community by providing Christmas gifts. See Sarah Beth for a name.

December 9 | Bethel Christmas Cards Support our Bethel families by donating gift cards for families to shop for Christmas gifts.

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



Congregational Care

At Athens First, it is our privilege to walk alongside you through life's hard moments and celebrate with you in its joys. If you or someone close to you could use a phone call, a visit, prayer, or simply a reminder that you are loved by the people of Athens First, please let Rev. Lisa Lawrenz know. This includes times of illness, hospitalization, recovery, grief, a new baby, or other significant life transitions. If you are not sure whether we already know, please reach out! We would much rather hear about a need ten times than not hear about it at all. Thank you for helping us care for one another and reminding our community that each person is loved and never alone.

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

MEMBER NEWS

New Members

On October 25, we welcomed Rebecca and Peter Bronnum, Caroline Cadena, Ward Cox, Kelly, Lannie, and Emma Greene, and Lena Queen to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

WEEKLY MENUS

college
lunch

NO COLLEGE LUNCH TODAY! Join us next Sunday for *Friendsgiving!*

*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

NOVEMBER 4: Crawfish Étouffée served with a side salad and bread.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT As of October 27, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Total Revenue:** \$2,730,600 | **YTD Total Expenses:** \$2,700,644

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.

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ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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