Athens First United Methodist Church

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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.

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THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of Joe Niolon by Susan Niolon and Family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Lied, Op. 31, No. 17" | Louis Vierne
Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome

The Moment for Veterans Day and Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 79 "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" | GROSSER GOTT
Verses 1-4

**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. Amen.

**The Passing of the Peace*

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The Sacrament of Baptism | 11:00 a.m.

Camellia Grace Poirot, daughter of Katie and Alex Poirot
Camellia, Camellia, 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. Camellia, Camellia, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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 Hymn

UMH 396 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" | ANGEL'S STORY
Verses 1-3

During the singing of the hymn 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 Offering and Offertory Anthem

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" | arr. Tom Scott
Sung by the Tenors and Basses of the Sanctuary Choir
Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

The text of this anthem may be found on page 2191 of The Faith We Sing Hymnal.

**The Doxology* | OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Scripture Reading | Proverbs 19:21-23

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson
"In God We Trust"

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*
UMH 534 "Be Still, My Soul" | FINLANDIA

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | Peter Lutkin
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

**The Postlude*
"Chaconne in C Major" | Dietrich Buxtehude

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.



Confirmation Sunday | November 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Student Ministry at Athens First United Methodist Church invites you to join us in worship next Sunday as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday. This year we will welcome 46 middle school students into membership of our Confirmation Class of 2026 and baptize six students. The Service of Confirmation will be held at 9:30 a.m. worship with a special recognition of this year's group during 11:00 a.m. worship. Confirmation is an incredible milestone for our students at Athens First, and we hope that you will join us next Sunday to welcome them into the life of our congregation.

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister | *montana@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 9:45 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 after the program, 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*



Christmas Poinsettias

Remember or honor a loved one by donating Christmas Poinsettias 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

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



Wednesday Night Thanksgiving Dinner November 11

Everyone is welcome this Wednesday, November 11, at 5:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We'll join together for an evening of food and fellowship and enjoy delicious turkey and dressing prepared by Mitch Bain. Please register online by Tuesday at noon.

Agape Friendsgiving During Wednesday Night Dinner: All Agape families are invited to join Wednesday Night Dinner for a Friendsgiving meal. We will meet in Hancock Hall at 5:45 p.m. Please register online by Tuesday at noon. We look forward to sharing a meal, making memories, and giving thanks together! Agape Coordinator contact: Emma Baughn | *emma@athensfirstumc.org*



Sweet Life Friendsgiving | November 19

Let's gather for a Sweet Life Thanksgiving covered dish meal with friends! Join us on Thursday, November 19, at 12:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall. We will provide the turkey; you bring your favorite side or dessert to share. We will also be collecting new socks to support the work of our missions ministry. Bring a pair, or a few, and help us share a little warmth with our neighbors this season! Scan the QR code to register.

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



Thanksgiving Ingathering | November 23
Last Call to Register

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.

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

SERMON NOTES:

WEEKLY MENUS

college lunch

TODAY'S MENU: 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 11: Turkey and Dressing *served with green bean casserole 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 November 4, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):*

2026 Budget: $3,055,000 **| YTD Total Revenue:** $2,804,469 **| YTD Total Expenses:** $2,779,766

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