Athens First United Methodist Church

Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 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 Mary and Henry Folsom by their daughter, Cassie Folsom.

THE HARVEST CORNUCOPIA IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
In honor of the clergy and staff of Athens First United Methodist Church given with great thanksgiving by Catherine Prieto, Rachel Tribble, and Dianne Wall.

GATHERING

The Prelude
"Prelude to *Te Deum*" | Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Raina Wood, Organist

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

The Call to Worship
"Zion's Walls" | Aaron Copland
Sung by the Chamber Ensemble; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

Come fathers and mothers, come sisters and brothers, come join us in singing the praises of Zion. O fathers, don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion? We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion. Text by John G. McCurry

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 694 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" | ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

**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 Welcoming of New Members

The Litany for Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer | Rev. Montana Hamby

O gracious and generous God, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us.
For the gift of life: **we thank you, Lord.**
For your steadfast love: **we thank you, Lord.**
For all the complexities and wonders of your creation: **we thank you, Lord.**
For faith and the example of your saints: **we thank you, Lord.**
For the Church and our family in faith: **we thank you Lord.**
For our families and friends: **we thank you, Lord.**
For health and for those who care for the sick: **we thank you, Lord.**
For food, warmth, and shelter: **we thank you, Lord.**
For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve: **we thank you Lord.**
For our nation, for freedom, security, and peace: **we thank you, Lord.**
Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us always be aware of your great kindness, and in gratitude for your blessings, help us to respect all life, to care for creation, to tend the sick, the hungry, the unhoused, and the refugee, and to love our neighbor as you have loved us.
We thank you, Lord.

The Silent Prayer

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:
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

TFWS 2008 "Let All Things Now Living" | THE ASH GROVE

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

"Hymn Anthem on 'MARION'" | Healey Willan
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Alex Gilliam, Choral Scholar, conducting

The text of this anthem can be found on page 160 of The United Methodist 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 | Psalm 100

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

*The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

"What's the Difference?"

RESPONSE

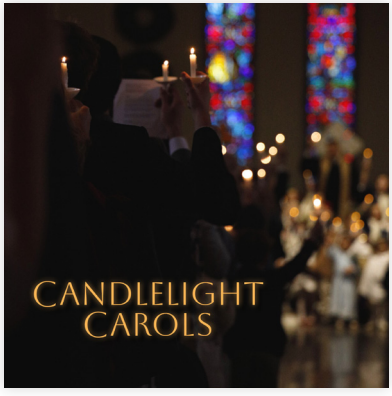
**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 157 "Jesus Shall Reign" | DUKE STREET

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | Peter Lutkin

**The Postlude*

Setting III from "Partita on *Now Thank We All Our God*" | Timothy Albrecht



Candlelight Carols | December 13

Join us Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. for the Candlelight Carols concert. Celebrate the joy of the season with an evening of Christmas carols in our adorned Sanctuary. Bathed in the glow of candlelight and Chrismon trees, come and sing your favorite carols, including candlelight "Silent Night," with the AFUMC Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra and the Georgia Children's Chorus, the resident choir for children and youth at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music. The concert will be followed by a Christmas cookie reception in Hancock Hall!

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



CMM and WYC Christmas Caroling

Children's Choirs and the Wesleyan Youth Choir will be spreading Christmas cheer over the next few weeks! We will visit two local Assisted Living Facilities, singing carols and visiting with residents!

The Wesleyan Youth Choir will be at Terra Bella on Sunday, November 29, between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

The Lyric and Celebrate Choirs will visit Wesley Woods on Saturday, December 12, from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

If you have loved ones in these places, please let them know we are coming!

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



The Longest Night Service | December 21

For many, Advent and Christmas are seasons of joy: family gatherings, celebrations, carols, and feasting. But for those experiencing grief, illness, loneliness, anxiety, or major life transitions, this time of year can be a difficult season. Held on the longest night of the year, December 21, this quiet service offers an opportunity to honestly name sorrow and proclaim the gentle hope of Christ's light shining in the darkness. This service will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with music provided by solo voice and harp.

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

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



The Heartthrobs Luncheon | December 2

The Heartthrobs will hold their quarterly luncheon on Wednesday, December 2, at 11:45 a.m. at Hilltop Grille. The Heartthrobs is a support group for men who have experienced heart-related health issues such as heart surgery, pacemakers, heart disease, and other cardiovascular conditions. It is a meaningful opportunity to connect, share experiences, and encourage one another. The speaker for this luncheon is Dr. Mark Firth, who will be leading a discussion on dementia and brain health. The cost is $15 per person, payable by cash or check at the luncheon. Please register by Monday, November 30.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the event coordinator, Jud Guest | *jguest@ladtrcklines.com*



Souper Suppers | Save the Date

Dates are now available to sign up for our 2027 Souper Supper Season. Kicking off January 14, each Thursday - January through April - we invite our downtown neighbors into our church home to enjoy a hot meal and fellowship in Hancock Hall. This ministry is a great way to serve with your small group or Sunday School class, family, or as an individual. There are many ways to plug in, from cooking and serving a meal, providing children's blessing bags, engaging with our guests, or simply by providing donations for our Souper Suppers Store. Sign up to provide a meal or children's blessing bags by scanning the QR code.

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



Weekday Preschool Registration for 2027-2028

Registration for the 2027-28 school year is just around the corner. We are excited to welcome children and families to another year of faith, friendship, and learning. Opening on January 18, 2027, for current families, and on January 25, 2027, for AFUMC members, registration information will be available on the AFUMC Weekday Preschool webpage in early December. You may also request a tour through the website.

Kay Elder, Director of Weekday Preschool | *kay@athensfirstumc.org*

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Lynn Pease and her family in the loss of her mother, Ellen Morris, on November 11.

New Members

On November 15, we welcomed 46 Confirmands and Mary Beth and Matt Laflin to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Our church office will be closed from Wednesday, November 25, to Friday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you'll join us for worship on Sunday, November 29! The office will reopen on Monday, November 30.

college AT ATHENS FIRST UMC

COLLEGE LUNCH RETURNS DECEMBER 6TH!

***College students**, join us December 6 for our final College Lunch of the semester and Christmas party! Later that evening, we'll head to Winter WonderLights at the State Botanical Garden. Tickets are on us, so be sure to register online!*

Wednesday NIGHT DINNER

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER THIS WEEK! *Join Us December 2 for Chili.*

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

FINANCIAL REPORT *As of November 17, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):*

2026 Budget: $3,055,000 **| YTD Total Revenue:** $3,078,457 **| YTD Total Expenses:** $2,897,454

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