

— FILLED TO —
Overflowing
STEWARDSHIP 2026

Dear Athens First UMC Family,

When you look around Athens First UMC these days, you can't help but notice all the signs of God's incredible abundance.

It's evident in the bustling Sunday School classes, small groups, and Bible studies. You can see it in our children and youth as they fill our hallways and classrooms with joy and laughter. You can hear it in the voices of our incredible choir and musicians as they lead us in worship each Sunday and in the many volunteers who serve so faithfully every single week.

Everywhere you look, there are countless signs of how God has filled our church to overflowing with grace, joy, and hope for the future!

That's why this year's stewardship theme is **Filled to Overflowing**, inspired by the Apostle Paul's prayer in Romans 15:13: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Over the next five weeks, we'll look at stories throughout Scripture that reveal the surprising and beautiful ways God fills us to overflowing and calls us to lives of abundant faithfulness.

Enclosed is a 2027 Pledge Card that you're invited to prayerfully return on Consecration Sunday. Pledge cards may also be mailed to the church, placed in the offering plate, or submitted online at any time.

This year, we're celebrating **Consecration Sunday** on **Sunday, October 4**. Join us for an amazing morning of worship, followed by our annual **churchwide BBQ** that evening at **5:00 p.m.** I hope you can be there!

I know sometimes in the church, we can be guilty of only looking at stewardship season through the lens of budgets, pledges, and financial needs. But this year, I hope that we can start simply by looking around at what God is already doing. Look at the lives being changed, the relationships being formed, the ministries taking root, and the people discovering the good news of Jesus Christ.

When we do, we can't help but see that we have been filled to overflowing with an abundance of God's grace. And when we recognize just how much God has given us, our response will always be more than just a financial commitment. Our pledge to Athens First UMC is a whole-hearted investment in what God is doing through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Thank you for all you do to make Athens First UMC the vibrant, faithful church that it is! As we look to 2027 and beyond, I can't wait to see how God will continue to fill us to overflowing and use us to be a blessing to others.

Grace and Peace,

