

# EASTER

H E I S R I S E N

## SUNRISE AT THE STEEPLE

March 31, 2024

7:00 a.m.



ATHENS FIRST UMC

# *The Worship of God*

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\*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.



**THE FLOWERS FOR EASTER ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
**In honor and memory of** our loved ones. *Please see the end of the bulletin for dedications.*

## **BEFORE THE SUNRISE**

### *The Tolling of the Steeple Bells*

#### *The Call to Worship*

"Were You There?" | WERE YOU THERE

Led by the Wesleyan Youth Choir; Raina Wood, piano

Congregation sings in **bold**.

Were you there when the stone was rolled away?

Were you there when the stone was rolled away?

*All singing:* **Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when the stone was rolled away?**

*Choir:* Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

Were you there when He rose up from the grave?

*All singing:* **Oh, sometimes I feel like shouting "Glory, Glory, Glory!"**

**Were you there when He rose up from the grave?**

## **AS THE SUN RISES**

### *The Responsive Greeting and Lighting of the Paschal Candle*

Aaron Brodrick

The Lord is risen! **He is Risen, indeed!**

Faith, hope, and joy are alive. A new age is dawning, and death cannot harm us. God of all creation, we praise you. God of resurrection and eternal life, we have gathered in this place to worship you and celebrate your victory. The Lord is risen!

**He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

### *The Welcome and the Opening Prayer* | Hannah Stubblefield

## *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 Anthem* | “Living Hope” | Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir; Mark Maxwell, guitar; Chris Enghauser, bass;  
Janis Maxwell, Director of Children's and Student Music Ministry

## *\*The Scripture Reading* | Luke 24:1-12 | Court Carpenter

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

## *The Meditation* | “Beyond Belief” | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

## *\*The Hymn* | “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” | EASTER HYMN

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

## *\*The Benediction*

# *In Honor of*

Each year, flowers are placed throughout our church for Easter Sunday worship services in honor and memory of loved ones:

*AFUMC Music Ministry*

By Helen Plymale

*Alisha and Mitch Bain*

By Anonymous

*Allen Huycke*

By Richard Huycke

*Alma Blasingame*

By Rhonda B. McClure

*Amy and Shane O'Neill*

By Susan and Phil Buchanan

*Anna and Ally Buchanan*

By Susan and Phil Buchanan

*Annie Varnadore*

By Paula and Jud Guest

*Barnes and Borders Utley*

By Shelly

*Barnes and Borders Utley*

By Carlyn Haley

*Camilla Bracewell*

By The McCullick Family

*Carlie, Matt, Michael, and  
Connor Gaffney*

By Mary Lynn Lane

*Carol Seawright*

By Leland, Jill, Hagan, and  
Caroline Barrow

*Cathy Felton*

By Family

*Cathy Robinson*

By Marthas and Marys  
Sunday School Class

*Charley and Debbie  
Whittemore*

By Outreach Sunday School  
Class

*Cindy and David McKoy*

By Anonymous

*Clark, Wes, Janie, and Nora  
O'Neill*

By Amy and Shane O'Neill

*Dave and Gail Walton*

By David, Kierstin, and  
Charli Walton

*David and Gail Stone*

By David and Sharon Conley

*David, Kierstin, Charli,  
Chris, and Betty Walton*

By Dave and Gail Walton

*Don and Susan Crews*

By Jimmy and Jo Ann  
Hardegree

*Doris Firth*

By Jan and Mark Firth

*Dr. Michael C. Robinson*

By Julie R. Robinson

*Elisabeth Bingenheimer*

By Anonymous

*Ellen Smedley Smith*

By Jim and Sandra Smith

*Elliott and Lana Lanier*

By The Zielinski Family ~  
Alan, Laci, Lincoln, and Ada

*Emmett and Carole Langley*

By Ellen Bryson and Frank  
Sweezy

*Frances Brown*

By Ellen Bryson and Frank  
Sweezy

*Friends and Family*

By Evelyn and Bob Winstead

*Ginn and Matt Utley*

By Carlyn Haley

*Graham Harvey*

By Jane Harvey

*Grandchildren Eisley, Liv,  
Harlow and Holden*

By Elisabeth G.  
Bingenheimer

*Gwynn Powell*

By Bill and Sara Powell

*Hannah Stubblefield*  
By Rachael and Eddie  
Dillon

*Hannah Stubblefield*  
By The Confirmation Class

*Harris and Jamie Haley*  
By Carlyn Haley

*Harry and Madeline Barrow*  
By Leland, Jill, Hagan, and  
Caroline Barrow

*Hatcher and Palmer Haley*  
By Shelly

*Hatcher and Palmer Haley*  
By Carlyn Haley

*Jack Varnadore*  
By Paula and Jud Guest

*Jennifer Huycke*  
By Richard Huycke

*John Breen*  
By The Williams Families

*Jon Harvey*  
By Jane Harvey

*Joy Ferrell*  
By Chuck and Sarah Jordan

*Judy Semmler*  
By Ed and Pam Michna

*Julie Robinson*  
By Anonymous

*Kate Hampton Bragg*  
By Paula and Jud Guest

*Kathryn Spratlin*  
By The Charles F. Elder  
Family

*Kim Griffith*  
By Anonymous

*Laney Jones*  
By Anonymous

*Laura and Mike Burrell*  
By Bill and Sara Powell

*Lisa Gibson*  
By Marthas and Marys  
Sunday School Class

*Mary Jordan*  
By Chuck and Sarah Jordan

*Mary Larkey*  
By Mark, Heather, Ryan,  
and Anna Foster

*Meriwether and Sara Beth  
Burrell*  
By Bill and Sara Powell

*Nan and Drew Thomas*  
By Bill and Sara Powell

*Our children and  
grandchildren*  
By Carolyn and Henry  
Garrard

*Patty Lutz*  
By Anonymous

*Peggy Allen*  
By David and April Allen

*Peggy Sue Williams and  
Family*  
By Bobby Poss, III

*Peter, Krisi, and Lachlan  
Lane*  
By Mary Lynn Lane

*Phil Buchanan*  
By Susan Buchanan

*Phoebe, Aaron, and Rebecca  
Brodrick*  
By Brian and Susan  
Brodrick

*Phyllis James*  
By Elisabeth G.  
Bingenheimer

*Priscilla Carroll*  
By Archie Carroll

*Rachel and Bill Brown*  
By Catherine B. Warner

*Raegan Harvey*  
By Jane Harvey

*Ryan and Alejandra  
Ferguson*  
By Athens First Handbell  
Choir

*Sandra E. Poss*  
By Bobby Poss, III

*Shelly Prescott, Flower Guild  
Chair*  
By Gary Sergeant

*Shirley Sergeant*  
By Gary Sergeant and Shelly  
Prescott

*Sylvia and Wayne Burton  
Zielinski*

By The Zielinski Family ~  
Alan, Laci, Lincoln, and  
Ada

*The Charles F. Elder Family*

By Kathryn C. Spratlin

*The Timothy Road Connect  
Group*

By Marilynn and Richard  
Cary

*The Tuck Sunday School  
Class*

By Bobby Poss, III

*The Tumbleweeds Sunday  
School Class*

By Marilynn and Richard  
Cary

*Tommy E. Warner, Sr.*

By Catherine B. Warner

*Trent and Kerry Azevedo*

By Richard Huycke

*Wednesday Night Dinner  
Volunteers*

By Alisha Bain

## *In Memory of*

*Adolph and Miriam Fronk*

By Gavin and Krystie  
Hassemer

*Aileen Tobias*

By Catherine L. Prieto

*Alice and Joseph A. Dillon, Sr.*

By Rachael and Eddie Dillon

*Alice and Rob Snyder*

By The Nickelsen Family

*Alvin and Henrietta Berkland*

By Carl Berkland

*Ann Myers Cofer*

By Michelle, Robert, and  
William Beckum

*Armand (Toby) Chapeau*

By Betty C. Chapeau and  
Family

*Armand C. Chapeau*

By Betty C. Chapeau and  
Family

*Armand Chapeau*

By The Partners Sunday  
School Class for Chuck and  
Angela Chapeau

*B.P. Tillman*

By Gay and David Crowe

*B.P. Tillman*

By Regina Tillman

*Barbara Bahr*

By Great-grandchildren  
Campbell and Mills Bahr

*Bettye and Jack Buchanan*

By Susan and Phil Buchanan

*Bill and Betty Beckum*

By Michelle, Robert, and  
William Beckum

*Bill Chapman*

By Betty Ann, Susan, and  
Karen Chapman, Courtney,  
John, and Madelyn Durham

*Bill Martin*

By The Martin Family

*Bob and Avolyn Huycke*

By Richard Huycke

*Branan and Connor Elliott*

By Raleigh and Tish Elliott

*Bruce Armstrong*

By Jeffrey and Mary Stone

*Bruce Tanner*

By The Nickelsen Family

*Bryce Crawford*

By Betty C. Chapeau and Family

*Bucky Redwine*

By Karen Redwine

*Camilla Mims*

By Mary Lynn Lane

*Carl and LaRue Barnes*

By Carlyn Haley

*Caroline and Ted Ridlehuber*

By Susan and Phil Buchanan

*Caroline and Ted Ridlehuber*

By Amy and Shane O'Neill

*Charles and Harriet*

*Bingenheimer*

By Elisabeth G.

Bingenheimer

*Charles Candler Jordan, Sr.*

By Chuck and Sarah Jordan

*Cheryl Ann Taylor*

By Brent and Lisa Taylor

*Chuck Bingenheimer*

By Elisabeth G.

Bingenheimer

*Cindy Jaeger*

By Ed and Pam Michna

*Clyde Hardegree*

By Jeffrey and Mary Stone

*Col. Jack A. Turner*

By Muriel, Jackie, Mary, Chandelle, and Sandi

*Darris Crawford*

By Betty C. Chapeau and Family

*Deb Eikey*

By Mary Lynn Lane

*Debbie Willingham*

By The Partners Sunday School Class for Tom Willingham and the family of Jay and Tina Lord

*Debbie Willingham*

By Sanctuary Choir

*Deborah Sims Willingham*

By The Willingham and Lord Family

*Delores Kennedy Chorneyko*

By Dave and Gail Walton

*Derek Bain*

By Dave and Gail Walton

*Dewey Lindsay*

By Tammy and Duke Lindsay

*Dominica Scarcella*

By The Henningsen Family

*Dot and Wilbur Stovall*

By Mary Lynn Lane

*Dr. Jack and Juanita Waldrep, Sr.*

By Jack and Nancy Waldrep

*Dr. John Hill*

By Judy H. Hill

*Edris Schrader*

By Heather and Morgan Grace and Reagan Grace Usher

*Eduardo Prieto*

By Catherine L. Prieto

*Elise and Ed Prescott*

By Gary Sergent and Shelly Prescott

*Elizabeth Cox*

By Catherine L. Prieto

*Emma Lou and Maxie J.*

*Hubbard*

By Rachael and Eddie Dillon

*Ernest and Faye McClure*

By Rhonda B. McClure

*Frances and Willis Michna*

By Ed and Pam Michna

*Geoff Smith*

By Andrew and Campbell Smith

*George Kuhlman*

By Cindy Kuhlman

*Gerald Firth*

By Jan and Mark Firth

*Gerald Neil Fricks*

By Grimsley Family

*Geraldine Sims*

By The Henningsen Family

*Gordon Gore*

By Elisabeth G. Bingenheimer



*Grace Rabek*

By Nancy and Edward  
Sheppard

*Gretchen Jones*

By Bob and Holly Warnock

*Harry C. Thurmond*

By Sonny Thurmond

*Hogan Stanley*

By Gavin and Krystie  
Hassemer

*Hugh Larkey*

By Mark, Heather, Ryan,  
and Anna Foster

*James T. Blasingame*

By Alma Blasingame

*Jane and Bob Bowen*

By Bonnie and Jeff Turner

*Jane and Clark O'Neill*

By Amy and Shane O'Neill

*Janet U. Warner*

By Catherine B. Warner

*Jay Kimbro*

By Nick and Jessica Bennett

*Jennifer Kuhlman Pickwell*

By Cindy Kuhlman

*Jere Huggins*

By Lisa Huggins

*Jerri and Bob Williamson*

By Lucy and Brent Ullrich

*Jerry W. Jonas*

By The Hackleman Family

*Jim Neu*

By Pat Neu

*Jimmy Allen*

By Frances D. Allen

*Jimmy Neu*

By Tammy and Duke  
Lindsay

*Joan Shoemaker*

By Great-grandchildren  
Campbell and Mills Bahr

*John and Laurie Hansen*

By Patti Hurst

*John C. Spratlin*

By The Charles F. Edler  
Family

*John C. Spratlin*

By Kathryn C. Spratlin

*John Cox*

By Catherine L. Prieto

*Joseph Anthony Dillon, Jr.*

By Rachael and Eddie  
Dillon

*Joyce Grace*

By Heather and Morgan  
Grace and Reagan Grace  
Usher

*Katherine Rollins*

By The Henningsen Family

*Lanier and Lynda Craft*

By Jack and Nancy Waldrep

*Libbo and James Belger*

By Rosemary and Jim  
Belger

*Lois and Edward J. Saseen*

By Rachael and Eddie  
Dillon

*Lon Hadden*

By Chuck and Deb Hadden

*Lorraine Breen*

By The Williams Families

*Louie A. Brown*

By Frances Brown

*Louise and William E.*

*Burton*

By Rachael and Eddie  
Dillon

*Lucy and Tryon Huggins*

By Lucy and Brent Ullrich

*Lucy Huggins*

By Lisa Huggins

*Margaret Turner*

By Bonnie and Jeff Turner

*Martha and Kenny Walker*

By Ed and Pam Michna

*Martin and Bobbie Gates*

By Peggy Gates

*Mary Jon and Connie Branch*

By Mary Lane, Danny and  
Dorothy Todd



*Mary Leslie and Clarence Edmondson*

By Alejandra and Ryan Ferguson

*Mary Moore*

By Katy, Kevin, Samantha, Bo, Baylen, and McRae

*Mary Virginia Warnock*

By Bob and Holly Warnock

*Matthew Nichols*

By Kathryn, Edward, and Ashley Nichols

*Michael Zielinski*

By The Zielinski Family - Alan, Laci, Lincoln and Ada

*Mike Beckum*

By Michelle, Robert, and William Beckum

*Mr. Alton Kenneth Hall*

By Carey, Stacy, Bo, and Hank Stephens

*Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Poss, Jr.*

By Bobby Poss, III

*Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Poss, Sr.*

By Bobby Poss, III

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wade Stephens*

By Carey, Stacy, Bo, and Hank Stephens

*Norman Rabek, Sr.*

By Nancy and Edward Sheppard

*Our Parents*

By Dave and Gail Walton

*Patricia McNeilly*

By Heather and Morgan Grace and Reagan Grace Usher

*Paula Waters*

By David and April Allen

*Pauline B. Chapeau*

By Betty C. Chapeau and Family

*Punkin Brookshire*

By Lisa Frierson

*Randy Dahl*

By Ed and Pam Michna

*Rev. Bob and Dell Kerr*

By Richard Huycke

*Richard Rabek*

By Nancy and Edward Sheppard

*Rochelle, Leona, Violet, and Vonda Tyler*

By Sharon Campbell

*Rosa and Bill Green*

By Rosemary and Jim Belger

*Ryan Rutherford*

By The Henningsen Family

*Ted Sergeant*

By Gary Sergeant and Shelly Prescott

*Thomas Joseph Ferrell, Jr.*

By Chuck and Sarah Jordan

*Timothy Furlow, Jr.*

By His Family

*Tommie Lewis*

By Nick and Jessica Bennett

*Tommy Wilbanks*

By Nick and Jessica Bennett

*Travis Jonas*

By The Hackleman Family

*Tryon Huggins*

By Lisa Huggins

*Wallace Jan Hunnicutt*

By Theresa Hunnicutt

*Walter D. Crawford*

By Betty C. Chapeau and Family

*Walter Wilson*

By Shirley Wilson

*William (Bill) Bracewell*

By The McCullick Family

*William Harris Haley, III*

By Carlyn Haley

*William Meade Gresham*

By Grimsley Family

# THE STEEPLE

*March 31, 2024*



## Missions Celebration Brunch

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

### Missions Celebration Brunch | Save the Date

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, April 28**, to celebrate what God has done through AFUMC in the past year! The Missions Celebration Brunch is a morning full of fun and fellowship around a delicious meal, accompanied by a silent basket auction.

Ways to Get Involved:

1. Register online so we know to expect you!
2. Gather your group, class, family, or friends and donate a basket to be bid on! The fun and unique baskets are always a highlight of the brunch each year!
3. Help us decorate and get ready for the brunch on Saturday, April 27.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions

[sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)



## Biblical History Center Trip

Thursday, May 2

### Biblical History Center Trip | May 2

We invite you to travel with us on a tour of the Biblical History Center in LaGrange, Georgia, on **Thursday, May 2**. Guided tours include a walk through the Archaeological Replica Garden, where full-scale reconstruction of structures of daily life in Biblical times bring history to life, along with a tour of the Biblical Life Artifacts Gallery, which houses 250 biblical period artifacts from the Israel Antiquities Authority. We also will participate in a Biblical Meal. This experience explains ancient meal practices, including Passover and the Last Supper. The trip is \$75 per person, which includes the guided tour of the Archaeological Replica Garden and Biblical Life Artifacts Gallery, the Biblical Meal, tax, and gas for the bus. Please register by scanning the QR code in your bulletin. For more information, contact Cindy.

Cindy McKoy, Director of Small Groups | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org)

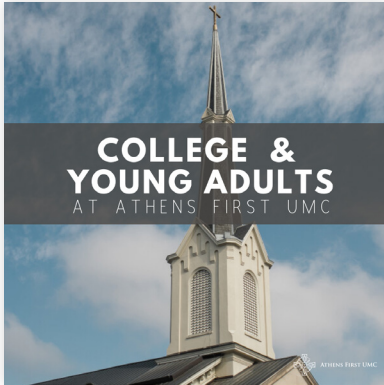


### Scuba VBS | June 3-6

Scuba VBS will be full of Bible adventures, games, music, snacks, hugs, high-fives, and sciency-fun "wows"! Don't miss all the "fin-tastic" fun God has in store during the summer's best week! Kids **going into grades K-5 in the fall of 2024** will participate in the elementary program, learning about God's friendship and exploring the deep blue sea. Going into 6th Grade this fall? You will have your own Aquatic realm buoying between our AFUMC campus and offsite mission opportunities. Register today by scanning the QR code above and join us for Scuba VBS!

Traci Lowry, Director of Children's Ministry

[traci@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:traci@athensfirstumc.org)



## College and Young Adult Ministry

**Sunday Lunch: April 14th at Noon** Join us for a delicious home-cooked meal and our last Sunday Lunch gathering of the spring.

**Sunday School: Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.** We are beginning a new study on 2nd Corinthians next Sunday!

**Small Group: Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.** Consider joining us for dinner beforehand between 5:00 and 6:15 pm. Dinner is on us!

**Summer at AFUMC:** Whether you're back home for the summer or staying in Athens, join us for Sunday School and our summer events.

Learn more and sign up for updates at [athensfirstumc.org/college](http://athensfirstumc.org/college)

Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister  
[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org)



## Student Ministry Fall Retreats

Join us for two exciting retreats to kick off the school year! MOMENTUM welcomes high school youth from **August 16-18** for worship, speakers, and activities at Strong Rock Camp in Cleveland, GA. For middle school and confirmation youth, SPARK is from **August 23-25** at Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, GA. Dig into the word Spark and its significance for our faith through worship, small group sessions, and adventures in Dahlonega. Register by June 1 to receive a \$20 discount and a free AFUMC Student Ministry T-shirt and after June 1-July 1 you will receive a free AFUMC Student Ministry T-shirt! Registration is now open. Scan the QR code in your bulletin to register.

Hannah Stubblefield, Director of Student Ministry  
[hannah@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:hannah@athensfirstumc.org)



## Summer Basketball Camps

Join us this summer for three Summer Basketball Camps! We invite all children ages 4-10 to learn new basketball tips, tricks, and skills. Camp dates and prices are **June 10-14** at \$150, **July 8-11** at \$125, and **July 22-26** at 150, which will include a shirt. Extended Care will also be offered for this camp Monday-Thursday from 12:00-5:00 p.m. at an additional cost of \$100. Registration will close on July 3 or when all the spots are filled. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon! You can click below to register for all 3 camps. We look forward to having you here with us this summer.

Savonte Wilson, Recreation Coordinator  
[savonte@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:savonte@athensfirstumc.org)

## SERMON NOTES:

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## MEMBER NEWS:

### Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Kasey Clayton and her family in the loss of her sister, Janice Johnson, on January 21.

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## 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



"AFUMCTTG" to 73256

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**February Goal** \$261,388 | **February Giving:** \$208,513

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## FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

**Rev. Jeremy Lawson** | Senior Minister  
[jeremy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:jeremy@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-304-3574

**Rev. Betsy Butler** | Associate Minister  
[betsy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:betsy@athensfirstumc.org) | 706-714-1559

**Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby** | Associate Minister  
[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-414-1701

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson** | Associate Minister  
[nancy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:nancy@athensfirstumc.org) | 762-233-4761

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## 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](mailto:prayer@athensfirstumc.org).

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

327 N LUMPKIN ST. ATHENS, GA 30601 • 706-543-1442 | [athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org)