



*defining*  
**CHURCH**

Confirmation Sunday

April 21, 2024

9:30 & 11:00 a.m.



ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

# *The Worship of God*

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\*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** Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon McAdams, David McAdams and Barbara and Hal McAdams by the McAdams family.

**In celebration and honor of** the beauty and wonders of God's creation and our Athens-area downtown churches by the Music Ministry with gratitude to the Flower Guild.

*Today, there will be no 11:00 a.m. Children's Church for PreK- grade 4.*

*We are excited to invite children to remain in worship with their families to celebrate our 2024 Confirmands.*

*Little worship bags are available outside the Sanctuary door and in the Narthex.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Prelude* | "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" | Craig Phillips  
Raina Wood, Organist

*The Welcome and Opening Prayer*

9:30 a.m. | Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby

11:00 a.m. | Rev. Betsy Butler

*The Choral Introit* | "Louez Le Seigneur" | CAMEROON PROCESSIONAL

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music

*Translation from French: Praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name, Alleluia!*

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

\**The Processional Hymn* | UMH 159 "Lift High the Cross" | CRUCIFER

*\*The Affirmation of Faith* | Written by the 2024 Confirmation Class  
11:00 a.m. | Court Carpenter and Bentley Scruggs

**We believe in God our Father. We believe God created the world and humanity. We believe God loves us, forgives us, and accepts us. We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he is both fully human and fully divine. We believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected on the third day. We believe Jesus is part of the Holy Trinity and promised us the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides us and intercedes for us. We believe the Holy Spirit is everywhere. We believe the Bible is true and is the word of God. We believe the Bible tells a story of faith, love, and redemption. We believe the Bible teaches us lessons, how to live, and how to pray. We believe in the Church. We believe the Church is where we come to praise God and learn about God. We believe the Church is our community where We pray for each other and is a safe place for us to grow and experience God's love for us. We believe humans are created in the image of God. We believe that humans are sinful and imperfect, in need of God's saving grace. We believe that we are loved by God and that we are forgiven. We believe that being a disciple of Christ is living out our salvation, building our relationship with God, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. 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.**

*\*The Passing of the Peace*

*The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer* | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

**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 451 "Be Thou My Vision" | SLANE

*The Offering and Offertory Anthem*

"The Lord of the Dance" | arr. John Ferguson

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*The words to this anthem can be found on page 261 of The United Methodist Hymnal*

*\*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* | 1 Peter 2:1-10

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

*The Message* | “A Church Defined by Transformation” | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

## RESPONSE

*The Service of Confirmation* | 11:00 a.m.

*\*The Profession of Faith* | Hannah Stubblefield, Director of Student Ministry

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

*\*The Parent Response*

Parents, will you nurture these children in Christ’s holy church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God’s grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **We will.**

## *\*The Congregational Response*

*Respond as directed*

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

## *\*The Commendation and Reception of the 2024 Confirmands*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

## *\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 545 "The Church's One Foundation" | AURELIA

## *The Introduction of the Confirmands*

*See bulletin insert*

## *\*The Blessing*

## *\*The Postlude*

"...and thanksgivings may follow." from *Rubrics* | Dan Locklair

# THE STEEPLE

April 21, 2024



## **For the Beauty of the Earth: Hymn Festival**

Join us **this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.** for a festival service of hymns led by renowned organist and conductor Dr. Marilyn Keiser. Together, with choirs and clergy from some of our Athens downtown churches, we will gather as a community to celebrate the wonders of God's creation through the great hymns of our faith accompanied by brass, handbells, and organ.

Featuring the choirs of Athens First United Methodist Church - First Baptist Church Athens - First Christian Church Athens - First Presbyterian Church of Athens - Emmanuel Episcopal Church

A reception will follow the festival in Hancock Hall.

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music | [ryan@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:ryan@athensfirstumc.org)



## **Missions Celebration Brunch Baskets**

All donated baskets for the Silent Basket Auction at the Missions Celebration Brunch are due to the church on **Wednesday, April 24**. **If you plan to drop off a basket, please be sure to let us know by registering on the Missions Webpage.** Baskets can be dropped off at the church's front desk.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions  
[sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)



## **Scuba VBS | Register Today!**

Scuba VBS is going to be full of Bible adventures, games, music, snacks, hugs, high-fives and sciency-fun "wows"! Don't miss all of the "fin-tastic" fun God has in store at the summer's best week ever! Kids who will be 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. **Register today by scanning the QR code in your bulletin!**

Traci Lowry, Director of Children's Ministry  
[traci@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:traci@athensfirstumc.org)

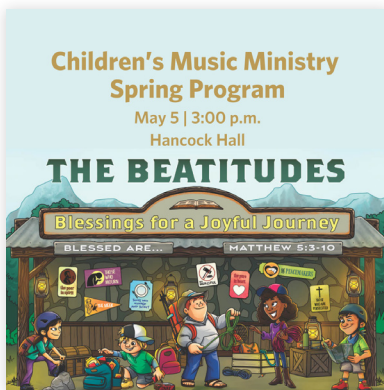




## Senior Fun Luncheon | April 25

Make your reservation today for our April Senior Fun Luncheon. Michael Grimsley, Mortgage Loan Officer for Cadence Bank, will be our guest speaker. Michael, a member of our church, will talk with us about fraud and what we can do to protect ourselves. There are many ways that deceptive people try to gain access to our funds, and Michael will help us understand what they are and what we can do about it. These people are extremely sophisticated in what they do, and our best defense is to understand what fraud looks like. **Please sign up by calling the church office at (706) - 543- 1442.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson, Associate Minister  
[nancy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:nancy@athensfirstumc.org)



## Children's Choirs Spring Program

Children's Music Ministry will present "The Beatitudes: Blessings For A Joyful Journey" on **Sunday May 5, at 3:00 p.m.** in Hancock Hall. Our children, ages 3 through 4th grade, have spent this year singing about the good things we can do and the good ways we can be, when we listen to God's word. Come and listen to all we have learned!

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Youth Music  
[janis@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org)



## Neighborhood Groups

We are excited to invite you to consider joining a Neighborhood Group this fall. These multi-generational groups would meet once a quarter or once a month to allow church members to meet other members. We would love for you to experience connecting with brothers and sisters in Christ as we support one another and offer prayers. **If you are interested in joining a Neighborhood Group, you can register by scanning the QR code above.** Please indicate on the form if you would like to be a shepherd for a group by opening your home or hosting at church or a restaurant. If you would like more information, you can contact Jennifer or Cindy.

Jennifer Chambers | [jbchambers211@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbchambers211@bellsouth.net)  
Cindy McKoy, Director of Small Groups | [cindy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:cindy@athensfirstumc.org)

## MEMBER NEWS

### Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Margaret Howard and her family in the loss of her sister, Catherine Herndon, on March 27.

### Baptism

We celebrate that Reuben Adams Chandler, IV, son of Loren and Trey Chandler, received the sacrament of baptism on April 14.

### New Members

On April 14, we welcomed Kaye and Terry Davis as well as Melissa Roberts and her sons Clay and Walker Roberts to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

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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

**March Goal** \$266,855 | **March Giving:** \$206,661

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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

## 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).

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CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

**ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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