

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 Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bird Moore Sr., on their 78th wedding anniversary, by Carolyn Moore Daniel, Sissy and Rocky Moore, and their families.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Andante" from *Sonata in C minor*, Op. 27 | Joseph Rheinberger Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:30 a.m. | Rev. Jeremy Lawson 11:00 a.m. | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

The Celebration of New Clergy

Beau Seagraves, Chair of Staff Parish Relations

*The Call to Worship

Minister: For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, myself will search for my sheep and

will seek them out.

People: As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that

have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them.

Minister: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who wander, longing for home;

People: God will be the one to tend his sheep and to search for the lost,

bringing back the strayed and strengthening the weak.

Minister: Come, let us celebrate and rejoice in the reconciling love of God.

People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and

welcomed home.

All: Let us worship God!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*The Opening Hymn

UMH 340 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" | RESTORATION

*The Affirmation of Faith of The United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. 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 Sacrament of Baptism | 9:30 a.m.

Laine Catherine Shumate, daughter of Kylie and Nick Shumate
Laine, Laine, 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. Laine, Laine, God claims you, God helps you,
protects you, and loves you too.

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

Jane Bradford Allgood, daughter of Sarah and Matt Allgood
Jane, Jane, 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. Jane, Jane, God claims you, God helps you, protects
you, and loves you too.

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 348 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" | THOMPSON Verses 1, 2 and 4

The Offering and Offertory Solo

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" | Tom Trenney Sung by Callie Waller, soprano; Ryan Ferguson, piano

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love. Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help I've come; and I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee: prone to wander, Lord, to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Text by Robert Robinson, 1758.

*The $Doxology \mid$ 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 | Luke 15:1-7 The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Message | Rev. Montana Hamby "Wanted and Wandering"

RESPONSE

*The Hymn of Response
UMH 378 "Amazing Grace" | AMAZING GRACE

*The Blessing and Congregational Response

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" | DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

*The Postlude

"Fugue in C Major" | Dietrich Buxtehude

THE STEEPLE



Special Offering | Murphy Harpst | July 20

On **Sunday, July 20**, we will take up a special offering for Murphy-Harpst. Murphy-Harpst provides hope and healing to severely abused and neglected children and youth through residential treatment, foster care, and creative therapeutic approaches. Over one-third of their annual support comes from United Methodist Churches! Please give generously and be a part of a nearly 100-year legacy of serving Georgia's most vulnerable children. **Give in-person during the 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. worship service on July 20 or online by scanning the QR code in your bulletin.** If you would prefer to pay by check, make payable to Athens First UMC and mail to 327 N. Lumpkin Street, Athens, Georgia 30601. Please note "Murphy-Harpst Offering" in the memo field.



Summer Adult Sunday School | Next Week

Join us next **Sunday, July 20, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** in Hancock Hall as we continue our Summer Adult Sunday School series, Spiritual Practices of the Church. Next week, Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship and Summer Fellow for the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, will lead an exploration on the practice of Worship—from candles to paraments, acolytes to processionals, together we will examine the origins and meanings of our Methodist liturgy and how these elements can deepen our worship and ultimately, our relationship with God and one another. Come for the coffee and donuts, stay for the rich conversation—and bring a friend as we continue this meaningful summer journey together!

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Director of Small Groups lisa@athensfirstumc.org



Emergency Response Team Training

Do you have a desire to serve on a disaster relief team in our local region, where areas are damaged by unexpected weather-related disasters? If so, we invite you to join us this **Saturday**, **July 19**, in Hancock Hall for a special training session that will equip you to serve on an early response team.

For more information about UM Disaster Relief efforts and to register for the ERT training, scan the QR code in your bulletin!

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

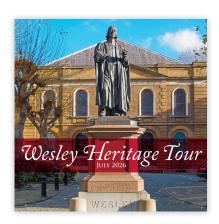




Back to School Blessing and Block Party

Join us for our Back to School Blessing on Sunday, August 3, at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. This special service is a wonderful opportunity for our entire church to come together and pray for our students and educators as they prepare for the new school year. After worship, join us for our We're So Back Block Party where you can enjoy Kona Ice while exploring ministry opportunities for ALL ages. Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends for this meaningful and joyous morning together.

Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister natalee@athensfirstumc.org



Wesley Heritage Tour | Information Session

Are you interested in joining Rev. Jeremy Lawson and Dr. Tom Jackson on the Wesley Heritage Tour to England in July 2026?

Join us for an information session on **Sunday, July 27, at 12:15 p.m. in Hancock Hall.** Jeremy and Tom will be there to share details about the itinerary, cost, and travel plans, and to answer any questions you may have.

To learn more, scan the QR code in your bulletin.



Student Ministry Fall Retreats

Registration has opened for the 2025 Middle School and High School Fall Retreats! High School Fall Retreat will be August 16-17 at Camp Strong Rock in Cleveland, Georgia. Middle School Fall Retreat and Confirmation Retreat will be August 22-24 at Camp Glisson in Dahlonega, Georgia! We will be offering Confirmation to students in grades 6 and 7 this year. Please register your Confirmand for Confirmation and not the Middle School Retreat. Their Confirmation registration includes the retreat!

Registration includes all meals, lodging, activities, and a t-shirt. **Scan the QR code in your bulletin for more information and to register.**

Hannah Stubblefield, Director of Student Ministry hannah@athensfirstumc.org



BICENTENNIAL player focus — JULY | REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM

As soon as Jesus was baptized by John, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased".

Matthew 3:16-17

SERMON NOTES:

FINANCIAL REPORT | As of July 6, 2025:

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$1,746,611 | YTD Actual Giving: \$1,775,397 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$1,818,987

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. Dr. Nancy Johnson | Associate Minister 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.

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880