

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 Nancy and Chester Witherington by Blake Witherington, Leslie Muscarella, and Carole Lumpkin.

Children's Church returns today at 11:00 a.m.

Pre-K and younger are welcome to be dropped off in the nursery prior to service.

Kindergarten through Grade 4 are invited to exit with the Kids Ministry team during the hymn following the Prayers of the People. They can be picked up in Hancock Hall following the service.

Grade 5 kids are invited to pick up a service activity guide created just for them. They are located in the Narthex and at the lectern entrance to the Sanctuary.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Orison on Psalm 5:3" | Douglas Wagner Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:30 a.m. | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson 11:00 a.m. | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Choral Introit

"O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord" | Charles Callahan Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in him with psalms. Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise! Psalm 95:1-2

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*The Processional Hymn
UMH 73 "O Worship the King" | LYONS

*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.

*The Passing of the Peace

The Sacrament of Baptism | 9:30 a.m.

Smith Rollins McDonald, son of Destiny and Jordan McDonald

Smith, Smith, 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. Smith, Smith, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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

Beau Thomas Bennett, son of Jessica and Nicholas Bennett

Beau, Beau, 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. Beau, Beau, 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 474 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" | PRECIOUS LORD

During the singing of the hymn at 11:00 a.m., children Kindergarten 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 Hancock Hall.

The Offering and Offertory Anthem

"He Leadeth Me" | Benjamin Wegner Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

The text of this anthem can be found on page 128 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!

PROCLAMATION

The Scripture Reading | Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson "Baggage: Letting Go of Anxiety"

RESPONSE

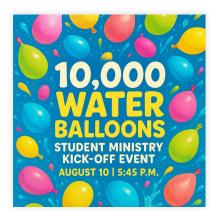
*The Hymn of Response
UMH 160 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" | MARION

*The Blessing and Choral Benediction | John Rutter

*The Postlude

"A Festive Trumpet Tune on Psalm 98:6" | Douglas Wagner

THE STEEPLE



Student Ministry Kick-Off Event | Tonight

We are excited for the new school year and can't wait to kick it off tonight in Student Ministry.

Get the party started in the choir room at **4:30 p.m. with Janis and the**Wesleyan Youth Choir as we start our 2025-26 Season, then stay for dinner at **5:45 p.m.**, a chance to meet your small group, and an epic night of water games and the largest water balloon fight you have ever been part of! Invite your friends because you won't want to miss this night!

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

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



College Ministry Welcome Week | You're Invited!

College students, welcome back! Don't miss these opportunities to connect:

North of the Arch | August 11, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. College Cookout + Color Wars | August 14, 6:30 p.m.

Come hungry and ready to get messy—this epic night includes a **cookout** and **color powder fight!**

Welcome Back Lunch | August 17, 12:00 p.m.

The Insta Drop | August 18-19

Follow @athensfirstcya on Instagram for pop-up giveaways and surprise meet-ups across Athens.

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



Wednesday Night BINGO | August 20

We are excited to host a night of fellowship and fun on **August 20** with BINGO. We will participate in multiple games of BINGO, while enjoying some Hot Dogs and Hamburgers served with Tator Tots and a Salad Bar for \$5! We will begin serving our meal at 5:00 p.m. and will continue to serve dinner throughout the evening. BINGO games will begin at 5:45 p.m. You can scan the QR code on the next page to register or call the church office to enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers and games from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome; however, we would love to know you are coming so we can ensure enough food for all.

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





Wednesday Night Dinner | Register Today

Wednesday Night Dinners are back beginning **August 27**! We invite you to join us for fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by our very own Mitch Bain. Every week we will also offer a salad bar option. Dinner is served from **5:00-6:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall**. Adult Meals or Salad Bar Only is \$10, and our child-friendly option is \$5. All orders must be placed by Tuesday at noon. Our church staff is happy to assist you if you have any trouble ordering online. Register by scanning the QR code!

August 27 | Pork Tenderloin served with Lima Beans and Scalloped Potatoes

September 3 | Fried Chicken served with Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes and a Roll



The Heartthrobs Luncheon | September 3

We are pleased to invite you to the Heartthrobs Luncheon on **Wednesday**, **September 3**, **at 11:45** a.m. **at Hilltop Grille**. The Heartthrobs is a men's support group for those who have experienced heart-related health issues such as heart surgery, pacemakers, heart disease, and other cardiovascular problems. At this meeting, we'll hear from Tom Jackson, author of Forward Through the Ages. Join us for a time of great food and fellowship.

If you plan to attend, please call the church office at 706-543-1442 or register online to reserve your place at Hilltop Grille. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Cash or check only. For more information about this group, contact Jud Guest at <code>jguest@ladtrucklines.com</code> or Joe Block at <code>joetblock@gmail.com</code>.



New Member Sunday | August 17

You're invited to join our Athens First United Methodist Church community! If you've been considering becoming a member, we would love to welcome you. Our next Membership Sunday will be on **August 17**, a special opportunity to take the next step in your faith journey through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Whether you're new to the area or have been attending for a while, know that we would love to welcome you into membership.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby for more information about our membership process.

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister natalaee@athensfirstumc.org

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me."

Mark 14:35-36

Hymnal: 290 and 314

MEMBER NEWS

New Arrival

Congratulations to Rachel and Jarrett Rabe on the birth of their son, James Thomas Rabe, on July 26.

FINANCIAL REPORT | As of August 3, 2025 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$2,008,215 | YTD Actual Giving: \$1,946,703 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$2,087,255

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