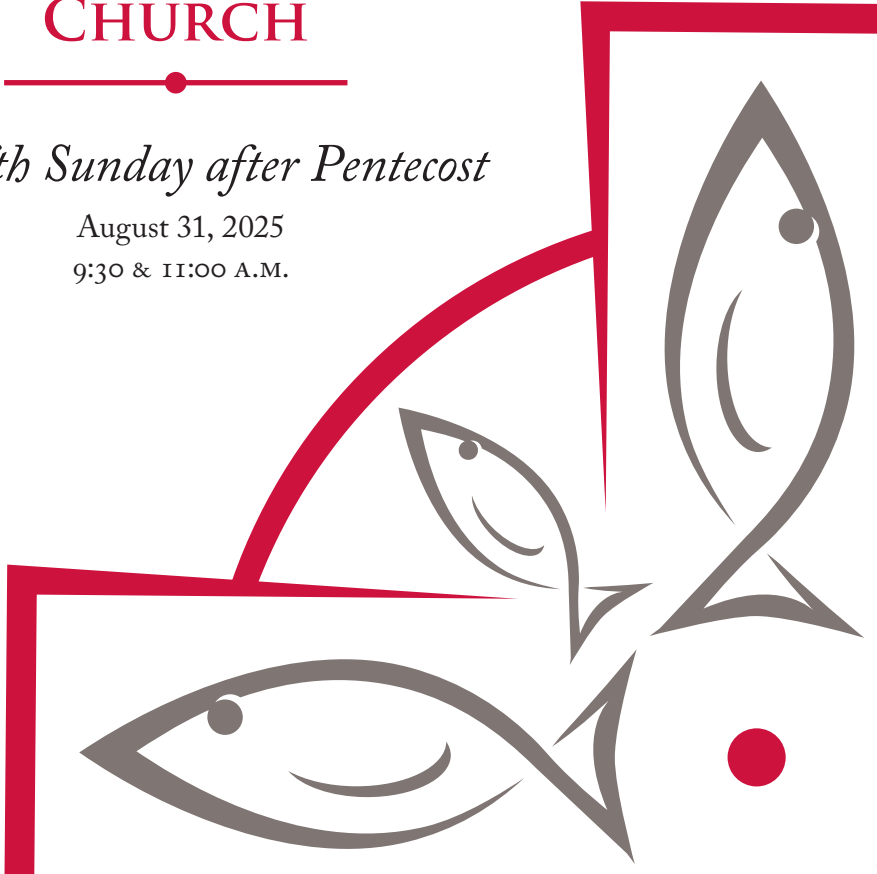


ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

9:30 & 11:00 A.M.



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.



THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of Caroline and Ted Ridlehuber by their children and grandchildren.

Today, there will be no 11:00 a.m. Children's Church for Kindergarten through grade four.

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

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Gaelic Air" | Keith Chapman

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes 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 384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | BEECHER

**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. Amen.

**The Passing of the Peace*

The Responsive Reading | Psalm 46 | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

Cantor: God, you are my refuge and my strength, a present help in trouble.

All singing: God, you are my refuge and my strength, a present help in trouble.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city which shall not be moved;

God will help it at the dawn of the day.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

God's voice resounds, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

All singing: God, you are my refuge and my strength, a present help in trouble.

Come, behold the works of the Lord,

who has wrought desolations in the earth;

who makes wars cease to the end of the earth,

breaks the bow, shatters the spear,

and burns the shields with fire!

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

All singing: God, you are my refuge and my strength, a present help in trouble.

The Prayers of the People and 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 Hymn

UMH 381 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" | BRADBURY

Verses 1, 2 and 4

The Offering and Offertory Anthem

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" | arr. Cathy Moglebust

Rung by the Athens First Carillon

**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 | Proverbs 3:1-6

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Baggage: Letting Go of Control”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 451 “Be Thou My Vision” | SLANE

**The Blessing*

**The Choral Benediction* | John Rutter

**The Postlude*

“Postlude” | William Mathias

THE STEEPLE

August 31, 2025



Fall Small Groups and Bible Studies

Fall is here, and it's the perfect season to find your place in community. Our small groups and Bible studies are a wonderful way to share life, grow in faith, and build lasting friendships.

There's something for everyone—no matter your season of life or schedule.

Pick up a flyer in the church or scan the QR code to see all the opportunities and sign up today!

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



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 jguest@ladtrucklines.com or Joe Block at joetblock@gmail.com.



Wednesday Night Dinner

Country Western Night | September 17

Saddle up and get ready for a ride through the Wild West. It's time to throw the ultimate western-themed party. All outlaws, cowgirls, and bandits, join us for Wednesday Night Dinner on **September 17** for some yummy Ribs, Mac and Cheese, and Baked Beans. We have lassoed one of the best country singers in town, Thomas Gay. **Live music will begin at 5:15 p.m.** Come dressed in your best cowboy and cowgirl gear.

We look forward to a Darn Tootin' Good Time!

Alisha Bain, Administrative Assistant | alisha@athensfirstumc.org



Piano Concertos of Rachmaninoff and Grieg September 21 | 3:00 p.m.

Virtuoso husband-and-wife piano and organ duo, Chuyoung Suter and Erik William Suter, will kick off our season with a tour-de-force program: Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto and Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. In this afternoon concert, Erik will bring Grieg's orchestral score to life at the Quimby Sanctuary Organ, while Chuyoung performs the stunning piano solos, and after intermission, they will switch places—with Chuyoung at the organ and Erik at the piano! Graduates of the Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music and former musicians of Washington National Cathedral, this duo will offer an inspiring start to the season you won't want to miss. *Reception in Hancock Hall following the recital.*

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship | ryan@athensfirstumc.org



Men's Breakfast | September 20

Men of the church, join us for our Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, September 20, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall.** We are excited to welcome our Senior Minister, Rev. Jeremy Lawson, as our speaker, with Ben Griffith leading the devotion. The cost is \$10, and we encourage men of all ages to invite friends and neighbors. **Please register by Wednesday, September 17.**

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



Third Grade Bibles Sunday | September 28

One of our most exciting milestones is when children receive their very own Bible from their church family. This Bible represents our church's care for our youngest disciples, helping them begin their journey of better understanding God's word and developing a personal relationship with God. We will celebrate this special morning with our Third Graders and their families during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Immediately following the service, our third graders and their parents/guardians are invited to gather in Hancock Hall for a delicious lunch and a fun "How to Use Your New Bible" workshop led by one of our wonderful clergy. Childcare and lunch will be provided for siblings. Please be sure to register by scanning the QR code above!

Traci Lowry, Director of Kids at Athens First | traci@athensfirstumc.org



BICENTENNIAL *prayer focus* — AUGUST | GOD'S WILL

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

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

Elizabeth "Betty" Argo
August 20, 2025

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Elizabeth "Betty" Argo, who passed away on August 20.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 1, for Labor Day**. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday.



SEPTEMBER 3: Fried Chicken served with green beans, mashed potatoes and a roll.

Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan the Steeple QR Code to register online or Call the Church Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT | As of August 24, 2025 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$2,199,954 | YTD Actual Giving: \$2,106,969 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$2,209,022

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

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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