

# GOING DEEP



Fifteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025  
9:30 & 11:00 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.

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 honor of** Chuyoung and Erik William Suter, the opening artists of our 2025-2026 Sanctuary Concert Series, by the Outreach Sunday School Class and Music Ministry with gratitude to the Flower Guild.

## **GATHERING**

### *The Prelude*

"Prelude in A minor," BWV 543 | Johann Sebastian Bach

Raina Wood, Organist

### *The Welcome and Opening Prayer* | Rev. Montana Hamby

### *The Choral Call to Worship*

"Louez Le Seigneur" | CAMEROON PROCESSIONAL

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir and Sanctuary Choir

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

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

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

### *\*The Processional Hymn*

TFWS 2009 “O God, Beyond All Praising” | THAXTED

### *\*The Prayer of Confession*

Minister: Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**All: O Gracious God, you love us deeply, yet we take your love for granted. Rather than trusting you, we trust the gifts you have given us. We have forgotten that every good and perfect gift comes from you, and we confess that we fail to give to others when you have so generously given to us. Grow our love for you and our neighbor so that we might be more generous with all you have given to us. Holy Spirit, shape our hearts into a posture of gratitude and open our hands to give, so that others might see your generous grace and love.**

*All pray in silence.*

Minister: Hear the good news: God’s love never ends.  
His mercies, never ceasing, are new each morning.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory 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. Amen.**

### *\*The Passing of the Peace*

*The Welcoming of New Members* | 11:00 a.m.

## *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 347 "Spirit Song" | SPIRIT SONG

*During the singing of the hymn at 11:00 a.m., children grades Kindergarten-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 Stewardship Moment*

## *The Offering and Offertory Anthem*

"Shine on Me" | Rollo Dilworth

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir and Sanctuary Choir; Timothy Berry, piano

9:30 a.m. | Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry

11:00 a.m. | Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

*Shine on me. I wonder if the lighthouse will shine on me. Is a light shining above? Is it shining above in the heavens for me? I'm wondering if there's a light that is shining above in the heavens for me.*

*Will it shine on me?* Traditional Spiritual

## *\*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* | Matthew 6:19-24

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

*The Message* | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Deep Stuff”

## RESPONSE

*\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 368 “My Hope Is Built” | THE SOLID ROCK

*\*The Blessing*

*\*The Choral Benediction* | Philip Stopford

*May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm up on your face; the rains fall soft down up on your fields. And until we meet again, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*\*The Postlude*

“I. Allegro” from *Concerto in A minor*, BWV 593 | Antonio Vivaldi  
Transcribed by J.S. Bach



## Piano Concertos of Rachmaninoff and Grieg Today | 3:00 p.m.

Virtuoso piano and organ duo, Chuyoung Suter and Erik William Suter, will kick off our season with Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto and Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. Erik will bring Grieg's orchestral score to life at the Quimby Sanctuary Organ with Chuyoung performing the stunning piano solos. Then, 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 concert. Free admission; no tickets required.*

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



## The Sweet Life Luncheon | September 25

Join us for lunch and fellowship this **Thursday, September 25!** **The ACC Chief of Police & Staff will be our guest to discuss the latest innovations in public safety,** and lunch prepared by The Master's Table will be served at 12:00 noon in Hancock Hall, followed by our program at 12:30 p.m. (lasting about an hour). The Sweet Life is a warm and welcoming monthly gathering for Athens First UMC members and friends age 50 and up. Each month, we enjoy music, fellowship, and helpful tips for living joyful, healthy, and full lives. RSVP by noon on **Wednesday, September 24**, online or by calling the church office. We can't wait to see you there!

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

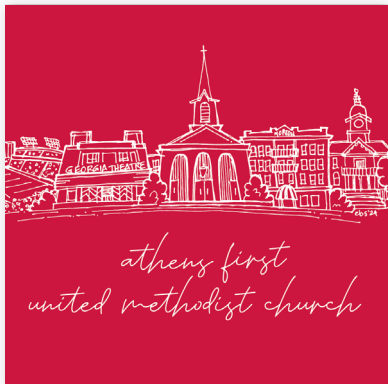


## College and Young Adults | UNITED Night September 28 | 7:00 p.m.

College Students and Young Adults are invited to join us for worship on **Sunday, September 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.** UNITED Nights are our monthly worship nights that include college and young adult-led worship, a relevant message for our lives, and conclude together at the Communion table. Come UNITE with our young adults at Athens First! **Upcoming nights are October 12, November 16, and December 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

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





## Consecration Sunday | October 5

On **Sunday, October 5**, we'll celebrate Consecration Sunday, a day where we offer praise and thanksgiving for God's gifts and in return consecrate our gifts—our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness—to the Glory of God. Together, we will share in a beautiful morning of worship with Holy Communion, the opportunity to bring our 2026 pledge cards forward, and a churchwide celebration after both services on North Lumpkin Street in front of the sanctuary.



## Wesleyan Youth Choir Registration

The Wesleyan Youth Choir kicks off their 2025-26 Season by joining the Sanctuary Choir for a powerful gospel anthem in worship TODAY! **The youth choir is open to all students in grades 6-12. We rehearse on Sundays from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. and would love for you to join us!** We sing in worship, in our community, and all over the nation on our annual Choir Tour. Register by scanning the QR code in your bulletin or contact Janis Maxwell for more information. Come Find Your Voice with the Wesleyan Youth Choir!

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



## Elijah Project Registration Closes Tonight

The Elijah Project is an inter-generational prayer ministry connecting adults and students in grades 6-12 in our congregation through consistent, expectant prayer.

Students and adults partner together in prayer, rejoicing, giving thanks for the highs, and giving comfort and encouragement during the lows. This ministry blesses youth and adults alike each year. Please consider joining and becoming a prayer partner today! For more information and to register, please scan the QR code above.

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

## MEMBER NEWS

### In Memoriam

Ed Michna  
September 11, 2025

### Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Ed Michna, who passed away on September 11.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Frieda Clarke and her family in the loss of her mother, LaVerne Carroll Barber, on September 6.

### Baptism

We celebrate that Robert Wooten Brown son of Maggie and Will Brown, received the sacrament of baptism on September 14.

### New Members

On September 14, we welcomed Maggie and Will Brown to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

### New Arrival

Congratulations to Lauren and Sam Albright on the birth of their son, Fisher Samuel Albright, on September 5.



**SEPTEMBER 24: Shrimp and Grits served with a side salad.**

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT | As of September 14, 2025** ([finance@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:finance@athensfirstumc.org)):

**2025 YTD Giving Goal:** \$2,395,057 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$2,239,628 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$2,689,970

### 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](mailto:jeremy@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-304-3574

**Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby** | Associate Minister

[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-414-1701

**Rev. Montana Hamby** | Associate Minister

[montana@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:montana@athensfirstumc.org) | 770-633-3140

**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).

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

**ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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