

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 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.

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

In loving memory of Eleanor Holtz and son Jim Holtz by Hal Holtz and family.

In loving memory of Bruce Armstrong by his daughter, Mary Stone.

In loving memory of Beynon Lynch, Marianne and Powell Griffith, Natalie and Julius Erdoes, and Margaret and Al Holland by Grace and Corey Erdoes, the bride and groom.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" | Dietrich Buxtehude
Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Moment for Clergy Appreciation

Beau Seagraves, Chair of Staff-Parish Relations Committee

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 110 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” | EIN FESTE BURG

**The Affirmation of Faith | “The Nicene Creed”*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 Sacrament of Baptism | 11:00 a.m.

Amelia Thomasson Newsome, daughter of Emily and David Newsome

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

The Welcoming of New Members

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 349 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" | LEMMEL

At 11:00 a.m., children Kindergarten up 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

"Fantasy on KINGSFOLD" | arr. H. Dean Wagner

Rung by Athens First Ringers; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

**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 | Luke 18:9-14

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Forgotten Virtues: Humility”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 361 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” | TOPLADY

Verses 1-3

**The Blessing and Congregational Response*

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” | TOPLADY

Verse 4

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

**The Postlude*

“Prelude and Postlude in G minor” | Georg Böhm

THE STEEPLE

October 26, 2025



Wednesday Night Dinner Costume Party October 29

Get ready to dress to impress at the most unforgettable costume party of the season! Come as your wildest, weirdest, or most wonderful self! We will have a costume contest, parade, dancing, and treats & tricks. All ages are encouraged to participate. **Breakfast for dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the costume competition will begin at 5:45 p.m.** Whether you're a monster, princess, superhero, or something in between, bring your best look and your party spirit! We look forward to seeing you there!

Alisha Bain, Administrative Assistant | alisha@athensfirstumc.org



Children's Basketball Registration

Are you ready to shoot some hoops!? All children ages 4-10 are invited to join us this winter for our Children's Basketball League. All teams are co-ed and divided by age. This year, our Basketball Season will kick off the week of **November 17** (Monday) with our Basketball Skills Clinics. Official team practices will begin in December, and games will be held on Saturdays beginning in January. Each team will have one practice and one game per week. The cost for the season is \$100. Register by scanning the QR code in The Steeple.

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister
montana@athensfirstumc.org



Student Ministry Harvest Retreat

Harvest Retreat is a one-night retreat on **Saturday, November 1**, for our students in grades 6-12, held in the Athens area. We will be heading back to the home of Rusty and Monica Stewart in Watkinsville! Bring your tents, air mattresses, and sleeping bags for a camping weekend. There will be yummy food, football, lots of games and activities, messages, worship, a campfire, and so much more! We will gather that afternoon to tailgate and watch the GA/FL game as part of the retreat! The cost of the trip is \$50. **Registration will close tonight.**

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

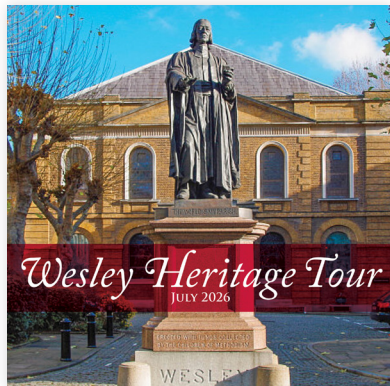


Surviving the Holidays | November 2

When you are grieving the loss of a loved one, it can be difficult to navigate the holiday season. We want to offer encouragement and hope through a special seminar called Surviving the Holidays. This year's seminar will be on **Sunday, November 2, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.** We will enjoy lunch together and learn practical holiday coping strategies through a video session and group discussion. There is no cost for this event.

Please register to attend on the GriefShare website. Call or email Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson if you have any questions.

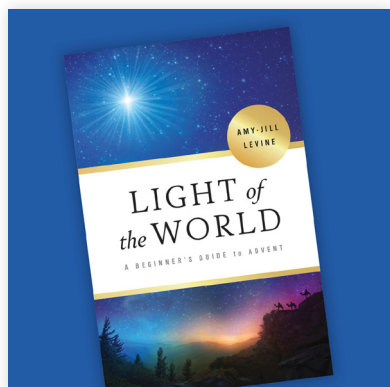
Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson, Associate Minister
nancy@athensfirstumc.org



Wesley Heritage Tour | July 2026

Join Rev. Jeremy Lawson, Dr. Tom Jackson and Athens First UMC on a Wesley Heritage Tour, departing on **July 8, 2026**. You will see Coventry Cathedral, Epworth, Memorial Church, St. Andrews Church, Cotswolds, Stratford, Oxford, Bristol, Bath, City Road Chapel, Aldersgate Street, Buckingham Palace, and much more!

Rev. Jeremy Lawson, Senior Minister | jeremy@athensfirstumc.org



Churchwide Advent Study

Advent is a season of anticipation and wonder as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This year, we invite you to join our churchwide Advent study, **Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent** by Amy-Jill Levine. In this four-session study, renowned biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus—offering fresh insight into the familiar narratives of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit of the Magi. Many of our Sunday School classes and Small Groups plan to participate in **Light of the World**. Lisa will also be offering an online study option at noon on Wednesdays—sign up online for more details.

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



BICENTENNIAL *prayer focus* — OCTOBER | THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN US

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:2-4

Psalms 104: 24-34 | Hymnal: 393 and 542

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Don Carpenter and his family in the loss of his mother, Glenda Carpenter, on October 14.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Carole Brown Langley on October 17.



OCTOBER 29: Breakfast for dinner

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

COSTUME PARTY!

FINANCIAL REPORT | As of October 19, 2025 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$2,716,951 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$2,496,611 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$2,813,154

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

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