



ALL SAINTS DAY

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

November 2, 2025



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 AND HOPE GARDEN ARE GIVEN TO
THE GLORY OF GOD**

In honor of Kathryn Spratlin by the Charles Elder family.

In loving memory of our Nana, Mable C. Thornton, on her birthday from her family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Thanks Be to God" | George Frederic Handel

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional of the Bells*

UMH 711 "For All the Saints" | SINE NOMINE

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

**The Litany for All Saints*

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we praise you for the saints of all times and places who have walked the road of faith before us and beside us.

For their witness to your love and their commitment to your justice, for their trust in your mercy regardless of the circumstance, we give you thanks and praise.

The Ringing of the Bells

God of all creation, we praise you for all your servants who have witnessed to your truth, who have shown us your love, and who have inspired us to have hope.

By their example of faith, hope, and love, remind us of your calling to join in making your new creation real in this world and the next.

The Ringing of the Bells

God of grace and peace, we praise you for those who reflected your love into our world.

Guide us to continue their faithful work as we too walk in the light of your love.

The Ringing of the Bells

God of all saints, today we especially remember the saints from among this community who have departed our company over the past year. We thank you for their courage amidst strife and their hope in the face of death. We remember so many other saints who have walked this road with us, whom we name before you in our hearts.

Continue to inspire us by their faithful witness, that we too might join in bringing your justice, mercy, and peace to our world.

The Ringing of the Bells

Eternal God, as we walk this pilgrim way, make our faith firm, our hope clear, and our love pure, that we might join the saints of all the ages in praise eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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 Offering

Before the collection of the offering 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 Offertory Anthem

"No Time" | Susan Brumfield

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Rise, oh, fathers rise; let's go meet them in the skies. We will hear the angels singing in that morning. Oh, I really do believe that, just before the end of time, we will hear the angels singing in that morning. Rise, oh, mothers rise; let's go meet them in the skies.

No time to tarry here, no time to wait for you. No time to tarry here, for I'm on my journey home. Brothers, oh, fare ye well, for I'm on my journey home. Sisters, oh, fare ye well, for I'm on my journey home. Oh, I really do believe that, just before the end of time, we will hear the angels singing in that morning.

**The Doxology* | 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 | Ephesians 1:1-2,15-23

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson
“Forgotten Virtues: Faithfulness”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.* Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you.

Betty Argo	John Dixon	James Moncrief
Jay Boswell	Raleigh Elliott	Jim Morang
Paul Brown	DeLois Gainey	William “Butch” Mulherin
Elizabeth Ann Burkhart	Billie Harris	Sara Reece
Halie Callaway	Rusty Heery	Ronald Smith
Jerry Canupp	Alex Keller	Carolyn Tringleth
Betty Ann Chapman	Langford Holbrook	Robert “Bobby” Tweedell
Ellen Christenberry	Carole Langley	Clover Weller
Kasey Clayton	Emmett Langley	Nancy Witherington
Curry Cross	Pat McKeown	
Bob Cunningham	Ed Michna	

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: **Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, given for you.

Sung: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

During the singing, those serving communion are invited to the Chancel.

The Receiving of the Bread and Cup

*At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ’s table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free communion elements are available in the Narthex. *In the United Methodist Church, grape juice is used for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

The Music during Communion

“Lacrymosa: Do not stand at my grave and weep” | Howard Goodall

Sung by Andrew Latimer, Choral Scholar with the Sanctuary Choir

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the softly falling snow. I am the gentle showers of rain, I am the fields of ripening grain. I am in the morning hush, I am in the graceful rush of far-off birds in circling flight. I am the starshine of the night. I am in every flower that blooms, I am in still and empty rooms. I am the child that yearns to sing; I am in each lovely thing. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there. I did not die.

RESPONSE

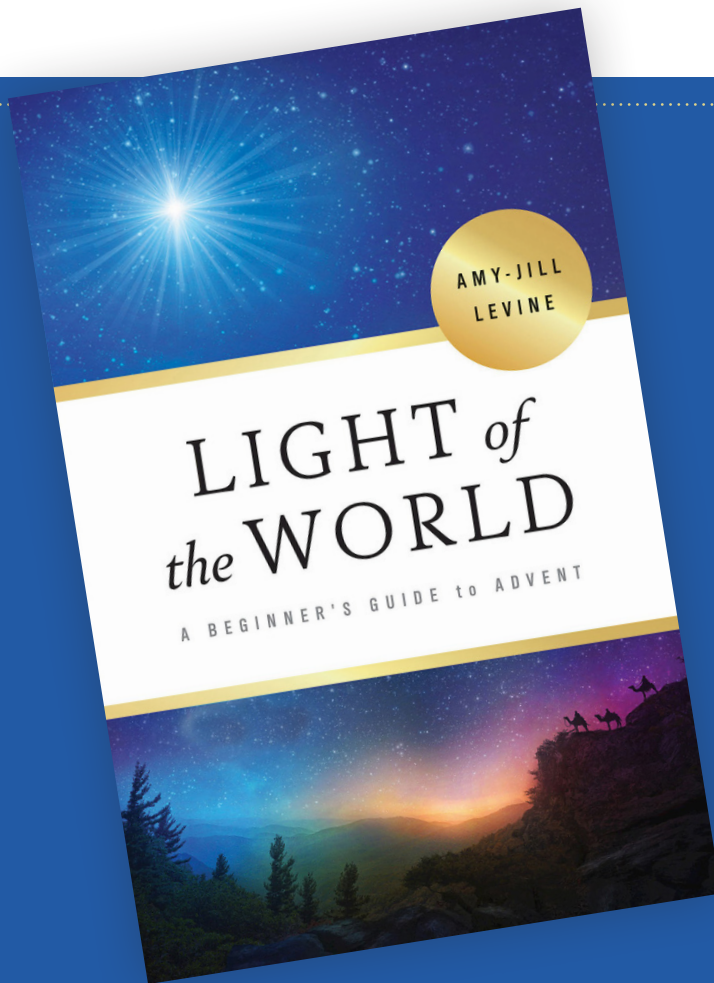
**The Prayer*

Almighty God, your people of all the ages live and praise you without ceasing. In our communion with you, we have communion with generations past and generations yet unborn. Before your throne we are one with a great multitude which no one could number, and in praising you we join with people from every nation. Grant to your church on earth that as we celebrate the triumph of your saints in glory we may profit by their example and enter with them into the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction* | John Rutter

**The Postlude*

“Allegro maestoso e vivace” from *Sonata No. 2* | Felix Mendelssohn



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



ADVENT 2025

Schedule of Events

Advent One | HOPE

Sunday, November 30 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Family Advent Breakfast

Sunday, November 30 | 9:30 a.m.

Advent Two | PEACE

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 7 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Advent Three | JOY

Baby Recognition

Sunday, December 14 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 14 | 7:00 p.m.

Advent Four | LOVE

Sunday, December 21 | 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24

3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m.

THE STEEPLE

November 2, 2025



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

BUILDING FAITH THAT LASTS

Nurturing the Next Generation of Believers

FEATURING

The. Rev. Bill Stanford, Ph.D.

Dr. Derrick Lemons

Professor & Chair, UGA Department of Religion

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 6:00 PM



Department of Religion
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



ATHENS FIRST UMC

Building Faith That Lasts | November 9

Join us **Sunday, November 9, at 6:00 p.m.** for a special evening of dialogue and discovery as we explore how faith communities and families can shape the spiritual lives of young people from adolescence into adulthood.

This is UGA's Department of Religion's inaugural church partnership event, and we are honored to be their first partners. **The event is free and open to the public.** We encourage you to invite friends and members of the Athens community to join the conversation about how we can nurture faith that lasts. Childcare is available. Register by scanning the QR code in The Steeple.

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



Christmas Poinsettias

We hope you will consider placing a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special this year. Donating \$15 will help fill our sanctuary with poinsettias on **Sunday, December 14**. On that day, we will list the names of honored persons in the Sunday worship bulletin. You may place your order online or by check. The last day to make a poinsettia donation is **Monday, December 1**. **Scan the QR code above to make your donation.**

Kelly Roberson, Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister
kelly@athensfirstumc.org



Church Photo Directory | Save the Date

We're excited to announce that a new church photo directory is coming soon, and we'd love to include you! **Photography sessions will be held January 8 through 13 and January 29 through February 3.** This is a wonderful opportunity to connect names with faces and strengthen our church family. Sign-up details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

Kelly Roberson, Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister
kelly@athensfirstumc.org



Confirmation Sunday | November 16

We hope you will join us on Sunday, November 16, during both the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services for Confirmation Sunday. This is a wonderful worship service in the life of our church as 70 students will profess their faith in Christ, and enter into membership at Athens First UMC.

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



Ingathering | Extra Thankful Bags

In collaboration with Student Ministry's Thanksgiving Ingathering meal, our Missions Ministry will be sharing the love by offering our guests "Extra-Thankful Bags" filled with Thanksgiving inspired pantry staples. We are asking YOU, our congregation, to join in the fullness and help fill these food bags. Empty red bags and shopping lists can be found at the church's front desk. Grab one (or a couple), fill the bag with the listed items and return the filled bag to the church by **November 19**. Together, we will ensure this is an EXTRA special Thanksgiving.

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



BICENTENNIAL *prayer focus* — NOVEMBER | MISSIONS

Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "...this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Acts 13: 46-47

Hymnal: 548 and 556

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Jordan Byce and his family in the loss of his father, Francis Lee Byce, Jr., on October 17.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of James Moncrief on October 22.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Caroline and Ben Butler on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Kearney Butler, who was born October 17. Elizabeth is the granddaughter of Rev. Betsy Butler and Rhett Butler.



NOVEMBER 5: 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 October 26, 2025 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$2,781,899 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$2,586,662 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$3,054,220

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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