

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 Billy Meade Gresham by his family Michael, Neila, Henry, Vivien Pierce, and Wilkens Ethridge Grimsley.

In loving memory of Joe Niolon by Susan Niolon and family.

Today, there will be no 11:00 a.m. Children's Church for Kindergarten through grade 4.

We are excited to invite children to remain in worship with their families to celebrate our 2025 Confirmands.

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

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Let All Things Now Living" | Timothy Albrecht Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

The Opening Prayer 9:30 a.m. | Addie Moore 11:00 a.m. | Colt Pilcher

The Call to Worship

"Over My Head" | MUSIC IN THE AIR Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir Janis Maxwell, Director of Children's and Youth Music Ministry

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*The Processional Hymn
UMH 545 "The Church's One Foundation" | AURELIA

*The Affirmation of Faith \mid Written by the Fall 2025 Confirmation Class 9:30 a.m. \mid Molly Pippin 11:00 a.m. \mid Charlie Brooks

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, who is the creator of heaven and earth. God is holy, loving, forgiving, and the source of all life. We believe that God is our leader, protector, and friend, the embodiment of never-ending love. We believe in Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, our Savior and Messiah, who walked on earth with us. Jesus taught us God's grace. We believe that Jesus was crucified, died, and rose again for all of humanity and for the salvation of all people. We believe that Jesus is alive, guides us still, and will one day come again. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence who is always with us, living in our hearts, giving us life. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God's truth, and leads us to peace, love, and service. We believe the Church is the body of Christ, a sanctuary where all are welcome. We believe the Church is a place of worship, community, and grace, called to serve others, share God's love, and live with open arms for the world.

*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 Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

9:30 a.m. | Rebecca Peterson

11:00 a.m. | H.T. Garrard

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.

 $\textit{The Offering} \mid \mathsf{Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson}$

The Offertory Anthem

"God Is Our Refuge" | Allen Pote

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir; Brandon Craswell and Tyler Jones, trumpets

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song, We will celebrate his presence, all the day long. He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us. We will not fear!

* $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 | Psalm 15

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

9:30 a.m. | Tanner Stewart

11:00 a.m. | Carter Varnedoe

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

"Forgotten Virtues: Steadfastness"

RESPONSE

The Service of Confirmation

* ${\it The\ Profession\ of\ Faith\ }$ Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister

Respond as directed

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

*The Parent Response

Respond as directed

Parents, will you nurture these children in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **We will.**

*The Congregational Response

Respond as directed

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

The Ritual of Confirmation

*The Welcome of the 2025 Fall Confirmands and New Members

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you, we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

*The Hymn of Response
UMH 451 "Be Thou My Vision" | SLANE

The Introduction of the Confirmands

See next page of bulletin for list of names.

*The Blessing and Recessional

*The Postlude

"Festive Trumpet Tune" | David German



The 2025 Confirmands

*These students are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism

9:30 a.m.

Claire Elizabeth Burnett Griggs Allen Copeland Kent Harvel Crumley Josephine Mae Eady* Addison Verda Eldridge Morgan Eva Faulk William Calder Gooch John Bradford Graham III Casen Matthew Hassemer Collins Margaret House David Andrew Howard Tanner Weekley Kane Graham Ellison Kinnard Caroline Dalton Kinney Georgia Mae Knox Caleb Scott Lowry Shelby Ray Martin

William Flynn Miller V* Eleanor Ruth Morgan James Paulk Morgan Knox Davis Newberry Genevieve Scarlett Orman Christopher Ray Peterson* Molly Claire Pippin* Anna Hayes Platter* Harrison Barton Prickett* Mary Marshall Pryor Chloe Kathleen Register Frances Louise Scruggs Caroline Elizabeth Shuler* Elliott Scott Smith Tanner Dalton Stewart Pirie Page Tomlinson* Vera Mae Wood



The 2025 Confirmands

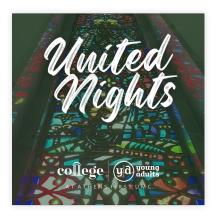
*These students are receiving the Sacrament of Baptism

11:00 a.m.

Charlotte June Adair Jackson Reid Alexander Caleb Montgomery Bates William Beaumont Belger Mae Dennis Broadnax McRae Brodrick Charles Thomas Brooks Smith Taylor Chappell Wesley Donald Chappell Eve Alizabeth Corey Lucy Quinn Denham Decklin Nash Drudge Knox Lanier Ewing Charles Paul Fernandez* Ann Aldridge Ford Graeme Emory Foster Lyra McKenney Garrett James Lester Gillis V*

Elizabeth Ann Hodge Harrison Reddick Hopkins Ella Grace Jackson Elizabeth Han Yue Jennings* Marvin Alan Kennedy III Levi Christian Lines William Norman Lokey III Lawton Daniel Martin Fuller Stillman McFadden* William McAllister Platter* Dawson Edward Presley Luke Davis Reed Brady Matthew Richardson Charles Tullis Talley Carter Elizabeth Varnedoe Rawlins Olivia Williams Collins Ava Wilson

THE STEEPLE



College and Young Adults | UNITED Night Tonight at 7:00 p.m.

College Students and Young Adults are invited to join us for worship tonight 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!

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



Family Advent Breakfast | November 30

Join us as we welcome the Advent season with our annual Family Advent Breakfast on **Sunday, November 30**. Our entire church family is invited for a meaningful and joy-filled morning together!

9:30 - 9:50 a.m. | Waffle House breakfast. \$10 per person.

10:00 a.m. | Advent Program begins. Explore the Advent Season through Scripture and readings. Each family receives The Giving

Manger storybook. **10:45 a.m.** | Children's Christmas Processional. Add hay to the manger in the Sanctuary and light the Christmas trees. Children dismissed to Children's Church after tree lighting.

Registration closes November 19. Register by scanning the QR code in The Steeple.

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



Christmas Poinsettias | December 14

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 in The Steeple to make your donation.**

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





Christmas Caroling

Children's Choirs and the Wesleyan Youth Choir will be spreading Christmas cheer over the next few weeks! We will visit two local Assisted Living Facilities, singing carols and visiting with residents!

The **Wesleyan Youth Choir** will be at Terra Bella (formerly Iris Place) on **Sunday, November 30, between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.**

The Lyric and Celebrate Choirs will visit Wesley Woods on Saturday, December 13, from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

If you have loved ones in these places, please let them know we are coming!

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



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Join us on Wednesday, December 24, as we celebrate Christmas Eve together!

3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant*

5:00 p.m. Readings and Carols - Wesleyan Youth Choir and Brass*

7:00 p.m. Readings and Carols - Sanctuary Choir and Brass*

11:00 p.m. Christmas Holy Communion - Sanctuary Choir and Strings

*Nursery care available at the 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m. services.



Student Winter Retreat | January 16-19

Join us **January 16-19** as we head back to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This retreat is open to all grades 6-12 students. We will stay in two cabins (girls' cabin and boys' cabin), cook our meals, enjoy some Winter fun in Pigeon Forge, spend time in devotions and worship, and enjoy the nature and beauty of the Great Smokies!

The retreat costs \$205 and covers lodging, a hoodie, all meals, and activities for the weekend. Registration will close on Sunday, January 4! Space is limited...only 10 spots remain! **Register by scanning the QR code in The Steeple.**

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

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Allyn Timberlake and her family in the loss of her brother, Richard Emerson Felder, on October 11.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Grant Tribble and his family in the loss of his father, Harold R. Tribble, on October 28.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Hal Seaton on November 2.

Baptism

We celebrate that Charles "Tripp" Douglas Bodine, III, and Lillian "Lilly" May Bodine, children of Alyssa and Charlie Bodine, received the sacrament of baptism on November 9.

We celebrate that Archibald "Archie" Greene Cuningham, son of Kimberly and Alex Cuningham, received the sacrament of baptism on November 9.

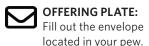


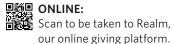
NOVEMBER 19: Chicken and Sausage Gumbo served with rice, side salad, and bread. **Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan** the Steeple QR Code to register online or **Call** the Church Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT | As of November 9, 2025 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$2,913,089 | YTD Actual Giving: \$2,731,754 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$3,209,165

WAYS TO GIVE







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.ora* | 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