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2412 Congress Pkwy South, Athens

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Fleischmann Leads Bipartisan Effort to Invite Pope Leo XIV to Address Congress



Congressman Chuck Fleischmann (TN-03) has sent a formal letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries requesting a Joint Session of Congress be convened for an address by Pope Leo XIV, the first American-born pontiff in history.

"The election of Pope Leo XIV to the papacy is a historic and momentous occasion not just for Catholics across the United States but for all Americans regardless of faith or denomination," said Fleischmann in a statement. "An address to Congress and the American People by Pope Leo XIV would serve as a powerful reminder to our shared commitments to peace, service to others, and moral leadership and also reaffirm the deep and longstanding ties between the United States of America and The Holy See."

In the letter, Fleischmann wrote, "*Pope Leo XIV's life and ministry, shaped in part by his experiences in our own nation, equip him with a voice that speaks not only to Catholics, but to people of all faiths and backgrounds.*"

He added that, "*During a time when our nation needs unifying and the world faces severe humanitarian crises, an address by His Holiness would serve as a powerful reminder of our shared commitments to peace, service to others, and moral leadership.*"

Fleischmann's letter was supported by a group of bipartisan colleagues and underscores the significance of Pope Leo XIV's election as a symbol of unity and shared values. If the invitation is extended and accepted, it would mark a rare and historic occasion, echoing past papal addresses such as that of Pope Francis in 2015.

Source: [Rep. Chuck Fleischmann's Office](#)

◆ This week on *Hope From the Well*, **Julie Tillis** invites **Charlene Hipsher & Jennifer Craig** to the program to discuss **Align9**. *Hope From the Well* is heard every Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Up to 20mph winds. High 81.

Thurs. Night - Mostly Cloudy. Low 71.

Friday - Mostly Cloudy. High 85.

Fri. Night - 70% Rain. Storms likely after midnight. Low 71.

More Weather at: wyxi.com



InTouch
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Weekdays

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Sundays

Noon - 12:30 pm



McMinn County Living Heritage Museum

Upcoming May Events

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
Mime Barnes will discuss the purpose of the **TWRA**: to preserve, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the fish & wildlife of TN & their habitats for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of citizens and visitors.

Saturday, May 24th @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

HERITAGE SCHOOL: Local History Bingo

Join us to learn some local history playing bingo and win prizes!

Saturday, May 31st @ 11:00 am \$5 or free with membership

HISTORY FOR LUNCH

Bring your lunch and listen to Arthur B. Culvahouse, former Ambassador to Australia and White House Counsel to Ronald Reagan

Wednesday, May 14th @ Noon * Free Admission*

Bring your lunch and learn about Old Federal Road, which first started as a mail route in the early administration of President Thomas Jefferson.

Thursday, May 29 @ Noon *Free admission*

Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed

Admission:
Adults: \$5.00
Senior 60+: \$3.00
Students: \$3.00

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www.livingheritagemuseum.org

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Thursday, May 15, 2025

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Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State pins the latest group of Nursing graduates



Cleveland State Community College recently held its annual Nurse Pinning Ceremony in the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium on the Cleveland State campus. Thirty-six students were pinned during the ceremony. Pictured above are the nursing graduates gathering prior to the Pinning Ceremony.

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC

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Community News You Can Use

- The City of Athens Public Works Dept. announces the following street closures:
 - Lynwood Drive** from Ivy Lane to Lynwood Circle. The closure will be from Thursday, May 15 at 8:00 a.m. until Friday, May 16 at 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this closure is for drainage repairs. **Morning Fax®** Today's News. This Morning.
 - Washington Avenue** from Long Street to Jackson Street. The closure will be until Friday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of this closure is for plumbing repairs.
- For more information, contact Athens Public Works at 423-744-2745
- This is the final weekend that the Gem Players present "The Queen of Bingo" at the Historic Gem Theater. Tickets are \$15. For more information call 423-263-3270 or see their Facebook post [HERE](#)
- Pre-K - 8th Grade Registration for the Athens City Schools 2025 - 2026 school year for **NEW** students is now open Monday - Thursday from 8:00am - 4:00pm at the Athens City Schools Administration Office (943 Crestway Dr.)

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Thursday, May 15, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Full House for Athens-Isahaya Sister City Bento Box Class



The Athens-Isahaya Sister City Committee hosted another successful event as a Bento Box Packing class was held on Tuesday at the McMinn Higher Education Center. The event drew a full crowd eager to learn the Japanese practice of *Shokuiku*—a nutrition education approach that emphasizes balanced meals and healthy eating, commonly taught both at home and in public schools in Japan.

The next class in the series will focus on *Furoshiki*, the traditional Japanese art of cloth wrapping, and will take place on Friday, May 30, at the McMinn Living Heritage Museum.

While the class is currently full, those interested may join the wait-list by emailing sistercity@athenstn.gov. Source: Victoria White



HOPE FROM THE WELL

HOSTED BY: JULIE TILLIS

THURSDAYS AT 8:15 AM

"If you have Jesus in your life, you will always have hope."



WOMEN AT THE WELL
MINISTRIES

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Thursday, May 15, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4

Athens, Tennessee

Cleveland State holds Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremony



Cleveland State Community College held its spring commencement ceremonies on Friday in the L. Quentin Lane Gymnasium on the Cleveland State campus. Two ceremonies were held, and 391 students graduated this term.

Pictured above, graduates walk through the line of celebrating faculty after the commencement ceremony.

Source: Andrea Byerly, CSCC

Obituaries

Thomas Matney Reed, 73 of Athens, passed away on Sunday, May 11. A United Methodist minister throughout his career, he faithfully served congregations across Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia. He graduated from McMinn Central High School, Tennessee Wesleyan University and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. A memorial service will be held Friday, May 23, 2025 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Etowah. Visitation will be from noon to 2:00 pm, with the service to follow. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Thomas Matney Reed.

More Obituaries on Page 5

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to:

wyxiradio@gmail.com

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Thursday, May 15, 2025

Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Roy Howard Trew, 86 of Etowah, passed away on Monday, May 12. Roy was a lifelong member of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church of Etowah. He retired after working over 40 years at Bowater Paper Mill. Roy had 26 years of service in the National Guard. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 17 in the chapel of Bordwine Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Saturday prior to the service. Interment will follow the service in Green Hill Cemetery. Bordwine Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Billy Gene McKenzie, 93 of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, May 13. He was a United States Navy Veteran and an avid farmer. He retired from the TDOT with over 30 years of service as a foreman. He attended Whiteside Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 19 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20 in the Chattanooga National Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5 - 7 p.m., prior to the service on Monday. Arrangements entrusted to Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Dr. John Woods, 86 of Lenoir City, passed away on Monday, May 12. He was known and recognized worldwide for his research and expertise on utilizing various species of bamboos and reed grass for biomass energy. He earned his B.S. from Millsaps College, an M.S. from Mississippi State University, a Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi, and conducted postdoctoral research for the University of Chicago and the University of Kentucky. In 1969, he joined the faculty at Tennessee Wesleyan University in Athens, where he served with distinction as a professor of biology until his retirement in 1991. He was a devoted member of Keith Memorial UMC in Athens, and after moving to Lenoir City, he spent the last years of his life attending Central UMC. A celebration of his life will be held at Keith Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17th, with receiving friends to follow the service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Dr. John Woods.

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