

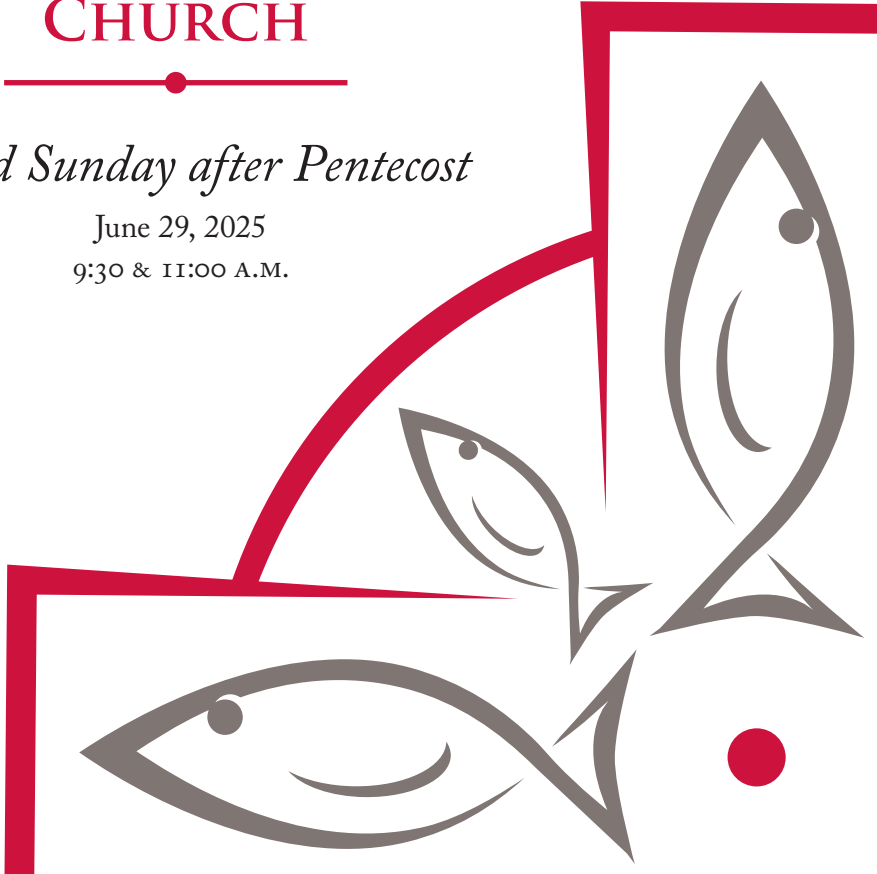


ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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*Third Sunday after Pentecost*

June 29, 2025  
9:30 & 11:00 A.M.



# *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.

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

**In loving memory of** Robert Wall by Dianne Wall and family.

## **GATHERING**

### *The Prelude*

"A Patriotic Prelude for Trumpet and Organ" | Charles Callahan  
Gilbert Villagrana, trumpet; Raina Wood, Organist

*The Welcome and Opening Prayer* | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

### *\*The Processional Hymn*

UMH 698 “God of the Ages” | NATIONAL HYMN

### *\*The Litany for Independence Day*

Gracious God, you have made us for community, for relationships fixed in time and space, woven through common experiences, inspired by shared struggles, and dedicated to common goals. We give thanks for this nation of ours, for its commitment to liberty, for the vision of its founders, for the bravery of its citizenry, for its defense of the weak, and for its love of justice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our fellow Americans, for their goodness and generosity, for the dreams that brought us all to this land, for the genius and industry of every generation, for the rich tapestry of our cultural heritage, for commitments that have made many, one.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this week of national celebration, as we mark the anniversary of this great experiment, we pray: strengthen us in our resolve to act justly, to care for the weak, to defend the persecuted, and to foster freedom and peace. When we fail, make us quick to confess our faults, strong enough to amend our ways, and mindful of the inheritance entrusted to us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide us, then, we ask. Let us never confuse the gift we have been given with the Giver, let us never confuse our will with yours, and let us never suppose that our lives matter more than those of others. Lead us, instead, to live out of gratitude, and serve with abandon, confident that our lives and the life of our nation is in your hands.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer. 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.**

*\*The Passing of the Peace*

*The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer*

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 and Offertory Anthem*

"Trumpet Tune in F Major" | David N. Johnson

Offered by Gilbert Villagrana, trumpet

*\*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* | Galatians 5:13-25

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

*The Message* | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

"A Fruitful Freedom"

## RESPONSE

### *\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 437 “This Is My Song” | FINLANDIA

### *\*The Blessing and Congregational Response*

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic” | BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

**He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat; O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on. Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah! Glory, glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.**

### *\*The Postlude*

“Festival Toccata” | Percy Fletcher

# THE STEEPLE

June 29, 2025



## Summer Adult Sunday School | Begins July 6

We are thrilled to welcome special guest speaker Dr. Samaria Divine as we begin our month-long Sunday School series on **Spiritual Practices of the Church**. Every Sunday in July from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall, we will be joined by guest speakers who will help us explore a variety of spiritual practices for our lives. Dr. Divine earned her PhD in Religion from the University of Georgia, with a focus on the Hebrew Bible, and now serves as the Director of Community Engagement at The Forum for Theological Engagement. She will lead us in *searching the Scriptures*, using the Book of Job as our guide. Coffee and donuts will be served as we kickoff Summer Adult Sunday School together.

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Director of Small Groups  
[lisa@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:lisa@athensfirstumc.org)



## College and Young Adults Six Flags Trip

Thrill-seekers, this one's for you! Join us on Saturday, July 12, for a day of rides and adventure at Six Flags Over Georgia. The cost is \$35 per person and includes transportation.

**Scan the QR code in your bulletin to learn more and register.**

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



## Sixth Grade Tubing Trip

Hey rising 6th graders! Say goodbye to Kids Ministry and hello to Student Ministry with your first off-campus trip: Tubing in Helen on **July 17!** Traci and Hannah will be leading this aquatic adventure. The cost is \$20 and this will cover your tubing trip and lunch! Register using the QR code in your bulletin.

Traci Lowry, Director of Kids at Athens First | [traci@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:traci@athensfirstumc.org)

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



## Emergency Response Team Training

Do you have a desire to serve on a disaster relief team in our local region, where areas are damaged by unexpected weather-related disasters? If so, we invite you to join us **Saturday, July 19**, in Hancock Hall for a special training session that will equip you to serve on an early response team.

For more information about UM Disaster Relief efforts and to register for the ERT training, scan the QR code in your bulletin!

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions  
[sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)



## Children's Music Ministry Registration

Find Your Voice....in our Children's Choirs! We begin August 20 with rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Our theme is "Finding Your Voice to be Like Jesus" and we are so excited about the songs, games, and FUN we will have as we learn to be more like Jesus.

Registration will open in July. Children's Music Ministry is open to children who are 3 years old (by September 1, 2025) through 5th Grade.

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



## Wesleyan Youth Choir Registration

Find Your Voice....in the Wesleyan Youth Choir! We begin August 10 with rehearsals on Sundays, 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Join us this year as we sing in worship, sing in the community, get crazy with the Variety Show, and prepare for Choir Tour '26! (Pictured: WYC in Chicago, May 2025!)

Registration will open in July. Wesleyan Youth Choir is open to students in 6th- 12th grade. Bring a friend!

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



## BICENTENNIAL *prayer focus* — JUNE | GOD'S GIFT

*While they were in Bethlehem the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.  
She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Luke 2:6-7**

Luke 2:6-7, John 3:16 | Hymnal: 239 and 246

## SERMON NOTES

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### FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 21, 2025:*

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$1,618,009 | YTD Actual Giving: \$1,719,480 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$2,065,897

#### 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.

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### 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. 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).

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CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

**ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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