

The background features a stylized illustration of three fish in grey outlines, swimming in various directions. These fish are framed by thick red lines that form a partial border on the left and bottom. A solid red circle is positioned in the upper left, and another is in the lower right. A horizontal red line with a central dot is located below the church name.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 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.

✠

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

In loving memory of Emmett Langley, Reta and Bob Brown, and Johnie Evans: the husband, mother, father, and grandmother of Carole Langley and daughters.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Cantique de Jean Racine” | Gabriel Fauré
Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:30 a.m. | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

11:00 a.m. | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Opening Hymn*

UMH 127 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” | CWM RHONNDA

**The Prayer of Confession*

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**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 Solo

"Let Me Hide Myself in Thee" | arr. Craig Courtney

Sung by Audrey Vazquez, soprano

The text for this solo can be found on page 361 of The United Methodist Hymnal.

**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 | 2 Kings 5:1-14

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

The Message | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson
“Stupid Easy”

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. You formed us in your image, delivered us from captivity, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. 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. 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. *In the United Methodist Church, grape juice is used for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

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.

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 133 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" | SHOWALTER

**The Blessing and Congregational Response*

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" | DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

**The Postlude*

"Fugue in G minor, BWV 578" | Johann Sebastian Bach

THE STEEPLE

July 6, 2025



Summer Adult Sunday School | Week 2

Join us this **Sunday, July 13, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall** as we continue our Summer Adult Sunday School series, *Spiritual Practices of the Church*.

This week, Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, our new Director of Small Groups, will lead us in a thoughtful exploration of the Communion of Saints—what it means, why it matters, and how these faith-filled relationships shape our spiritual lives today.

Come for the coffee and donuts, stay for the rich conversation—and bring a friend as we continue this meaningful summer journey together!

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Director of Small Groups
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



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



Student Ministry Summer Fun

Summer with Students at Athens First UMC is shaping up to be full and fun! We are excited for our summer and what we have planned for our students and their friends. We hope that you will join us and of course bring along your friends! Scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin to register and for more information.

July 9, 16, 23, and 31 | Supper Club

July 20 | High School Lake Day (rising 10th-Graduated Seniors) @ The Steger's

August 2 | Student Ministry to Gwinnett Stripers Game

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



Back to School Blessing and Block Party

Join us for our **Back to School Blessing** on **Sunday, August 3, at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** This special service is a wonderful opportunity for our entire church to come together and pray for our students and educators as they prepare for the new school year. After worship, join us for our **We're So Back Block Party** where you can enjoy Kona Ice while exploring ministry opportunities for ALL ages. Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends for this meaningful and joyous morning together.

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



Special Offering | July 20

On **Sunday, July 20**, we will take up a special offering for Murphy-Harpst. Murphy-Harpst provides hope and healing to severely abused and neglected children and youth through residential treatment, foster care, and creative therapeutic approaches. Over one-third of their annual support comes from United Methodist Churches! Please give generously and be a part of a nearly 100-year legacy of serving Georgia's most vulnerable children. Give in-person during the 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. worship service on July 20 or online by clicking on the link below. If you would prefer to pay by check, make payable to Athens First UMC and mail to 327 N. Lumpkin Street, Athens, Georgia 30601. Please note "Murphy-Harpst Offering" in the memo field.



BICENTENNIAL *prayer focus* — JULY | REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM

Matthew 3:16-17

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

Dr. Alex Keller
June 22, 2025

Nancy Witherington
June 23, 2025

Thomas Moss
"Rusty" Heery
June 23, 2025

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. Alex Keller, who passed away on June 22. The visitation will be on Monday, July 9, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Bernsteins.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Nancy Witherington, who passed away on June 23. The funeral will be at the church on Monday, August 4, at 2:00 p.m.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Thomas Moss "Rusty" Heery, who passed away on June 23.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Janeanna and Landon Heath on the birth of their son, Robert Miles Heath, on June 24.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Julia Hardell and Will Nichols on their marriage on June 28 in our sanctuary.

FINANCIAL REPORT | *As of June 29, 2025:*

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$1,681,922 | YTD Actual Giving: \$1,730,869 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$1,783,560

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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