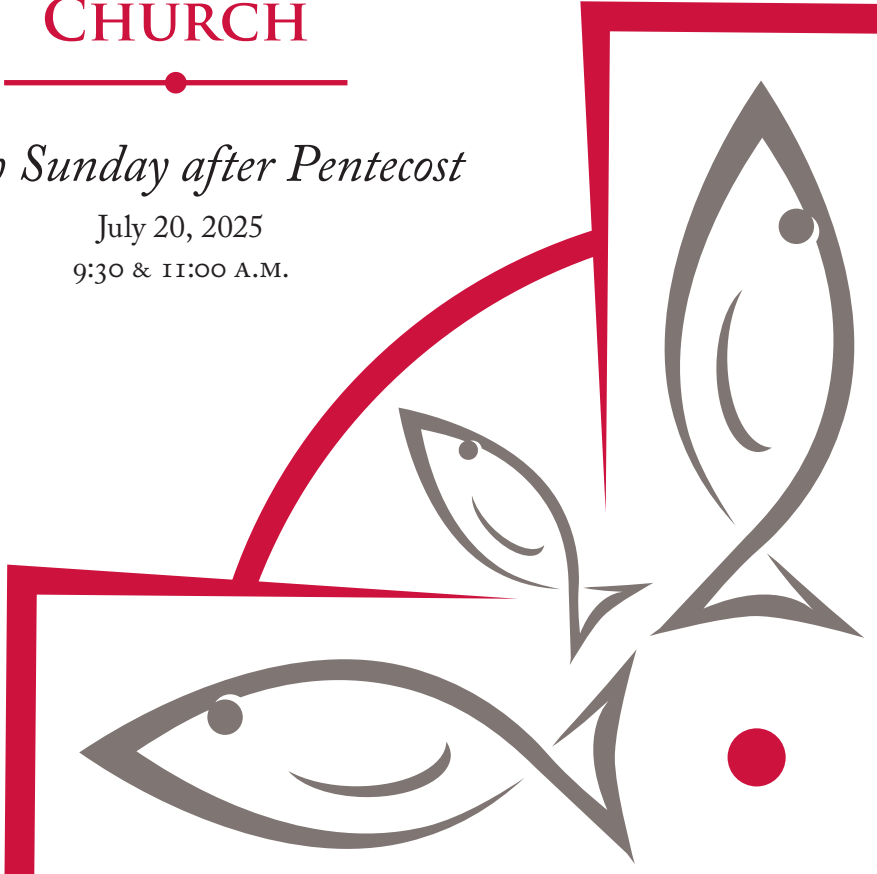


ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 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 Pat McKeown, beloved husband and father, by the McKeown family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Meditation” from *Thaïs* | Jules Massenet

Natalie Smith, flute; Raina Wood, Organist

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

**The Call to Worship*

Minister: In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,

People: we come to worship a God who feeds the hungry.

Minister: In the midst of a world where people are oppressed and forgotten,

People: we come to worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

Minister: In the midst of a world filled with war and strife,

People: we come to worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for all.

Minister: Come and worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

**All: We come to offer our worship—the fruit of our lives to you, O God.
Amen.**

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Opening Hymn*

UMH 103 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” | ST. DENIO

**The Affirmation of Faith of The United Church of Canada*

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. 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 | Rev. Montana Hamby

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 Hymn

UMH 354 "I Surrender All" | SURRENDER

Verses 1-3

The Offering and Offertory Solo

"Fantasia on DOWN AMPNEY" | Elliot Weisgarber

Natalie Smith, flute

DOWN AMPNEY is a hymn tune by English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), most often paired with the text, "Come Down, O Love Divine," by Italian poet, Bianco da Siena (1350-1399). Today's solo is a meditation on these verses:

Come down, O Love divine, seek Thou this soul of mine, and visit it with Thine own ardour glowing; O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing. O let it freely burn till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming: and let Thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming. Let holy charity mine outward vesture be, and lowliness become my inner clothing, true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part, and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

**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 | Amos 8:1-12

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

The Message | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

“Summer Fruit”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 593 “Here I Am, Lord” | HERE I AM, LORD

**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*

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” | Timothy Albrecht

THE STEEPLE

July 20, 2025



Summer Adult Sunday School | Next Week

Join us **Sunday, July 27, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall** as we conclude our Summer Adult Sunday School series, *Spiritual Practices of the Church*, with a focus on **Service**.

We are delighted to welcome **Charles Smith, Vice President of Operations at Athens Area Habitat for Humanity**. With years of experience in housing advocacy and community development, Charles brings a powerful and practical perspective on service—how building homes and relationships can also build hope, dignity, and deeper faith.

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

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Director of Small Groups | lisa@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. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister
natalee@athensfirstumc.org



Children's Music Ministry Registration

Find Your Voice in our Children's Choirs! We begin **August 20** with rehearsals on **Wednesdays from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.** This year, our theme is "Finding Your Voice to be Like Jesus" and we are excited about the songs, games, and FUN we will have as we learn to be more like Jesus. Children's Music Ministry is open to children who are 3 years old by September 1, 2025, through Grade 5.

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



Wesleyan Youth Choir Registration

Find Your Voice in the Wesleyan Youth Choir! We begin **August 10** with rehearsals on **Sundays from 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: 2025 Choir Tour in Chicago!) The Wesleyan Youth Choir is open to students in grades 6-12. Bring a friend!

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



GriefShare Classes Beginning August 5

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, GriefShare offers practical information and a supportive community to help you travel the journey of grief and face the future with hope. This thirteen-week faith-based curriculum features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. Classes will be Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m., beginning August 5.

Scan the QR code for more information or contact Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson, Associate Minister
nancy@athensfirstumc.org



Confirmation Registration is Open

Confirmation 2025 is an opportunity for students in grades 6-8 to grow in their faith, build friendships, and become active members of Athens First UMC. The journey begins with a retreat at **Camp Glisson, August 22-24**, full of worship, team-building, and spiritual foundation. Weekly sessions follow on Sundays starting **September 7**, featuring dinner, worship, lessons, and small group time. Our goals are for Confirmands to claim their faith, deepen their walk with God, and engage in the life of the church alongside their families. The \$225 registration covers retreat costs, supplies, a t-shirt, and a Bible for the journey.

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



BICENTENNIAL *prayer focus* — JULY | REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM

As soon as Jesus was baptized by John, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased".

Matthew 3:16-17

MEMBER NEWS

Baptism

We celebrate that Laine Catherine Shumate, daughter of Kylie and Nick Shumate, received the sacrament of baptism on July 13.

We celebrate that Jane Bradford Allgood, daughter of Sarah and Matt Allgood, received the sacrament of baptism on July 13.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Eliza Petersen and Cal King on their marriage on July 12 in our sanctuary.

FINANCIAL REPORT | As of July 13, 2025 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2025 YTD Giving Goal: \$1,813,112 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,815,233 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,943,266

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

327 N LUMPKIN ST. ATHENS, GA 30601 • 706-543-1442 | athensfirstumc.org