



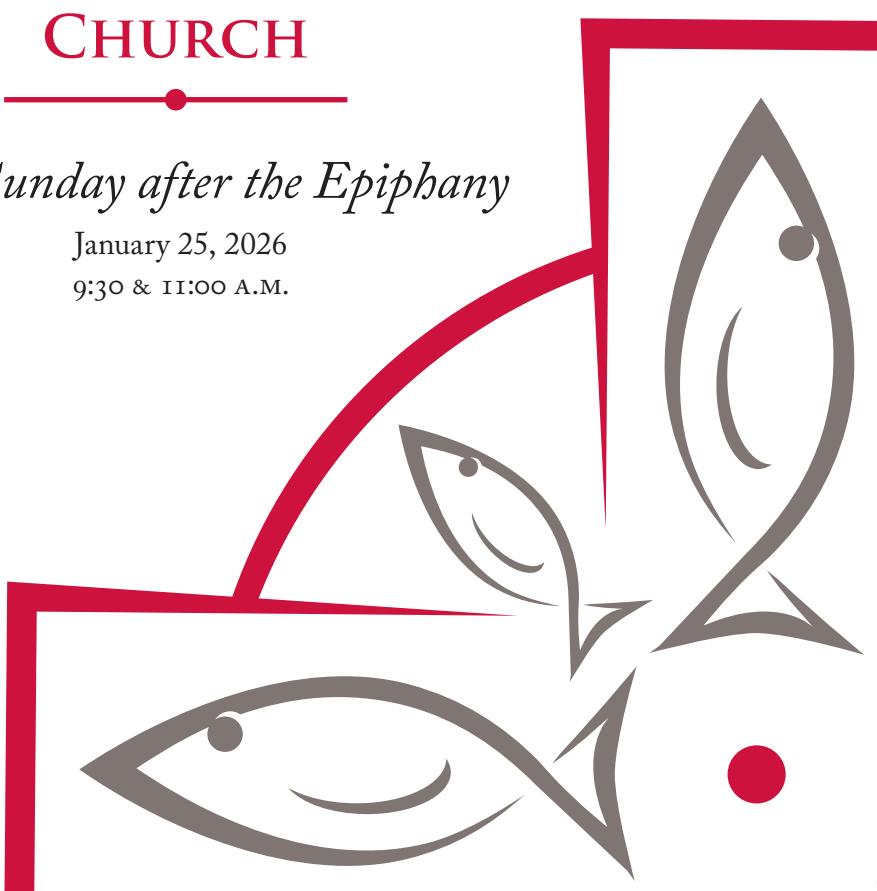
ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

January 25, 2026

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.



**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
**In honor of** Robert Miles Heath and Dewey Otis "Skip" Shurling by their Grandparents.

## **GATHERING**

### *The Prelude*

"Prelude in E-flat Major" | Camille Saint-Saëns  
Raina Wood, Organist

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

### *The Choral Call to Worship*

"Louez Le Seigneur" | CAMEROON PROCESSIONAL  
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship  
Translation from French: *Praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name, Alleluia!*

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

### *\*The Processional Hymn*

UMH 173 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” | RATISBON

### *\*The Affirmation of Faith | “The Apostles’ Creed”*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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. Amen.

### *\*The Passing of the Peace*

### *The Sacrament of Baptism | 11:00 a.m.*

Dewey Otis “Skip” Shurling, son of Kaeti and Nick Shurling

Robert Miles Heath, son of Janeanna and Landon Heath

**Children, children, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Children, children, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too**

## *The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer* | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

**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 349 "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" | LEMMEL

*The cantor will sing once; then, all sing.*

*During the singing of the hymn at 11:00 a.m., children Kindergarten up to grade 4 are dismissed through the front, lectern side doors to attend Children's Church. They can be picked up at the conclusion of worship in Room 320.*

## *The Offering and Offertory Anthem*

"The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" | Tom Fettke

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers; The moon and stars suspended in space. Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him? You have given man a crown of glory and honor and have made him a little lower than the angels. You have put him in charge of all creation: beasts of the field, The birds of the air, the fish of the sea. Oh, what is man? Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him? O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God; little children praise You perfectly, and so would we. And so would we. Alleluia! Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.*

Text by Linda Lee Johnson; based on Psalm 8

## *\*The Doxology | LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## PROCLAMATION

*The Scripture Reading* | Matthew 4:12-23

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

*The Message* | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Learning to Fish”

## RESPONSE

*\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 128 “He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought” | HE LEADETH ME

*\*The Blessing and Choral Benediction*

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You” | Peter Lutkin

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious. The Lord be gracious unto you. Amen.*

*\*The Postlude*

“Toccata on ‘St. Anne’” | Gordon Young

# THE STEEPLE

January 25, 2026

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



JANUARY 31

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

### Women's Conference | January 31

Join us for our Women's Conference on **Saturday, January 31, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall** with guest speaker Laura Whitaker. Laura is the CEO of ESP, Inc., Co-Founder of Java Joy, and Author of The Joy Exchange. ESP is an Athens-based nonprofit that serves individuals with disabilities and their families through inclusive programs that foster belonging, purpose, and community. A passionate advocate, speaker, and leader, Laura brings a powerful faith-filled perspective shaped by her work, relationships, and lived experience. Join us for a meaningful morning of worship, reflection, and connection as we explore how God calls us to live with purpose and compassion in our everyday lives. The cost to attend is \$20 per participant. **Register today by scanning the QR Code in The Steeple.**

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



### Church Photo Directory January 29-February 3

We're approaching our second weekend of photo directory appointments, and the response has been wonderful! Whether you're a large family, a young couple, or will be photographed individually, we want everyone included in our directory. Appointments are available **January 29 through February 3**. While we've added dates as previous slots filled, this is our final extension. Every family who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 professional portrait and one printed directory. All appointments are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so **make your appointment today by scanning the QR Code in The Steeple.**



### Faith Milestone | February 1

All Grade 2 students and their parents or special grown-ups are invited to join us on **Sunday, February 1, at 9:30 a.m.** to learn about the meaning and history of Holy Communion. We will explore and sample the elements and make a keepsake to remember the day. Afterwards, at our 11:00 a.m. worship service, kids will join their families to celebrate Communion together. **Please register by scanning the QR Code in The Steeple.**

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

**Quick Links |** This QR code will allow you to quickly access information for events, giving, prayer, and more.



## Weekday Preschool Registration

AFUMC Weekday Preschool Registration 2026-27 School Year is open for currently enrolled families. Our Weekday Preschool serves children who are 9-months old to four years of age. You can find registration information, request a tour, and learn additional details about our program on the AFUMC Weekday Preschool webpage.

**Registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens:**

**January 26** for AFUMC members

**February 2** for the community

Kay Elder, Director of Weekday Preschool | [kay@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:kay@athensfirstumc.org)



## Senior Recognition Sunday | May 3

The Senior Class of 2026 will be recognized during the **11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 3**. Prior to the worship service, there will be a time of fellowship and recognition at our Senior Breakfast in Hancock Hall at 9:00 a.m. that morning. Family, friends, and other youth are invited to come and greet you and share in your excitement for the future. Please RSVP no later than **Friday, March 27**, so that we can make all the proper arrangements to ensure you are recognized and honored as a part of the worship service.

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister  
[montana@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:montana@athensfirstumc.org)



## Rainforest Falls VBS | June 1-4

Save the date for Rainforest Falls VBS! Rainforest Falls promises a week of wonder as kids explore the powerful nature of God! Through life-changing Bible stories, the coolest animal buddies, and joyful worship, they'll discover who God is and how to stay rooted in His love.

**Registration opens February 22.** Make plans to volunteer and to participate in Rainforest Falls VBS!

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

## MEMBER NEWS

### Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Page Allen and her family in the loss of her sister, Jean Hogan, on November 23.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Aaron Lines and his family in the loss of his mother, Myrtle Patricia Lines, on January 9.



**JANUARY 28:** Baked Pasta with Meat Sauce served with a side salad and garlic bread.  
Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan the Steeple QR Code to register online or Call the Church Office.

## FINANCIAL REPORT | 2026 As of January 20, 2026 ([finance@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:finance@athensfirstumc.org)):

**YTD Giving:** \$258,018 | **YTD Expenses:** \$124,479

### 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](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. Montana Hamby** | Associate Minister  
[montana@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:montana@athensfirstumc.org) | 770-633-3140

**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).

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

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