

The background features a stylized design with grey fish outlines and thick red lines. In the top left, a fish is positioned above a red line that curves around the text. In the bottom right, another fish is positioned below a red line that curves around the text. A small red dot is located in the top left corner, and another is in the bottom right corner.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026

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 Comer Whitehead by Anne Whitehead Garner and Bob Whitehead.

In loving memory of Mrs. Sara Hamby by Montana and Natalee Dukes Hamby.

In honor of Dr. Sungjoo Kim by the Music Ministry with gratitude to the Flower Guild.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"Adagio" from *Sonata No. 1 in F minor* | Felix Mendelssohn

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Montana Hamby

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 73 "O Worship the King" | LYONS

**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.

Almighty and merciful God, we know that when we offend another, we offend you. We are aware that we have often allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls, hiding the light from our unseeking eyes.

We have said unpleasant and hurtful things to those around us when they failed to live up to our expectations. Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us, the love that you have shown to us even we failed you. Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace, and reconciliation. Forgive us our sins and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us into new life through your Son Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all.

All pray in silence.

This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. 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!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory 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. Amen.

**The Passing of the Peace*

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 Offering and Offertory Anthem

"Be Not Afraid" | Craig Courtney

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir; Vincent Tong, accompanist

Janis Maxwell, Director of Student and Children's Music

Be not afraid for I have redeemed you; be not afraid I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end. Isaiah 43:1-4

**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 | “Learning to Fish” | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

The Second Grade Communion Milestone | 11:00 a.m.

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 451 "Be Thou My Vision" | SLANE
Verses 1 and 2

**The Blessing and Congregational Response*

"Be Thou My Vision"

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**The Postlude*

"Allegro assai vivace" from Sonata No. 1 | Mendelssohn

THE STEEPLE

February 1, 2026



Sungjoo Kim, Organ | Today

Join us **this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary for an inspiring afternoon of music with virtuoso Washington D.C. based organist, Sungjoo Kim. The program features Alexandre Guilmant's powerful *Organ Sonata No. 1 - Symphony in D Minor*, a cornerstone of the Romantic organ repertoire, along with settings of beloved hymns and works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Max Reger.

Free Admission; no tickets required.

Reception in Hancock Hall following the concert.

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship
ryan@athensfirstumc.org



Tell Me the Stories Milestone | February 8

One of our sweetest faith milestones is the 3-year-old "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" Milestone. At this informal gathering, children receive their very first storybook Bible from their church family and begin to discover the joy of God's Word. Their excitement and eagerness to read their very own Bible is a beautiful picture of child-like faith. This milestone will be celebrated on February 8 at 9:30 a.m. with a special family Sunday School experience for our 3-year-olds. Let us know you plan to attend by scanning the QR Code in The Steeple.

Emma Baughn, Assistant Director of Kids at Athens First
emma@athensfirstumc.org



Weekday Preschool Registration 2026-27 School Year

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 is open for current families and AFUMC members. Registration for the community opens on February 2.

Kay Elder, Director of Weekday Preschool | kay@athensfirstumc.org



Summer Music and Arts | July 6-9

Save the Date for Summer Music and Arts Week 2026! We will present the musical “Storms” by Mark Burrows! Where is God in the storms of life? This musical tells the story of a group of children who wonder if they have what it takes to weather storms in their lives. Camp dates are **July 6 through 9** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a performance on **Thursday, July 9, at 3:00 p.m. in Hancock Hall**. Music and Arts is open to kids in rising Grade 1 through rising Grade 6. Registration will open mid February, so save the date and make plans to join us!

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



College and YA Ministry Lunch | Today!

College students and young adults are invited to stay after worship for a homecooked meal, table discussions from the sermon, and time to hang out with other students and young adults! Sunday Lunch is our connection and gathering point. This Sunday's Meal: Soups and Baked Potato Bar! Come warm up with some of our favorite AFUMC soups and pick your favorite. Bring a friend and join us for a feeling of welcome and a taste of home!

Are you interested in supporting our growing College Ministry and providing one of our future college lunches? Scan the QR Code in The Steeple to sign up for a meal with your Small Group, Sunday school, or friends and family.

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

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Mike Donehoo on December 23.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Tommy "Corky" Warner and his family in the loss of his father, Tommy Edward Warner, Sr., on January 11.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Mary Zittrouer on January 19.

New Members

On December 21, we welcomed Patrick and Alicia Aldred, with their children Everly, Ashton, Lottie, and Camden; Dawn and Bob Frisch; Maggie O'Connor; Kathy and Brian Thomas; Leo West; Jordan and Hillary Whiddon, with their daughters Arlowen and Winter, to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.



FEBRUARY 4: Shrimp & Grits served with a side salad.

Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan the Steeple QR Code to register online or Call the Church Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT | 2026 As of January 27, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

YTD Actual Giving: \$277,802 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$167,018

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