



ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Transfiguration Sunday

February 15, 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 Grady Hutcherson and Leila and Eustace Denmark by the Hutcherson family.

Transfiguration Sunday is the final summit of the Epiphany season: a culminating celebration of Jesus, the Light of the World, through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany before the 40-day season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

During Lent, the Sanctuary assumes the posture of our inward spiritual journey.

Following services today, the Christ Candle will be removed, the crosses will be veiled, the word, ‘Alleluia,’ will be ‘buried’ from use, and the shutters will close.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Theme and Variations I-III” from *Variations on the Austrian Hymn*

John Knowles Paine

Raina Wood, Organist

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

The Choral Introit

“Choral Fanfare for Christ the King” | H. Hamilton Smith

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

He shall rule from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. All kings shall pay him homage. All nations shall serve him. Alleluia.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 731 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" | AUSTRIA

**The Affirmation of Faith | "The Nicene Creed"*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 Responsive Psalm | Psalm 99 | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

The Ringing of the Bells

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! The Lord sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion, and is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and wondrous name!

Holy is the Lord!

Mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity;

You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God. Worship at the Lord's footstool!

Holy is the Lord!

The Ringing of the Bells

Moses and Aaron were among God's priests, Samuel also was among those who called on God's name.

They cried to the Lord, who answered them, who spoke to them in the pillar of the cloud.

They kept God's testimonies, and the statutes God gave them.

O Lord, our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain.

Surely the Lord our God is holy!

The Ringing of the Bells

The Welcoming of New Members

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 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

"God of Grace and God of Glory" | Paul T. Langston

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

The text of this anthem can be found on page 577 of The United Methodist Hymnal.

**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 17:1-9

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“An Elevated Experience”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 90 “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” | LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Verses 1-2 and 4

**The Blessing and Choral Benediction*

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

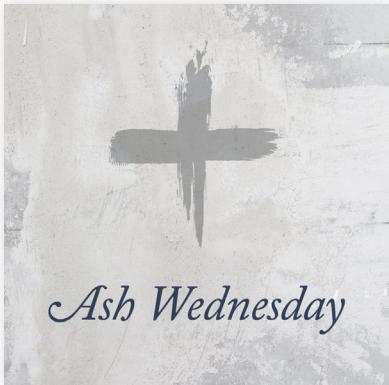
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious. The Lord be gracious unto you. Amen.

**The Postlude*

“Variation IV and Fugue” from *Variations on the Austrian Hymn* | Paine

THE STEEPLE

February 15, 2026



Ash Wednesday | February 18

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent, the forty days of reflection, self-examination, and repentance leading to Easter. We wear ashes on this day for many reasons. Throughout the Bible, ashes are used as symbols of grief, mourning, and solemnity. We invite you to join us in our sanctuary on **Wednesday, February 18**.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. | Self-Guided Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

6:30 p.m. | Evening Service

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



Special Offering | February 22

A special offering for the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council will be taken on **Sunday, February 22**. This administrative agency of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church works in partnership with churches and organizations to provide safe, affordable housing. One hundred percent of your gift will directly support ministries to assist individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. A gift of any amount will help bring hope to neighbors in need as we work to ensure all individuals in North Georgia have access to safe shelter. Learn more at www.nghhc.org and donate on Sunday, February 22.



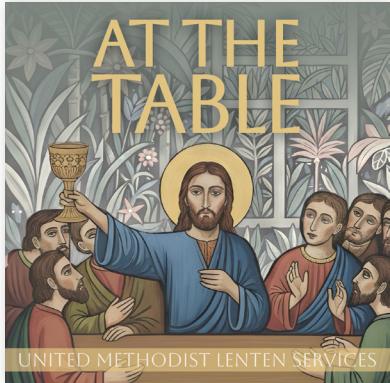
Sungjoo Kim, Organ | February 22 Sanctuary | 3:00 p.m.

Join us 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.

Reception in Hancock Hall following the concert.

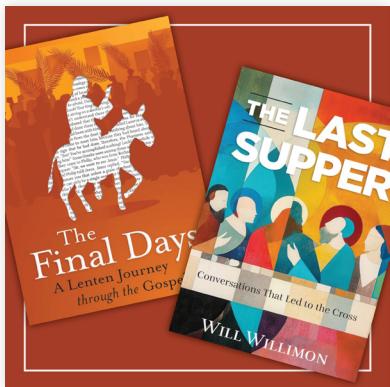
Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship
ryan@athensfirstumc.org

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



At the Table | February 25

Join us throughout Lent as we journey alongside our sister United Methodist Churches in the Athens area through a weekday sermon series titled **At the Table**. You are invited to join us each Wednesday in Lent at **noon** for a brief worship service and light lunch. This is an incredible opportunity to grow in faith together within our United Methodist connection. This experience brings us together with the congregations and leaders of Watkinsville First United Methodist Church, Tuckston UMC Athens, Johnson UMC, Princeton UMC, Winterville United Methodist Church, Bogart United Methodist Church, and Oconee Street United Methodist Church. Be sure to mark your calendars for **February 25** when Rev. Mike Selleck will be preaching at the Wednesday service hosted by Athens First UMC!



Lenten Study Opportunities

We're offering two Lenten study options: a lighter, **Core Study** and an **Enrichment Study** for those wanting to dig deeper. You're welcome to participate in either, or both! Lenten studies will begin February 22-28. Sign-ups will open next week.

Core Study | The Final Days by Rev. **Matt Rawle**, explores how the four Gospels tell the story of Jesus' final week, offering multiple perspectives that deepen our understanding of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

Enrichment Study | The Last Supper by Bishop **Will Willimon**, journeys with Jesus from Palm Sunday to the cross, exploring the parables he told and how they speak to our modern lives.

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Director of Small Groups | lisa@athensfirstumc.org



Spiritual Life Retreat | March 13-15

Join us for a weekend retreat at Camp Glisson for the 2026 Spiritual Life Retreat! Come relax by the falls of Camp Glisson alongside students for dozens of other United Methodist Churches for fellowship and worship. You'll experience incredible worship, captivating messages, and make all kinds of new friends in small groups across the weekend!

Scan the QR Code in The Steeple to register by Tuesday, February 17!

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister
montana@athensfirstumc.org

CALLED CHURCH COUNCIL/CHARGE CONFERENCE

There will be a Church Council Meeting starting with a brief Charge Conference Meeting on **Monday, February 16, at 5:30 p.m. in Hancock Hall**. The purpose of the charge conference is to approve clergy salaries for the coming conference year.

MEMBER NEWS

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Mae McWhorter and Stephen Kirkland on their marriage on February 7 in our Sanctuary.



Wednesday Night DINNER

FEBRUARY 18: Taco Lasagna served with Mexican beans and rice.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY | DINNER ENDS AT 6:15 P.M.

FINANCIAL REPORT | 2026 As of February 10, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

YTD Actual Giving: \$399,889 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$332,091

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.