

The background features a stylized illustration of three fish in grey and white, swimming in a clockwise direction. The fish are framed by thick red lines that form a partial border around the central text. A solid red circle is positioned in the upper left, and another is in the lower right.

ATHENS FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

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*Second Sunday of Easter*

April 12, 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.

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

**In honor of** JoAnne Moss on her 90th birthday by the Moss family.

## **GATHERING**

### *The Prelude*

“Variations on ‘Now the Green Blade Riseth’” | Marcel Dupré

*The text associated with this tune is on page 311 of The United Methodist Hymnal.*

Raina Wood, Organist

*The Welcome and Opening Prayer* | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

### *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 327 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” | DIADEMATA

*\*The Affirmation of Faith* | from I Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things 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 Sacrament of Baptism* | 9:30 a.m.

Collette Blair "Lettie" Whalen, daughter of Camille and Coleman Whalen  
**Lettie, Lettie, 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. Lettie, Lettie, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.**

*The Prayers of the People and 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 314 "In the Garden" | GARDEN

*This hymn is offered in loving honor of Gail Walton, a wonderful Mom, Nana, and wife who is loved by so many, by Kierstin, Charli, and David Walton.*

*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 Trumpet Shall Sound" from *Messiah* | George Frederic Handel  
John Drake, Choral Scholar '23 and bass-baritone; Will Tomaszewski, trumpet

*The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.*  
1 Corinthians 15: 52-53

## *\*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* | 1 Peter 1:3-9

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

### *The Message* | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

"Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

## RESPONSE

### *\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 364 "Because He Lives" | RESURRECTION

### *\*The Blessing*

### *\*The Congregational Response*

"He Lives" | ACKLEY

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever foes may say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near. He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

### *\*The Postlude*

"Variations on 'O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing'" | François Dandrieu

*The text associated with this tune is on page 317 of The United Methodist Hymnal*



## Mission Celebration Brunch | April 19

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, April 19**, to celebrate what God has done through our Missions Ministry in the past year! The Missions Celebration Brunch is a morning full of fun and fellowship around a delicious meal, accompanied by a silent basket auction. All are welcome! Ways to get involved:

- **Attend the Brunch!** Sign up for a seating time on the Missions webpage
- **Donate a basket!** Gather your group, class, family, or friends and donate a basket to be bid on!
- **Help us prepare!** Help us decorate and get ready for the Brunch on Saturday, April 18. Please email Sarah Beth Barger to help.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions | [sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org)



## Sweet Life | April 23

The Sweet Life is a gathering of our Athens First UMC members and friends who are age 50 and up. This month's luncheon, set for **April 23**, will include a program and lunch catered by The Master's Table. Lunch begins at 12:00 noon in Hancock Hall. The program starts at 12:30 p.m. We are pleased to welcome the Oconee High School marching band, concert band, and jazz band. Please join us for what we know will be a great program! RSVP by noon on Wednesday, April 22.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson, Associate Minister | [nancy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:nancy@athensfirstumc.org)



## College Grad Sunday | April 26

Join us for Graduation Sunday as we celebrate our college graduates during worship at **11:00 a.m. on April 26!** Whether you're graduating from undergraduate or graduate programs, we want to recognize all you have done! We'll have a special moment of celebration in worship for you, and we will have your names and graduation information included in our bulletin. Your parents and family are also invited to attend this special service and are welcome to stay for our final Sunday Lunch of the semester where the celebration will continue. To help us plan accordingly, please **RSVP by April 19** with the number of family members attending the lunch. Even if you're not in town, we still want to celebrate you. Scan the QR code and send us your graduation info. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you!



## Color Wars | April 26

Attention Students: Join us for our final Sunday Night Encounter of the school year for Color Wars! Hosted by Athens First Student Ministry, middle and High School students are invited to come **Sunday, April 26** dressed in white to leave in color! Students will meet in Hancock Hall at 5:45 p.m. Color Wars is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year that you won't want to miss. Register using the QR code above to help us prepare for all the fun!

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



## First Light Acolyte Training | May 3

Join the First Light Acolyte Team! You must be a church member and have completed Confirmation Class. Open to current 6th - 11th graders, acolytes lead worship by processing, carrying the cross, lighting candles, and assisting with communion and baptisms. It's an important job, and we are so grateful for our students who serve in this way! Training for new acolytes will be held on **Sunday, May 3**, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. To attend the training, scan the QR code above. If you're interested but unable to be there, please email Janis Maxwell.

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry  
[janis@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org)



## VBS | Donations Needed

Rainforest Falls VBS is coming this summer - **June 1-4** - for rising K-6th graders. You can help make VBS a success! Your support ensures a fun, faith-filled experience for our kids. There are several ways to give, and every donation makes a difference! Monetary donations help fund supplies, snacks, and activities. Select Vacation Bible School fund when giving. You can also view our Amazon wish list, and ship items directly to us. We are thankful for your support! Scan the QR code above for more information.

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

## SERMON NOTES:



**APRIL 15: Fried Chicken** served with roasted potatoes, lima beans and a roll.  
Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan the Steeple QR Code to register online or Call the Church Office.

### 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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