

The background features a stylized graphic design. It consists of several grey fish-like shapes with simple eyes and curved bodies, arranged in a circular pattern. These shapes are framed by thick red lines that form a partial square and a partial circle. A solid red circle is also present in the upper left corner, and another is in the lower right corner.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

College Graduation Sunday

April 26, 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 Virginia and Comer Whitehead on their wedding anniversary month by Anne Whitehead Garner and Bob Whitehead.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Prelude in G Major,” BWV 551 | Johann Sebastian Bach

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Opening Prayer | Andrew Charlton

The Call to Worship

“Rondo Passacaglia” | Cynthia Dobrinski

Rung by the Athens First Ringers; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 559 "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" | WESTMINSTER ABBEY

**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 Celebration of College Ministry and Recognition of
College Graduates* | 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby and Caroline Anne Chapura

The Prayers of the People and 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 393 "Spirit of the Living God" | LIVING GOD

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

"If Ye Love Me" | Philip Wilby

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

This anthem has been placed in the choir library to the Glory of God and in memory of Barbara Wood by Raina Wood.

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; E'en the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you, I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

John 14:15-18

**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 2:2-8 | Ellen Daiss

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Living Stones”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 304 “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” | REGENT SQUARE

**The Blessing*

**The Choral Benediction*

“In Meeting We Are Blessed” | Troy Robertson

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

This choral benediction is offered in loving honor of graduating 2026 Choral Scholars, Marianna Baccus, Ava Bogarde, and Audrey Vazquez, by the Music Ministry.

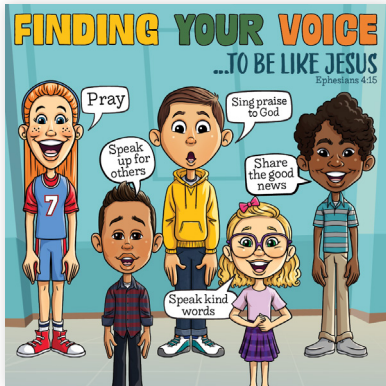
We are met together and in meeting we are blessed. Peace in coming and in going, peace in labor and in rest. Hold on, dear sister! Hold on to me. Hold on, dear brother! Hold on to me. You're not alone and you never more will be. I will be with you and I will carry you with me. Friendship endures, surely we will prove it's not ourselves, but our bodies that move.

**The Postlude*

“The People Respond — Amen!” from *Rubrics* | Dan Locklair

THE STEEPLE

April 26, 2026



CMM Spring Program | Today!

Our Children's Music Ministry choirs are working hard to bring you an uplifting Spring Program **today at 3:00 p.m.** in Hancock Hall. We have been "Finding Our Voices to Be Like Jesus" all year, and we have learned some important lessons about how our voices can be helpful and kind as we move through this world. Solos, scripture, and combined choir anthems will have you feeling impressed with these youngest worship leaders and music makers. We hope to see you at our Spring Program!

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



Final Wednesday Night Dinner | April 29

This **Wednesday, April 29**, is our last Wednesday Night Dinner until August. Chicken Fajita Pasta is on the menu, so make sure to register by Tuesday at noon!

We would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You!" to Mitch Bain for faithfully preparing delicious meals for our church family and to Alisha Bain for leading this incredible ministry. We are also sincerely grateful for our dedicated volunteers who have served and supported these dinners throughout the year. Thank you all!

Alisha Bain, Administrative Assistant | alisha@athensfirstumc.org



New Member Class | April 29

We invite you to take the next step in your faith journey by becoming a member of Athens First United Methodist Church. Membership is a holy opportunity to formally commit to our congregation and to grow together through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Our New Member Class is designed to help you connect, ask questions, and discern your place in the life of the church. Our next New Member Class will be held on **April 29 at 6:15 p.m.**, in preparation for Membership Sunday on May 17. Please register online, or for more information about membership, contact Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby.

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



Wesleyan Youth Choir Drop Party | May 3

The Wesleyan Youth Choir invites you to join us for the first time listening to our first album! In early March, we spent an afternoon at Maxwell Sound Recording Studio and recorded several of our favorite songs from the last few years! **Join us from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on May 3** in Hanock Hall as we play the album, show some videos of the making of it, salute our Choir Seniors, and enjoy some snacks. It will be a fun party, and we want you to be there!

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



WYC Choir Tour '26

The Wesleyan Youth Choir is headed to HIGHER GROUND as we travel to Niagara Falls for lots of music and adventures! The WYC is touring **May 25 - 31** and will be singing in Charlotte, NC, Massillon, OH, Erie, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Athens, GA. If you have family or friends in these locations, send them out to see us! We will end our tour with a **Home Concert in our sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday May 31**. Thank you for your support and prayers

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



Summer Camps at Athens First UMC

Join Athens First UMC's Recreation Ministry this summer for an exciting line up of camp opportunities for kids of all ages!

James Banks Basketball Camp | June 8-12 | June 22-26 | July 13-17

Enjoy a fun-filled week of skill-building, basketball games, and fellowship. Camp runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with an additional option of Extended After Care. Basketball Camp registration is \$175.

Road Runners Volleyball Camp | July 20 - 23

Hosted by the coaches of the Road Runners club team, this camp is a wonderful opportunity for girls entering grades 3-6 to learn the skills and fundamentals of volleyball! Volleyball Camp is scheduled Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.! Volleyball Camp registration is \$110.

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

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Mary Lynn Lane and her family in the loss of her brother, Steve Stovall, on April 3.

New Member

On April 19, we welcomed Sue Ellen Patterson to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.



APRIL 29: Chicken Fajita Pasta served with a side salad.

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

LAST DINNER BEFORE SUMMER BREAK!

FINANCIAL REPORT As of April 20, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | YTD Actual Giving: \$875,444 | YTD Actual Expenses: \$892,629

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. Montana Hamby | Associate Minister
montana@athensfirstumc.org | 770-633-3140

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby | Associate Minister
natalee@athensfirstumc.org | 404-414-1701

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

The 2026 College Graduates

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | ATHENS, GEORGIA

Marianna Grace Baccus

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy

Katharine Marley Bain

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Interdisciplinary Art

Peter John Bartlett

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Arts in Entertainment and Media Studies with a Certificate in Sports Media
and a Minor in History

Ava Christine Bogarde

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Music Education

Caroline Anne Chapura

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Hospitality and Food Industry Management
and a Minor in Agribusiness

Andrew Scott Charlton

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance

Lily Grace Conrad

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Science in Furnishings and Interiors

Constance Anne Cross

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Management

Ellen Samantha Daiss

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Master of Accountancy

Madeline Sommer Daughtry

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Master of Education

James McLendon Fiveash
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Corinne Blakely Furlow
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a Certificate in New Media

Lillie Katherine Holden
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Master of Arts in Teaching in Museum Education

Faith Virginia Lowry
GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Carson Allen Purvis
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance

Kinsleigh Elizabeth Purvis
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Biological Sciences

Meredith Hiles Reynolds
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Kinesiology

Andrew Freeman Ridings
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Science in Sports Management

William Davis Ridings
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Science in Sports Management

Elijah Langston Rogers
LAGRANGE COLLEGE
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Audrey Jeanette Vazquez
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Bachelor of Music