



ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Senior Sunday

May 3, 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 Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon McAdams, David McAdams, and Barbara and Hal McAdams by the McAdams family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Sarabande and Interlude” | Herbert Sumsion
Raina Wood, Organist

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

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 154 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” | CORONATION

**The Affirmation of Faith* | Written by the 2021 Confirmation Class

11:00 a.m. | H. T. Garrard

We believe God is our Creator, and He knows us better than we know ourselves. God is real, and He proved His love by giving Jesus to this world. God is our anchor, and we can put our trust in Him. We believe in Jesus, Son of God, who was baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus knows how we feel, and he spoke the word of God through his life and showed us how to live. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by dying on the cross for our sin and the sin of the world. Jesus saves us and is willing to forgive us for all sin. Jesus rose from the grave, and still today helps us through all ups and downs. We believe the Holy Spirit lives within us and guides us through our life. When we pray to God, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. The Spirit of God is everywhere, and through it we receive our individual gifts and talents. We believe the Bible is the Word of God, and we aim to live by His Word each day. We believe the church is a place for believers to come together for prayer and connection, so that we may go out into the world to love others as God has loved us. 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 Recognition of the Senior Class of 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Montana Hamby

The Prayers of the People and 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 | 11:00 a.m. Aaron Brodrick and Ruby Frye

The Offertory Anthem

9:30 a.m. | “My Hope is Built” | Tom Trenney

Sung by Marianna Baccus, Choral Scholar '26 and mezzo-soprano

The text can be found on page 368 of The United Methodist Hymnal.

11:00 a.m. | “Go Down Moses” | Tom Shelton

Sung by the Wesleyan Youth Choir

Soloists: Zane Taylor, Vera Mae Wood, Daly Carpenter, and Aaron Brodrick

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Student Music Ministry; Vincent Tong, piano

The text can be found on page 448 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 | 1 Peter 2:8-10

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“When You Know Who You Are, You’ll Know What to Do”

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.

The Music During Communion | 11:00 a.m.

"What a Beautiful Name" | Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood

Offered by Daly Carpenter, vocals; Lily Anne Taylor, vocals; Zane Taylor, guitar; James Lawson, piano; Ari Van Devender, bass

RESPONSE

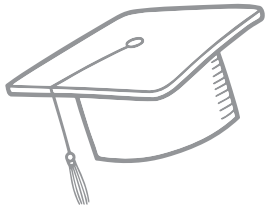
**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 451 "Be Thou My Vision" | SLANE

**The Blessing*

**The Postlude*

"Paeon" | Peter Hurford



Celebrating Our High School Seniors

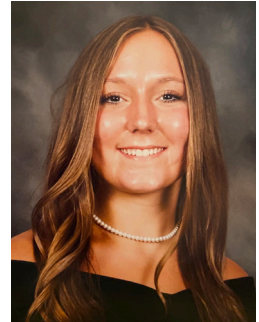
Lyle Oliver Armel IV
MADISON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Aaron McRee Brodrick
OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Lucy Agnes Burruss
NORTH OCONEE HIGH SCHOOL



Benjamin Roper Bush
ATHENS ACADEMY



Daly Addison Carpenter
CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



Lila Grace Chambers
PRINCE AVENUE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Ella Louise Dillon
ATHENS ACADEMY



Ruby Lucille Frye
CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



Henry Thomas Garrard
ATHENS ACADEMY



Thomas Crenshaw Halbach
NORTH OCONEE HIGH SCHOOL



Matthew David Lasseter
OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Luke Aaron Lawson
NORTH OCONEE HIGH SCHOOL



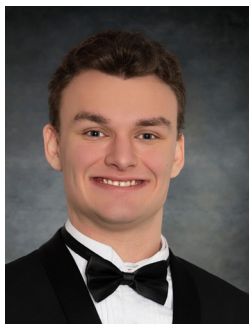
Lillian Grace McNeill
PRINCE AVENUE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



James William Parker IV
ATHENS ACADEMY



Roland Daniel Johnson Pierson
CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



Mason Charles Pilcher
NORTH OCONEE HIGH SCHOOL



Henry Straughan Stokes
ATHENS ACADEMY



James Bradley Talley
ATHENS ACADEMY



Charles Hollis Walton
ATHENS ACADEMY



Reese Stephens Walton
ATHENS ACADEMY



Price Joiner West
ATHENSACADEMY



Elizabeth Bay Williams
ATHENSACADEMY



Parker Thomas Willimon
ATHENSACADEMY



Sarah Anne Woody
ATHENSACADEMY



Thank you

Special thank you to our grade level sponsors
for the 2026 Senior Class:
Susan Brodrick, Eddie Dillon, and Rachael Dillon

THE STEEPLE

May 3, 2026



Wesleyan Youth Choir Drop Party | Today!

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. today** in the Student Space 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



Wesley Woods Special Offering | May 10

There will be a Special Offering for Wesley Woods on Sunday, May 10. Honor your mother or grandmother with a love offering to support those in need. For more than 48 years, churches of The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church have received the Mother's Day Offering for Wesley Woods. This generous support funds financial assistance for meals and housing to residents who have the gift of a long life but may have outlived their resources. In addition, the Mother's Day Offering also supports on-site chaplains and an innovative wellness program. We will collect this offering on May 10.



Creation Concert | May 17

Acclaimed soprano and baritone soloists, Jasmine Habersham and Isaiah Feken, join the Sanctuary Choir and orchestra on **Sunday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.** for Dan Forrest's *Creation*. Through ancient texts and powerful music, Forrest recounts the days of God's creation while inviting listeners to reflect on how God is still shaping the world, and us, today. *Free admission; no tickets required.*

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



Vacation Bible School | June 1-4

Volunteers—both students and adults—are needed to help bring Rainforest Falls VBS to life! VBS takes place **June 1-4** for rising K-6th graders, and the number of children we can welcome depends on our volunteer team. Rising 7th-12th graders are invited to serve alongside adult leaders, helping guide our young explorers to make sure they have a fun and safe adventure. Adult volunteers will serve as Rainforest Rangers, leading groups of kids through the lush paths of Rainforest Falls. Crew Guides are our greatest need, and donations are also appreciated. Bring your sense of adventure and love for the outdoors as Athens First comes alive with the excitement of discovering God's creation together. Please prayerfully consider serving and scan the QR code above to register today!

Traci Lowry, Director of Kids at Athens First | traci@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



Summer Music and Arts | July 6-9

We are excited to bring back Summer Music and Arts—and this year we're thrilled to announce that we'll be putting on a musical! Along with music, movement, instruments, and art, students will work together to produce Mark Burrows' musical *Storms*. It's going to be an incredibly fun and creative week, and we hope your kids can join us! Summer Music and Arts will take place **July 6-9**, from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The cost is \$60 (\$40 for each additional sibling), and the program is open to rising 1st-6th graders. Families are invited to an end-of-week performance on **Thursday, July 9, at 3:00 p.m.** Please register by May 15.

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

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are in the process of creating a contact list that will be included in the new photo directory. Please take a moment to review and update your mailing address, email, and phone number in your Realm account, or contact the church office for assistance. If you would prefer not to be included in the directory, please email Kelly Roberson at kelly@athensfirstumc.org by May 20 to let us know.

MEMBER NEWS

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Mary Jill Springer and her family in the loss of her father, Edward Eugene "Gene" Turner, on March 18.

FINANCIAL REPORT *As of April 27, 2026* (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$908,383 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$981,202

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
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