

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

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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.

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

In memory and honor of all mothers—biological and spiritual mothers. White roses are placed for those whose memory resides in our hearts, and red roses are placed in honor of those who live among us loving, nurturing, and guiding.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Fantaisie in A Major” | Camille Saint-Saëns

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Call to Worship

“Capriccio” | Karen L. Buckwalter

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

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 66 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” | LAUDA ANIMA

**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.

James Thomas Rabe, son of Rachel and Jarrett Rabe

James, James, 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. James, James, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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 Hymn

UMH 399 "Take My Life and Let It Be" | MESSIAH

Verses 1 and 3

During the singing at 11:00 a.m., children Pre-K 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 | Dr. Tom Jackson, Wesley Woods Board of Directors, Member

The Offertory Anthem

“Lord of the Dance” | arr. Kevin McChesney
Rung by the Athens First Carillon

**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 3:13-22

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“Ready, Willing, and Able”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 261 “Lord of the Dance” | LORD OF THE DANCE

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars
and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth, at Bethlehem I had my
birth. “Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance,” said he. “I’ll lead you
all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the Dance,” said he.**

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John; They came with me and the dance went on. "Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "I'll lead you all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame, the holy people, they said it was a shame; They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and they left me there on a cross to die. "Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "I'll lead you all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.

Choir Only:

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; They buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on. "Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "I'll lead you all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die, I'll live in you if you'll live in me; "I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance," said he. "I'll lead you all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the Dance," said he.

**The Blessing*

**The Choral Benediction*

"God Be with You till We Meet Again" | Ralph Vaughan Williams

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

*God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.*

**The Postlude*

"Toccata in Seven" | John Rutter



Wesley Woods Special Offering | Today

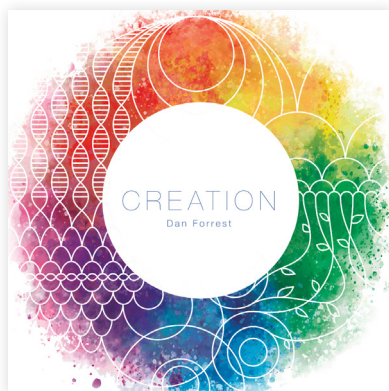
There will be a Special Offering for Wesley Woods today. Honor your mother or grandmother with a love offering to support those in need. For more than 48 years, churches of The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church have received the Mother's Day Offering for Wesley Woods. This generous 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.



Missions Opportunity | May 16

In partnership with the UGA Athletic Association, churches across the Athens area are coming together on **Saturday, May 16, at Stegman Coliseum**, to package meals as part of the "Feed My Starving Children" ministry. These meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Once assembled, the meals are shipped worldwide in the fight to end world hunger. Join Athens First UMC from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. for our church's volunteer shift. Volunteers work in 2-hour sessions, and each volunteer packs enough food to feed a child for seven months! This is a great volunteer opportunity for families. Scan the QR code to learn more and register.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions
sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org



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.*

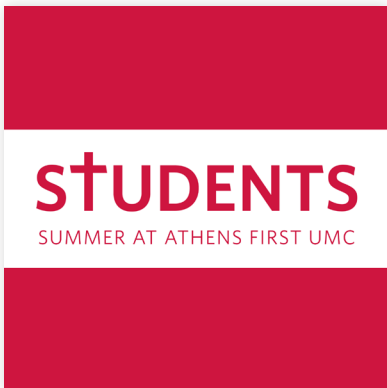
Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship
ryan@athensfirstumc.org



Membership Sunday | May 17

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 next New Member Sunday will be on May 17th. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby to schedule a new member meeting.

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



Student Ministry Summer Fun

Start planning your summer with Students at Athens First UMC! We've got a full schedule of fun for middle school and high school students to stay connected all summer long. Check out the dates below and register online:

June 1-4 | Volunteer at VBS

June 12-13 | High School Lake Retreat

June 25 | Rising 6th Grade Tubing Trip

July 12, 19, 26 | Summer Supper Club

July 13-16 | Middle School Mission Trip to St. Simons Island

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister | montana@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. 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. **We need six more Crew Guides!** Donations are also appreciated.

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

In Memoriam

George Whitton
April 29, 2026

New Arrival

Congratulations to Rev. Lisa and Brian Lawrenz on the birth of their son, Aiden, who was born on April 29. Aiden is the grandson of Nancy and Ed Sheppard.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Sarah Kate Call and Cade Roberts on their marriage on May 2 in our sanctuary.

FINANCIAL REPORT *As of May 5, 2026* (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$976,644 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,067,508

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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