

The background features a stylized illustration of three fish in grey and white, arranged in a triangular pattern. The fish are enclosed within a red geometric frame that consists of several thick red lines forming a partial border. A solid red circle is positioned in the upper left corner, and another solid red circle is in the lower right corner. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Ascension Sunday

May 17, 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 Miriam and Louis Trousdale by the families of Janie and Cody Gunn, Miriam and Mark Metcalf, and Lou Trousdale.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Prelude in A Major, BWV 536” | Johann Sebastian Bach

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 312 “Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise” | LLANFAIR

**The Affirmation of Faith* | “The Apostles’ Creed”

I believe in **God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 Responsive Reading | Psalm 47

Choir: *Earth and heaven repeat the cry, “Glory be to God on high.”*

Clap your hands, all peoples! **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, **a great Ruler over all the earth,** who subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet, who chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.

All singing: **Earth and heaven repeat the cry, “Glory be to God on high.”**

God has gone up with a shout, **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

Sing praises to God, sing praises! **Sing praises to our Ruler, sing praises!**

For God is the Ruler of all the earth; Sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the people gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted!

All singing: **Earth and heaven repeat the cry, “Glory be to God on high.”**

The Sacrament of Baptism | 9:30 a.m.

Clara Hartman Howell, daughter of Elizabeth and Stuart Howell

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

The Welcoming of New Members | 11:00 a.m.

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 430 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" | MARYTON

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 Solo

"Deep River" | arr. Moses Hogan

Sung by Jasmine Habersham, soprano

Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that Gospel feast? That promised land, where all is peace? Oh, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground. Traditional Spiritual

**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 4:12-14; 5:6-11

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“One Last Thing”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 733 “Marching to Zion” | MARCHING TO ZION

**The Blessing*

**The Choral Benediction*

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

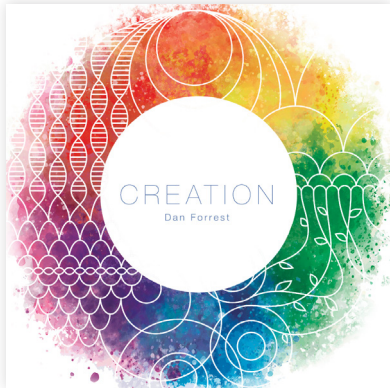
Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

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*

“Allegro in D Major” | William Boyce



Creation Concert | Tonight!

We invite you to join us **tonight at 7:00 p.m.** for closing concert of our 2025-2026 season, Dan Forrest's CREATION! This concert, led by our Sanctuary Choir with soloists and orchestra, will reflect on the wonder and beauty of the days of God's creation—from light to humanity. A beautiful garden will fill the chancel thanks to Cofer's Home and Garden and following the concert in the Narthex, guests can create their own take-home floral bouquets with Athens Bloom Bar. Free admission; *no tickets required.*

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



Sweet Life Luncheon | May 28

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 **May 28**, 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. Join us as Randell Abney shares his expertise during an enjoyable olive oil tasting. Please RSVP by noon on Wednesday, May 27.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson, Associate Minister | nancy@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



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



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



Summer Adult Sunday School | Begins July 12

Beginning July 12, all Adult Sunday School classes will gather together in Hancock Hall for a **special three-week summer series** from **9:30-10:30 a.m.** Through conversations with both staff and lay leaders, we'll explore the many ways discipleship takes shape through worship, faith formation, service, hospitality, and outreach both within our church and beyond. Join us for a meaningful opportunity to learn, connect, and reflect on how God calls each of us to live out our faith in everyday life.

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

MEMBER NEWS

Baptism

We celebrate that James Thomas Rabe, son of Rachel and Jarrett Rabe, received the sacrament of baptism on May 10.

FINANCIAL REPORT *As of May 12, 2026* (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,013,093 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,158,603

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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