

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 corner, and another is in the lower right corner.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

The Day of Pentecost

May 24, 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 loving memory of Harman and John Carlton Moseman, who were both lost during World War II, by Lynne and Roy Moseman.

Pentecost, the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season, celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message. The day emphasizes that the Church is understood as the body of Christ, which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit.

GATHERING

The Prelude

Variations I-III from “Choral Varié sur le thème du Veni Creator” | Maurice Duruflé

Raina Wood, Organist

The text associated with this tune is found on page 651 of the United Methodist Hymnal.

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

The Remembrance of the Fallen

Dr. Brandon Craswell, trumpet

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 384 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | BEECHER

**The Affirmation of Faith*

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children’s good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father’s unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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 104:1-13 | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

Choir: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! **O Lord my God, you are very great!**

You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment;

You have stretched out the heavens like a tent, and have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters; you make the clouds your chariot, and ride on the wings of the wind;
you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

At your rebuke they fled; **at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.**

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys, to the place that you appointed for them.

You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

Choir: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,

they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild beasts quench their thirst.

Above the springs the birds of the air have their nests; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty place you water the mountains; with the fruit of your work the earth is satisfied.

Choir: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire; thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart. Amen.

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 334 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" | SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

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

"See How Great a Flame Aspires" | Ronald Kauffmann

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

See how great a flame aspires, kindled by a spark of grace! Jesus' love the nations fires, sets the kingdoms on a blaze! To bring fire on earth he came; kindled in some hearts it is; O that all might catch the flame, all partake the glorious bliss! When he first the work begun, small and feeble was His day; now the word does swiftly run, now it winds its wid'ning way. Ever mighty to prevail; Shakes the trembling gates of Hell. Text by Charles Wesley, 1749

**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 | Acts 2:1-13

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

The Message | Rev. Montana Hamby

“Sold Out for the Spirit”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 539 “O Spirit of the Living God” | FOREST GREEN

**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*

“Final Variation” from *Veni Creator* | Duruflé



WYC Choir Tour '26

The Wesleyan Youth Choir is headed to HIGHER GROUND as they travel to Niagara Falls for a week filled with music, worship, and adventure! The WYC will tour May 25-31, singing in Charlotte, NC, Massillon, OH, Erie, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, and Athens, GA. If you have family or friends in any of these areas, invite them to come hear the choir. **The choir will conclude the tour with a Home Concert in our sanctuary next Sunday, May 31, at 3:30 p.m.** All are invited!

Thank you for your prayers and support as our students and leaders travel and share their gifts through music.

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

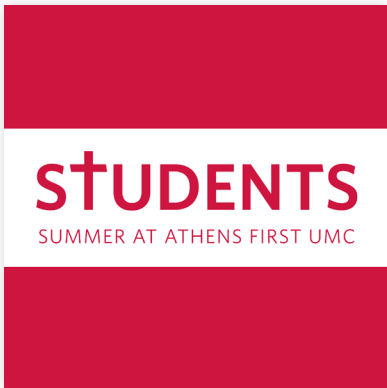
Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister | montana@athensfirstumc.org



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



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

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

Laura Davis Patterson
May 6, 2026

Chris Holland
May 13, 2026

Leon Smith
May 13, 2026

Baptism

We celebrate that Clara Hartman Howell, daughter of Elizabeth and Stuart Howell, received the sacrament of baptism on May 17.

New Members

On May 17, we welcomed Jason, Jena, Colin, and Grant Hills to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TOMORROW

The church office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

FINANCIAL REPORT *As of May 19, 2026* (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,114,690 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,198,959

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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