

The background features a stylized illustration of three fish in grey and black outlines, swimming in various directions. These fish 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. A horizontal red line with a central dot is located below the church name.

ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 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 honor of Bill and Sara Powell on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by their family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“He’s Got the Whole World In His Hands” | Joel Raney

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Montana Hamby

The Call to Worship | from Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School

Minister: God is our creator.

People: Wow, God!

Minister: God knows everything.

People: Wow, God!

Minister: God is our safe place.

People: Wow, God!

Minister: God is love.

People: Wow, God!

Minister: God is forever.

People: Wow, God!

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 139 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" | LOBE DEN HERREN

**The Prayer of Confession*

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. Though you know us completely, we have hidden from your truth. Though you are our safe place, we have trusted in ourselves instead of you. Though you are love, we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. You fill your world with beauty and wonder, yet we have turned away from the cries of your creation. Forgive us, we pray. Renew us by your grace, restore us to right relationship with you and one another, and free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: God is forever. Even when we turned away from his will and forgot his promises, his love and faithfulness endure forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory 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 Vacation Bible School

Traci Lowry, Director of Athens First Kids

At 9:30 a.m., children singing can be picked-up following worship in Hancock Hall.

The Hymn

UMH 147 “All Things Bright and Beautiful” | ROYAL OAK

Verses 1 and 3

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 Offering and Offertory Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth” | John Rutter

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

The text of this anthem can be found on page 92 of The United Methodist Hymnal.

**The Doxology* | OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Scripture Reading | Luke 18:15-17

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

“What Does the Kingdom of God Sound Like?”

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.

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 133 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" | SHOWALTER

**The Blessing and 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*

"Tuba Tune" | Craig Sellar Lang



Fill Our Food Pantry | Pantry & Snack Bags

Each week, our church serves neighbors who walk through our doors in need of food assistance, and we need your help! We are currently restocking our Food Pantry. Instructions for shelf-stable pantry bags (for those with access to a kitchen) and ready-to-eat snack bags (for those without) are available at the front desk, where reusable bags can also be picked up. Completed bags may be returned to the front desk. These bags provide nourishment for our neighbors facing food insecurity. Thank you for helping care for our community!

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



Sack Lunch Ministry | Summer Dates

Did you know that every Sunday volunteers from our congregation prepare 30 sack lunches for neighbors in need right here at our church? These lunches are distributed from our Hull Street entrance at 10:30 a.m. Volunteers may serve as a small group, Sunday School class, family, or individual.

Dates still needing volunteers:

July 5 | July 19 | July 26

Sign up for a date by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin!

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



Agape Adult Summer Fun | June 12

Come join us for summer fun with our Adult Agape ministry! Our Agape program is our special needs ministry created to reflect Christ's love through belonging and inclusion. We'll visit the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth, Georgia on **Friday, June 12, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** We'll explore historic engines, freight cars, passenger coaches and mail cars, and enjoy fascinating model train displays and railroad history.

Meet us at the church at 8:45 a.m. to spend the day at the museum.

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

SERMON NOTES:

Quick Links | This QR code will allow you to quickly access information for events, giving, prayer, and more.



FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 1, 2026* (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,233,306 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,326,308

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