

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, 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

*Third Sunday After Pentecost*

June 14, 2026  
9:30 & 11:00 A.M.

# *The Worship of God*

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\*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** Eunice and Harold Hawk and Jane and Rufus Harris by Beth and Tom Hawk.

## **GATHERING**

### *The Prelude*

“Prelude in Classic Style” | Gordon Young

Raina Wood, Organist

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

### *The Call to Worship*

Minister: Come, Holy Spirit. Breathe new life into tired bones.

**All: We are ready to be stirred, awakened, and filled.**

Minister: Move through our worship with power and grace.

**All: Blow through our lives like wind through dry places.**

Minister: Come, Spirit of God. Renew, restore, and revive.

**All: We worship with open hearts and expectant faith.**

**Come, Holy Spirit. Make us new.**

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

### *\*The Processional Hymn*

UMH 648 “God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian” | HYFRYDOL

*This hymn is offered in celebration and honor of the 2026 North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held June 18-20 in Athens, Georgia.*

### *\*The Affirmation of Faith* | “A Modern Affirmation”

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 Sacrament of Baptism* | 11:00 a.m.

Sarah Walker Schmidt, daughter of Caroline and Taylor Schmidt

**Sarah Walker, 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. Sarah Walker, 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 420 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" | TRENTHAM

Verses 1-3

*The Offering and Offertory Anthem*

"Awake, My Heart" | Jane Marshall

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

*Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender, Thy maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor. Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day, with thee beside me, beginning, middle, ending will all be upward tending. My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling; Thy word my nurture giv'n to bring me on toward heaven. Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender, Thy maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.* Text by Paulus Gerhardt, 17th Century German

*\*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* | Acts 4:1-23; 31

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

*The Message* | Rev. Jeremy Lawson  
"Putting Words in Your Mouth"

## RESPONSE

*\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 98 "To God Be the Glory" | TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*\*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*

"Festal Flourish" | Gordon Jacob



CELEBRATING REV. DR. NANCY JOHNSON

## Celebrating Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson | June 21

All are invited to a special reception honoring Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson on Sunday, June 21, following both worship services. Join us as we gather and celebrate Nancy and her ministry with Athens First UMC. The reception will be held in Hancock Hall, where refreshments and light snacks will be served. We look forward to seeing you there as we express our gratitude for Nancy!

college

+  
y|a young adults

AT ATHENS FIRST UMC

## College and Young Adult Summer Events

### Summer Supper Club | Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Join other Young Adults for community and connection as we soak in summer in Athens while visiting a new restaurant every week. Email or text Natalee to be added to the Supper Club group text!

### Topgolf & Gwinnett Stripers Game | Saturday, July 11

Join our College & Young Adult Ministry for a summer day of fun on Saturday, July 11! We'll leave the church at 2:30 p.m. for an afternoon at Topgolf followed by the Gwinnett Stripers game that evening. Cost is \$35 per person and includes your gameplay at Topgolf and your ticket to the baseball game. Space is limited, register online by June 30.

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister

[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org)

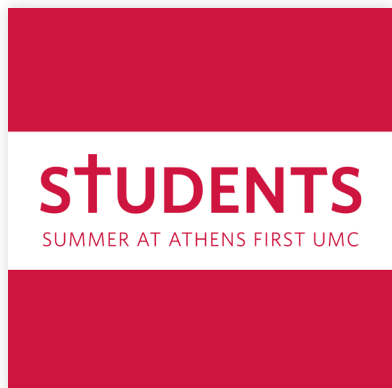
Summer  
music  
& arts  
2026  
Musical

## 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](mailto:janis@athensfirstumc.org)



## Student Ministry at Athens First UMC

Students at Athens First UMC have a full summer ahead that you will not want to miss! Also, go ahead and mark your calendars for our Fall Retreats and this year's Student Ministry Kickoff: Inflatapalooza! Register for Fall Retreats by July 15 for Early Bird Discount! Check out the dates below and register online:

**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

**August 9** | Encounter Kickoff: Inflatapalooza

**August 15-16** | High School Momentum Retreat

**August 21-23** | Middle School and Confirmation Retreat

Rev. Montana Hamby, Associate Minister | [montana@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:montana@athensfirstumc.org)



## Leadership Residency Internship Application Now Open

The Leadership Residency at Athens First UMC is a year-long, paid internship for University of Georgia students seeking to grow at the intersection of faith and vocation. This unique program pairs academic interests with hands-on ministry experience, placing interns in roles that match their passions and skills. Through weekly cohort gatherings, leadership development, and real-world service, participants are equipped to lead well in any calling. Whether exploring ministry or preparing for a professional path shaped by faith, this immersive experience invites students to grow, serve, and lead with purpose. UGA students are invited to apply online at [athensfirstumc.org/intern](http://athensfirstumc.org/intern).

Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby, Associate Minister  
[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org)



## North Georgia Annual Conference

The North Georgia UMC Annual Conference returns to Athens this week as United Methodists from across our region gather at the Classic Center for worship, learning, fellowship, and the business of the Church. Annual Conference is a reminder of our connection to congregations and ministries throughout North Georgia and the shared mission we undertake together. As we welcome visitors to our Athens community, we invite you to keep the conference, its leaders, clergy, laity, and churches in your prayers.

## MEMBER NEWS

### In Memoriam

Kathryn Spratlin

June 2, 2026

### Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Kathryn Spratlin on June 2.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Friday, June 19, for Juneteenth.

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



## FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 9, 2026* ([finance@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:finance@athensfirstumc.org)):

**2026 Budget:** \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,313,707 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,432,396

### 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](mailto:jeremy@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-304-3574

**Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby** | Associate Minister  
[natalee@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org) | 404-414-1701

**Rev. Montana Hamby** | Associate Minister  
[montana@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:montana@athensfirstumc.org) | 770-633-3140

**Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson** | Associate Minister  
[nancy@athensfirstumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@athensfirstumc.org).

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

**ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
327 N LUMPKIN ST. ATHENS, GA 30601 • 706-543-1442 | [athensfirstumc.org](http://athensfirstumc.org)