

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

*Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

June 21, 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 memory and honor of** all fathers—biological and spiritual—who have loved us, shaped us, and guided us throughout our lives.

## **GATHERING**

### *The Prelude*

“The Peace May Be Exchanged” from *Rubrics* | Dan Locklair  
Raina Wood, Organist

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

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

### *\*The Processional Hymn*

UMH 103 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” | ST. DENIO

### *\*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 Responsive Reading* | from Psalm 139

Choir: *Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Sung: **Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Where can I go from your spirit?

**Or where can I flee from your presence?**

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,"

**even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

Sung: **Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

**Wonderful are your works!**

You know me very well;

**My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**I try to count them—they are more than the sand;**

**When I am awake, I am still with you.**

Sung: **Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*The Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer* | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

**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 144 "This is My Father's World" | TERRA BEATA

*The Offering and Offertory Anthem*

"Offertory" | John Ness Beck

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

*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, Shall I come before Him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly and to love kindness, and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:6-8*

*\*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* | 1 John 1:5; 7

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

*The Message* | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

“Learning How To Walk”

## RESPONSE

*\*The Hymn of Response*

UMH 206 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” | HOUSTON

*\*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*

“A Festive Trumpet Tune” | David German

*Following the service, please join us for a reception celebrating Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson in Hancock Hall.*



## Summer Serve | Ways to Engage & Donate

Join us this summer as we serve our community and connect with our neighbors! Volunteer opportunities include:

**June 24** | Bethel Lunch Fun-Day at The View at NoDa

**July 5 & 19** | Sack Lunch Ministry

**July 9** | Our Daily Bread Breakfast

**July** (Date TBD) | Family Food Market at Clarke Central

You can also support our Missions Ministry by donating snack bags, diapers, and travel-sized hygiene items. Donation items may be dropped off at the church front desk. Scan the QR code or contact Sarah Beth for more information.

Sarah Beth Barger, Director of Missions | [sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:sarahbeth@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](mailto:natalee@athensfirstumc.org)



## 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**

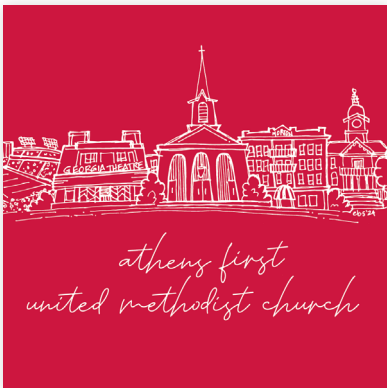
Join our College & Young Adult Ministry for a summer day of fun on Saturday, July 11! We'll leave the church at 2:30 p.m. for an afternoon at Topgolf followed by the Gwinnett Stripers game that evening. Cost is \$35 per person and includes your gameplay at Topgolf and your ticket to the baseball game.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

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



## One Worship Service on July 5

As we celebrate 250 years of our nation's history over the July 4th holiday weekend, we invite our church family to gather for one combined worship service on **Sunday, July 5, at 11:00 a.m.** Childcare for infants through Pre-K will be available during worship. Sunday School will not meet. We look forward to worshipping together for this Patriotic Celebration!



## Leadership Residency Internship

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](https://athensfirstumc.org/intern).

**Deadline to apply is July 3.**

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



## Student Ministry Fall Retreats

Registration is now open for our 2026 Fall Retreats! The Momentum High School Retreat will travel to Camp Glisson the weekend of **August 15-16** for a one night retreat of worship, fellowship, and zip lining! The Spark Retreat will take place the weekend of **August 21-23** at Camp Glisson. Spark is open to all Middle School age students and includes retreat break outs designed for both Confirmation and Middle School ages. Register early by July 15 to receive our special discounted rate and retreat t-shirt!

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

## MEMBER NEWS

### Baptism

We celebrate that Sarah Walker Schmidt, daughter of Caroline and Taylor Schmidt, received the sacrament of baptism on June 14.

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### FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 16, 2026* ([finance@athensfirstumc.org](mailto:finance@athensfirstumc.org)):

**2026 Budget:** \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,369,201 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,470,355

#### 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.

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## 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).

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