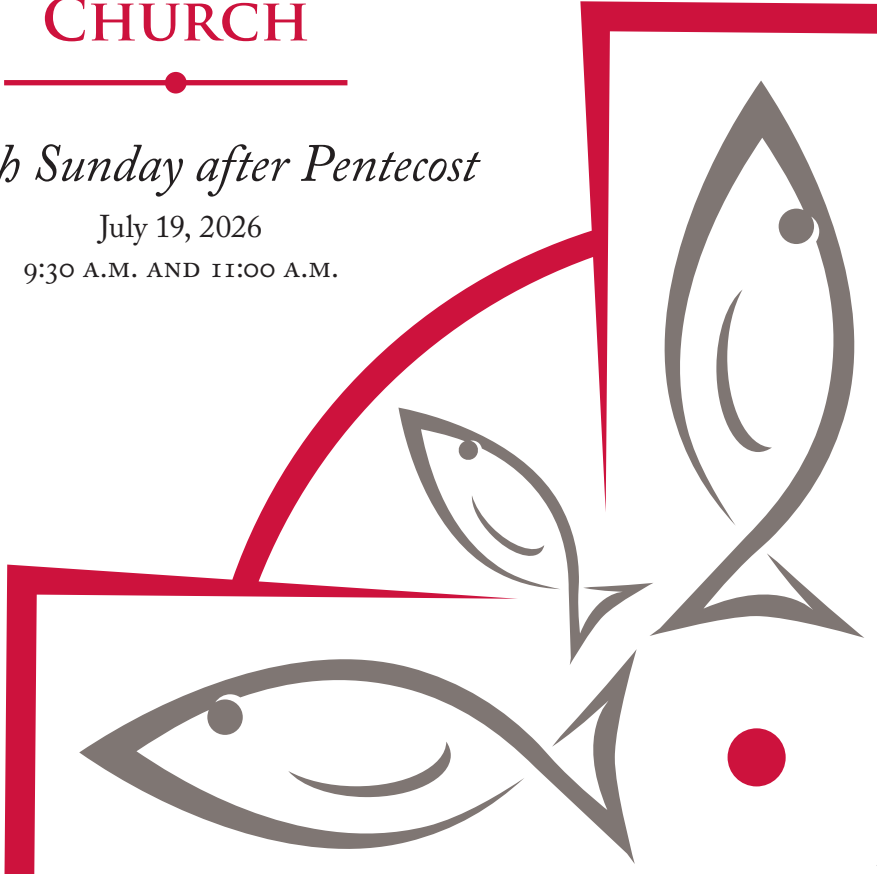


ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

9:30 A.M. AND 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 Gerald Firth and in honor of Doris Firth by the Firth Family and the McAdams Family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" | arr. Shelton Ridge Love

"When Morning Gilds the Skies" | arr. Shelly Hamilton

Vincent Tong and Ryan Ferguson, piano duo

The Welcome and Opening Prayer | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

The Call to Worship | from Psalm 30

Minister: Sing praises to the Lord,

People: and give thanks to God's holy name

Minister: for the Lord our God has healed us when we cried for help

People: and restored us in times of deepest despair.

Minister: The Lord has turned our sorrow into dancing;

People: taken our sackcloth from us and clothed us with joy.

Minister: Sing to the Lord who offers joy in the morning

People: and let us give thanks to the Lord forever.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 145 “Morning Has Broken” | BUNESSAN

Led by Callie Waller

**The Affirmation of Faith of The United Church of Canada*

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be 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 Prayers of the People and the 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 Medley

“Wonderful Words of Life” | WORDS OF LIFE

**Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; Let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life; Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.**

**Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life. Beautiful words, wonderful
words, wonderful words of life.**

“The Old Rugged Cross” | THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I
love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. So I'll
cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged
cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.**

“Love Lifted Me” | SAFETY

**I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to
rise no more; but the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry, from the waters lifted me,
now safe am I. Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.
Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.**

“There’s Something About That Name” | THAT NAME

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There’s just something about that name! Master, Savior, Jesus! Like
the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim: Kings
and kingdoms will all pass away, but there’s something about that name!**

The Offering and Offertory Duet

“Camp Meeting Jubilee” | arr. Mark Hayes

Standing on the Promises, There Is Power in the Blood, and He Keeps Me Singing

Offered by the piano duo

**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 | Psalm 30

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

The Message | Rev. Dr. Natalee Dukes Hamby

“Summer Playlist: Here Comes the Sun”

Here comes the sun, doo-d-doo-doo. Here comes the sun and I say, “It’s alright.” Little darling, it’s been a long, cold, lonely winter. Little darling, it feels like years since it’s been here. Here comes the sun, doo-d-doo-doo. Here comes the sun and I say, “It’s alright.” Little darling, the smile’s returning to the faces. Little darling, it seems like years since it’s been here. Here comes the sun. Here comes the sun. And I say, “It’s alright.” Written by George Harrison, 1969; Mason Towe, vocalist.

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 140 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” | FAITHFULNESS

**The Blessing and Congregational Response*

“Here Comes the Sun”

Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting; Little darling, it seems like years since it’s been here. Here comes the sun. Here comes the sun and I say, “It’s alright.”

**The Postlude*

“The Morning Trumpet” | arr. Marilyn Thompson

THE STEEPLE

July 19, 2026



Murphy-Harpst Special Offering | Today!

Our congregation has the opportunity to join with other United Methodist Churches across North Georgia to put love into action for at-risk children and youth. Today we are taking up a special offering for Murphy-Harpst. Over the last 100 years, Murphy-Harpst has stood in the gap for Georgia's most vulnerable children. Our donations give Murphy-Harpst the ability to provide critical services that truly heal these children and allow them to achieve their potential and lead successful lives. Please give generously and be a part of the 100-year legacy of Murphy-Harpst. Give by placing your donation in the offering plate or online by scanning the QR code in your bulletin.



Summer Sunday School | Next Sunday

Join us **Sunday, July 26**, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall as we conclude our Summer Adult Sunday School series, *Good News, Great Joy, All People*. Next week, we will focus on "All People" as we deepen our understanding of how members of AFUMC can serve our community and the world through missions, outreach, and acts of compassion. Last year our church served 9,988 people. Join us to learn how we're going to serve over 10,000 this year! We will then conclude our time together with a mission project.

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



Back to School Blessing | August 2

Save the Date for our Back to School Blessing Sunday! Join us for a special time of prayer and encouragement as we bless our students, teachers, school staff, and families at the start of a new school year. This meaningful tradition invites our whole church family to come together in support and love. We will conclude the celebration in Hancock Hall with ministry areas from across our church, who will be there with fun giveaways, helpful information, and ways for you to get involved. As we step into a new season of discipleship this fall, come celebrate, reconnect, and discover how you can grow in faith and community this year.



New Assistive Listening Option Available

We are pleased to offer a new app-based listening system in our sanctuary. To use our assistive listening system, you'll need a smartphone and Bluetooth-enabled headphones or hearing aids. Simply download the Listen WiFi app and then connect to the dedicated WiFi network in the sanctuary. Audio will stream directly to your device, and you can adjust the volume just like any other app. Detailed instructions are available in our Narthex or email Mark Maxwell to help get connected.

Mark Maxwell, Director of Media Services | mark@athensfirstumc.org



Concert Series Kickoff: Raina Wood, Organ | August 30

Join us **Sunday, August 30, at 3:00 p.m.** as we kick off the 2026-2027 Sanctuary Concert Series! Come and enjoy the music of AFUMC Organist, Raina Wood, in an afternoon recital, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," featuring works by Albrecht, Bach, Paine, and Widor. Reception to follow in Hancock Hall. Free admission; no tickets required.

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



Flower Guild | Dedications and Joining the Guild

Each week, the Flower Guild creates beautiful floral arrangements that enhance worship and minister to our congregation. These fresh flowers are provided by donors who dedicate arrangements in loving memory or in honor of a loved one. Multiple donors and dedications are encouraged each week, and both the donor's name and dedication will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$75.

If you are interested in learning more or joining the Flower Guild, contact Evelyn Dukes at ekcdukes@yahoo.com. No special skills are required, and new participants are always welcome!

To dedicate flowers, contact Patty Lutz at patty@athensfirstumc.org or by calling the church.

MEMBER NEWS

In Memoriam

Helen Plymale
July 6, 2026

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to family and friends in the loss of Helen Plymale on July 6.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Erica and Joseph Stewart on the birth of their son, Joseph “JJ” Thomas Stewart Jr., who was born July 3.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Claire Hackleman and Reilly Christie on their marriage on July 11 in our sanctuary.

FINANCIAL REPORT As of July 14, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Actual Giving:** \$1,524,829 | **YTD Actual Expenses:** \$1,710,547

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

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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