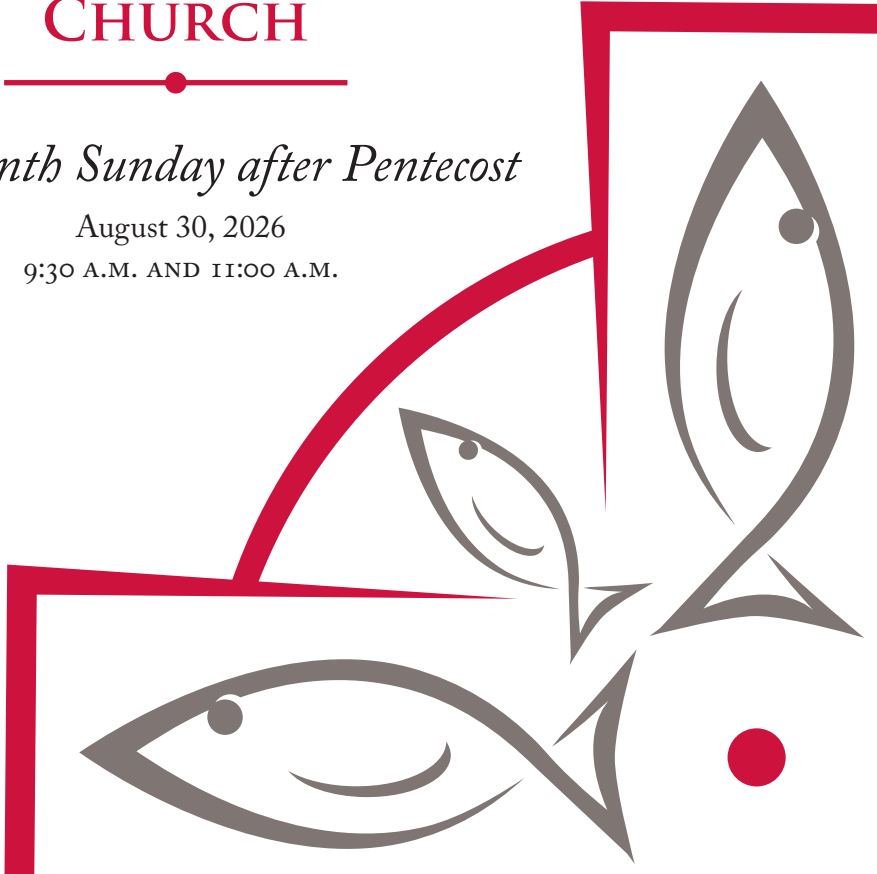


ATHENS FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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 George Kuhlman by Cindy Kuhlman and family.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“Prélude, Op. 18” | César Franck

Raina Wood, Organist

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

The Carillon Introit

“Jubilance” | Arnold Sherman

Rung by the Athens First Carillon; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music and Worship

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Processional Hymn*

UMH 108 "God Hath Spoken by the Prophets" | EBENEZER

**The Affirmation of Faith* | "The Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 | 9:30 a.m.

Anne Foster Sigg, daughter of Brittany and William Sigg

Annie, Annie, 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. Annie, Annie, God claims you, God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

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

UMH 399 "Take My Life and Let It Be" | MESSIAH

During the singing of the hymn at 11:00 a.m., children Kindergarten 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

"Let the Heavens Resound" | Ronald Kauffman

Rung by the Athens First Carillon

**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 | Revelation 1:1-3

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

The Message | Rev. Jeremy Lawson
“Can You Hear Me?”

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 547 “O Church of God, United” | ELLACOMBE

**The Blessing and Congregational Response*

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” | DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

**The Postlude*

“Postlude” | William Mathias



Concert Series Kickoff: Raina Wood, Organ | Today!

Join us this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. as we kick off the 2026-2027 Sanctuary Concert Series! Come and enjoy the music of Athens First UMC 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



Christmas at Biltmore | Registration Open

This December, the Sanctuary Choir is hosting a trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, and everyone is invited! Events will include admission to Biltmore Estate, Sanctuary Choir Concert in the Winter Garden of Biltmore House and evening Candlelight Tour, National Gingerbread House display at Grove Park Inn, with meals, overnight stay, and motorcoach travel. Those who are not members of the choir will enjoy the sights and sounds of the historic Biltmore Estate along with us. Dates: **Friday, December 4 - Saturday, December 5**. The cost is \$525 per person (double-occupancy). Registration will close on October 1 (\$125 deposit due at registration). Visit athensfirstumc.org/christmasatbiltmore to learn more, or scan the QR code to register.

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



WYC Fall Retreat

The Wesleyan Youth Choir will jump into our Fall and Christmas music at our Annual Fall Retreat on **September 19**. This year we will travel to Greenville, SC. We will rehearse upcoming music and have time to explore Greenville. There is a great park with suspension bridges, souvenir shopping, and lots of ice cream! AND....the WYC Seniors will reveal our Choir Tour Destination for 2027! Your \$25 registration pays for travel, lunch, and an ice cream treat. Registration ends on Tuesday, September 8. This retreat is especially helpful for our middle school members, and it is a great model for Choir Tour, which happens at the beginning of the Summer.

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children's and Youth Music Ministry
janis@athensfirstumc.org



Job Opening

We are seeking to fill the position of Small Groups and Older Adult Ministry Coordinator! The coordinator provides leadership and strategic oversight for adult small group ministries at Athens First UMC, with additional attention on cultivating vibrant small group communities and meaningful engagement for older adults. This role ensures that pathways for connection, spiritual growth, and care are accessible and theologically grounded in the United Methodist tradition. Through equipping leaders and building systems for sustainable growth, this position helps foster a culture where every person is known, supported, and growing in faith. Please visit athensfirstumc.org/careers or email Kelly Roberson for more information.

Kelly Roberson, Executive Assistant to the Senior Minister
kelly@athensfirstumc.org



Join a UMW Circle!

United Methodist Women (UMW) is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Six circles meet monthly for fellowship and study and to engage in outreach opportunities. For more information on circle meeting dates and locations, please visit athensfirstumc.org/smallgroupsministry.

If you are interested in joining one of our six circles or starting a circle with friends, contact Rev. Lisa Lawrenz.

Rev. Lisa Lawrenz, Associate Minister | lisa@athensfirstumc.org



Student Ministry Retreat Recap

Over 100 students from Athens First UMC visited Camp Glisson the last two weekends for our High School and Middle School Retreats!

From worship to zip lining, swimming under the waterfall to small group conversations - our students spent their weekends diving deeper into their faith and community. Whether we were sharing the questions that we have about our faith or thinking about the ways God incorporates water into our spiritual journey, our students return ready for a new school year together!

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

MEMBER NEWS

New Members

On August 23, we welcomed Amy and Jeff Bowling; Jennifer and Bob Donnan; Holly and David Feltovic; Anna and Drew Felton; Angie and Steve Fowler; Jack Hill; Elizabeth, Jeff, Emma, and Grace Humphries; Beth and Michael McIntyre; Reighley and John Walker to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

WEEKLY MENUS

college lunch

TODAY'S MENU: Raising Cane's

*All college and graduate students are invited to join us for a **free lunch** in Hancock Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.*

Wednesday NIGHT DINNER

SEPTEMBER 2: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, served with a side salad and garlic bread.

Register by noon on Tuesday | Scan the Steeple QR Code to register online or Call the Church Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT As of August 25, 2026 (finance@athensfirstumc.org):

2026 Budget: \$3,055,000 | **YTD Total Revenue:** \$2,158,035 | **YTD Total Expenses:** \$2,139,988

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. Lisa Lawrenz | Associate Minister
lisa@athensfirstumc.org | 706-338-6952

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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