First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Serving Atlanta and the World since 1867

October 11, 2026
11:00 am

The Reverend Dr. Dwight D. Andrews, Pastor
The Reverend Andrew Young, Pastor of Global Mission

First Congregational Church, UCC

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 11, 2026

THE PRELUDE

Mr. Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR AND LIGHTING THE WORSHIP CANDLES

THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Minister Myles Clay

* OPENING HYMN *WE'RE MARCHING TO ZION, 590 AAHH*

Congregation and First Church Voices

*All who are able please stand and sing.

WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Dwight Andrews

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY WORDS

"Give and it will be given to you
A good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
Running over, will be put into your lap
For the measure you give, will be the measure you get back"
---Luke 6:38 NRSV

OFFERTORY SONG *LEAN ON ME BILL WITHERS*

First Church Voices

THE PRAYER HYMN *Welcome Into This Place* p.114 AAHH

The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Reverend Kathi Martin Hunt

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Deacon Pamela Cook
OLD TESTAMENT: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
NEW TESTAMENT: Malachi 3:6-18

MUSICAL OFFERING *Order My Steps* Glen Burleigh
Chancel Choir

SERMON *The Constancy of Change* Reverend Andrews

INVITATION SONG We Offer Christ to You Bishop Paul Morton

INVITATION CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

BENEDICTION Reverend Andrews

CHORAL BENEDICTION *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE
Mr. Frank Hoke, organ

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ANNOUNCEMENTS must be submitted to the Church Office for review and approval by Tuesday at 5pm**. 100 words maximum please.**

PODCASTS of the weekly sermons are now available on PodBean, Spotify, and Apple Play. You can also go to the church website firstchurchatl.org, then go to PODCAST, select the desired sermon by date or speaker.

WORSHIP SERVICES are available for review on our YouTube channel at Firstchurchatl.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS Altar Flowers are a wonderful way to remember a loved one or celebrate some good news. Scan the QR code to place an order or contact the church office. Altar flower announcements for the bulletin must be submitted by Tuesday at 5pm.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women of First Church invite ALL women to attend the **"Brain Health Seminar"** immediately following the worship service today. Our guest speaker is Dr. Monica Parker of Emory University's Goizueta Brain Health Institute. A light lunch will be provided.

Servette Sunday was a delight last week. Several members were recipients of the cherished Stalwart Stewards Award including Shirley Fields, Angela Johnson, Joy Scrutchings, Gail Tusan Washington, and Beckie Spencer. Each of these women exemplify the meaning of good stewardship and are stalwart in their service, loyal, dedicated, dependable, and committed. They are a blessing to this church and its ministries.

HOMECOMING on September 27th was simply spectacular! The inspiring service featured guest speaker the Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms, former Atlanta mayor and Gubernatorial candidate. Our theme*, Our Home, Your Home, God's Home*, resonated in every aspect of the service. Special thanks to the Homecoming Committee, the music ministry, the many volunteers, and the FCC church staff for an extraordinary worship experience. **Now go out and VOTE!**

Next Sunday is Men's Day and our guest speaker is Dr. Willie Underwood, III, MD. Dr. Underwood is Clinical Associate Professor of urology in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He was sworn in on June 9 as the 181st president of the American Medical Association (AMA), the nation's largest and most influential physician organization. We are pleased and honored to have him as our guest.

We welcome new members Cecelia (CeCe) Houston Torrence and Diarius Peak. They have joined our fellowship, and we look forward to our mutual ministry.

Our 2026/2027 Stewardship Council Pledge Card Campaign continues. If you have not submitted your card, we urge you to do so. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Please ask an Usher to provide you with a card to complete and place in the collection plate. We ask that all pledge cards be submitted as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and faithful stewardship.

The amazing **Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers** is right around the corner. December 11th and 12t.h. This is an Atlanta favorite and sponsorship, and ticket information will be shared soon. Mark your calendars and tell your friends.

The **Nursery** has a new attendant. Please welcome **Ms. Brianna Severe** to our Nursery. Brianna is a student at Spelman College. Please make her feel at home.

Please welcome our new temporary Administrative Assistant is **Ms. Precious Shanks.** Please welcome her when the opportunity arises.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS KEY TO OUR FAITH WALK

The College Ministry has launched a new class, **"The Sunday Reset,"** held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you know a college-aged student, encourage them to join — we discuss daily topics through the lens of the Gospels. Questions? Email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

Deacon James Rodgers leads a **Sunday Adult Bible Study** in the Herndon Tower at 9:30am. and has initiated a second virtual class on Thursday evenings. **Spiritual Study Group II** which meets virtually on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. This study group is designed for those committed to seeking spiritual maturity, drawing wisdom from the great teachers and ancient traditions. It is open to participants from all locations and faith traditions who are ready to explore spiritual growth and attain peace, love, and contentment. There is no pressure to attend every session—you are welcome whenever your schedule allows. Please register using the link below to join us and receive session resources:
https://forms.gle/PMjaTJNzUCdf1SCA6

Directory Update - We're updating our member contact information to ensure accuracy. Please visit firstchurchatl.org, navigate to the Instant Church Directory tab, log in, and verify that your information is correct and up to date. Questions? Contact the church office or email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

First Friday at First is doing something special on November 6th, the amazing **Nnenna Freelon** will perform a special First Friday concert in the Sanctuary! Be sure to purchase your tickets for these events on Event Brite.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY

One Body, Many Parts: We Still Need to Hear from You
The CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY is the first step in our strategic planning journey, and we need to hear from every member of First Church.

1 Corinthians 12:27 says: "…together we are the body of Christ, each of us a distinct and necessary member of it." But a body can't function fully when some of its parts haven't checked in yet. If you haven't completed the survey, please take time today. It only takes 15-20 minutes and it is anonymous. We can't move forward as one body until every part has been heard. Please complete the survey today — survey link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstCongAtlantaParticipant
Your input directly shapes how First Church will:

- **REFLECT** on the past — what's made us strong
- **GIVE THANKS** in the present — what we value today
- **JOYFULLY ANTICIPATE** the future — where we're headed together

Virtual Bible Study will gather at 6:30 pm ET on Monday, October 12th. The discussion will be on Acts 28. The leader will be Akiba Harper Sullivan. Because we are finishing Acts, we will likely have a conversation about the impact of the entire chapter and the topics for our next study. All are welcome.
Join Zoom Meeting ID: 863 0501 0993. Meeting ID: 863 0501 0993
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86305010993?pwd=cGorQznHqw0l2U78Mx4iP5tW2tItqW.1

PARISH CONCERNS

Please pray for Doc Powell whose mother, Mrs. Geneva Powell, passed away on September 22nd. The memorial service will be held on October 31st. More details will follow. Pray for Jack and Ginnie Ferrell. Ginnie's older brother Ross passed on September 23rd. Please say a special prayer for his widow Joan.

Welcome to First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of First Congregational Church, UCC is to be a Christ-centered church which leads people to God through a commitment to, and the practice of our five key precepts of: worship, prayer, study, service, and stewardship.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a Christ-centered church that models the love of God, builds relationships, and empowers people of all walks of life through our creative services, discipleship, outreach, ministries, and teaching, as well as striving always to use our time, talents, and treasures to the building of the beloved community.

OUR INVITATION

First Church is an inclusive, social justice, and social gospel church. Founded in 1867, it has been a Christian witness to Atlanta and the World for over one hundred and fifty-nine years! Its mission is rooted in the Christian concept of love and our efforts for social justice, human rights, equity, and inclusion of all people, and racial reconciliation are hallmarks of our ministry. As a congregational church we believe in the priesthood of all believers. Each of us is called to do our part to make this a better world. Looking for a church home? Please consider First Church!

Contact Us:

105 Courtland Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30303|404-659-6255|

www.firstchurchatl.org