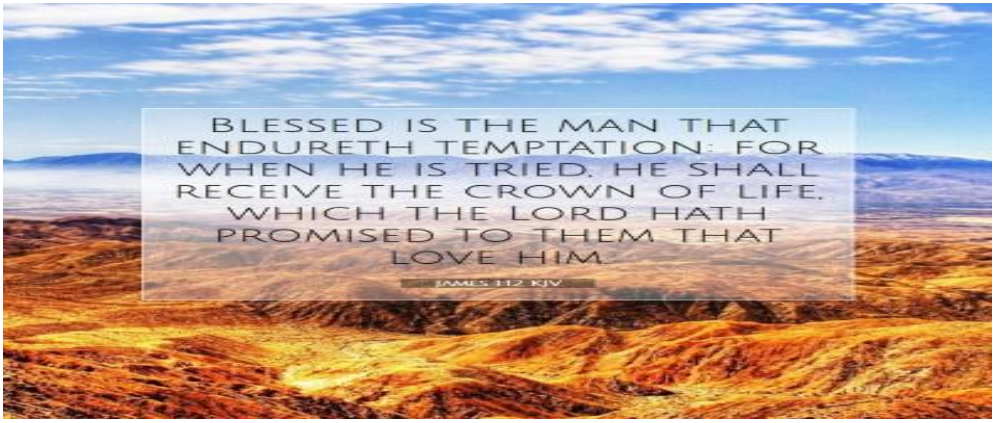


Men's Fellowship Sunday Service

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

October 18, 2026
11:00 AM

Dr. Willie Underwood, III, Guest Speaker
President American Medical Association

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost **October 18, 2026**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Dedicated to the loving memory of Dr. Selwyn Howard

PRELUDE *Christo Redentor* Donald Byrd
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Mr. Michael Harris

*OPENING HYMN *There's a Blessing in This House*
The Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.

THE OCCASION AND TRIBUTE Gilbert Maldonado

WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY WORDS AND OFFERING Kevin KP Smith

"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 *We Want to Thank You Lord* Kenny Cox
First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

We give thee but thine own, what 'er the gifts may be
All that we have is thine Lord, a trust O Lord from thee.

*PRAYER HYMN *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit # 326 AAHH*
The Congregation and First Church Voices

THE PASTORAL PRAYER — Reverend Dwight Andrews

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS — Paul Grant

Old Testament: Psalm 103:13-22

New Testament: James 1:1-12

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER — Mr. Cecil Brown

MUSICAL OFFERING — *The Lord's Prayer* — Judith McCallister

First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

THE MESSAGE — Dr. Willie Underwood, III

President, American Medical Association

INVITATION SONG — *People Get Ready*

Men's Quartet and Third Sunday Band

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP — Reverend Andrews

Those interested in joining First Church may come down at this time.

BENEDICTION — Reverend Dr. Vernor Clay

CHORAL RESPONSE — *How Great is Our God*

First Church Voices and Third Sunday Band

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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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Dr. Willie Underwood III is a board-certified urologist and surgeon whose career reflects a commitment to clinical excellence, physician leadership, patient access, and health equity. Raised in Gary, Indiana, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Morehouse College and his medical degree and Master of Science in Anatomy and Cellular Biology from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. He completed his general surgery and urologic surgery training at the University of Connecticut Health Center before becoming the fifth urologist selected for the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program, which he completed at the University of Michigan in 2002. He subsequently earned a Master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 2004. He has also completed a certificate program in artificial intelligence and augmented intelligence in healthcare at Harvard Medical School.

With more than two decades of clinical experience, including over a decade specializing in robotic urologic surgery, Dr. Underwood has served medicine through patient care, research, community engagement, and national leadership. His work in organized medicine includes serving as Chair of the American Medical Association's Board of Trustees, where he helped shape policy on patient safety, physician payment, and reducing disparities in care.

As health care continues to evolve, Dr. Underwood remains a steadfast advocate for physicians, patients, and a more equitable health care system. His career reflects a guiding principle: medicine is not simply a profession—it is a responsibility.

We welcome Dr. Underwood to First Church and pray for his continued success at this critical moment in the ecosystem of healthcare in America.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PARISH CONCERNS

First Church in partnership with **CSM Angels Refuge St. Outreach** provided over 125 meals yesterday to individuals and families dealing with homelessness throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area. We thank the many volunteers who prepared the meals and thank Reverend Angela Dempsey Williams who coordinated the event.

The **Women of First Church** sponsored a very successful "Brain Health Seminar" last Sunday. Guest speaker Dr. Monica Parker of Emory University's Goizueta Brain Health Institute provided helpful information and words of encouragement for the many people in our community who are dealing with mental health issues.

Congratulations to the **Stalwart Stewards Award** recipients Shirley Fields, Angela Johnson, Joy Scrutchings, Gail Tusan Washington, and Beckie Spencer. The Servettes honored each of these women for their service and commitment on Servette Sunday, October 11th.

EARLY VOTING has begun and runs through October 30th (Monday-Saturday in all counties), Sundays (varies by county). **ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3.** POLLS OPEN AT 7:00am-7:00pm. This election is critical, so vote and make sure your friends do the same. Our nation cannot afford to continue on its current path. **VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT**. IT DOES!

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 set for December 11th and 12th. This is an Atlanta favorite and a collaboration with our First Church Community Development Corp. (FCCDC). The event supports the arts and education programming for youth such as the Summer Camp and Discovery Week experiences. Sponsorship and ticket information is available. Mark your calendars and tell your friends.

Please welcome our new staff members. **Ms. Precious Shanks** is our new temporary Administrative Assistant and **Ms. Brianna Severe** is our new Nursery attendant. Please welcome them when the opportunity arises.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS KEY TO OUR FAITH WALK

- Sunday School, 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:30 am. Contact Min. Myles Riley
- Sunday Morning Reset for College Students with Rev. Eichelberger, 10am
- Sunday Adult Study (Herndon Tower) at 9:30am. Dr. James Rodgers leads.
- **Monday Virtual Bible Study** will gather at 6:30 pm ET on Monday, October 19th to plan for their next study. All are welcome. **Meeting ID: 863 0501 0993 Passcode: 266165 https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86305010993?pwd=cGorQznHqw0l2U78Mx4iP5tW2tItqW.1**
- **Thursday Virtual Spiritual Study Group II** will meet 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**

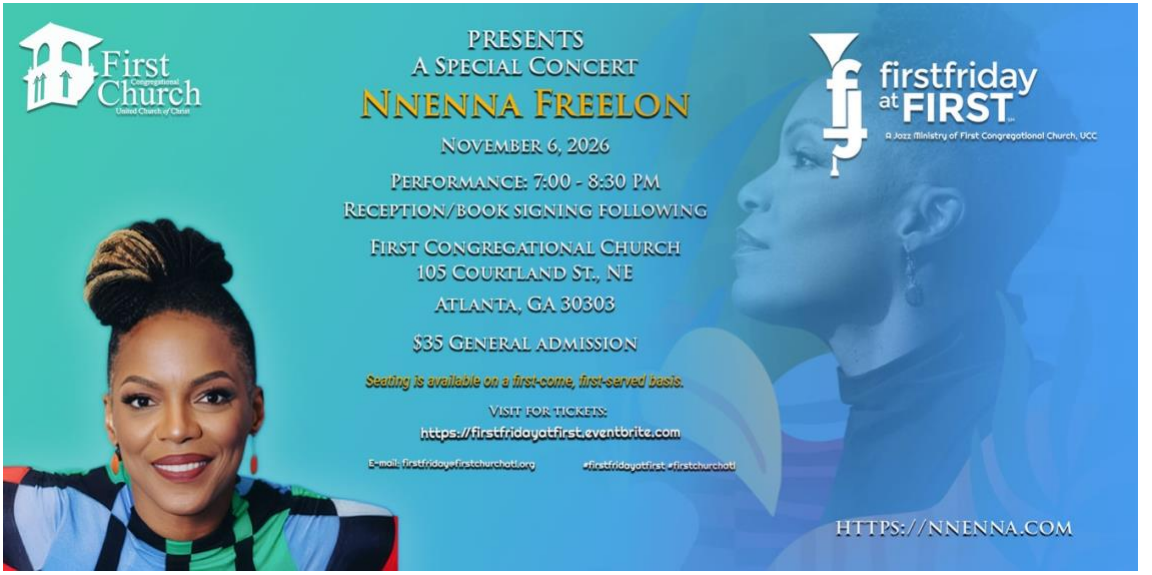
Directory Update - We're updating our member contact information to ensure accuracy. Please visit firstchurchatl.org, navigate to the Instant Church Directory tab, log in, and verify that your information is correct and up to date. Questions? Contact the church office or email Rev. Harold at harold@firstchurchatl.org.

FIRST 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



PARISH CONCERNS

Please pray for all who are grieving- Gilbert Maldanado, whose grandmother passed in Boston, Doc Powell in the loss of his mother, Mrs. Geneva Powell, Virginia Wadsworth in the loss of her brother, Henry Wallace. Please also pray for the families of Selwyn Howard, Cedric Jordan, Erma Jean Thomas, the Axam Garner families, and Jack and Rhea Williams.

The families of **Dr. Selwyn Howard and Mrs. Erma Jean Thomas** are exploring creating **Memorials** in their honor. Additional information will be shared as soon as it is available.

Continue to pray for those seeking healing and dealing with health challenges- Shawn Keyes, Glenda Rowe, Grady and Margaret Gamble, Marcia Nurse, Edward Simon, Reverend Earl Menchhofer, James Edward Means, Carolyn Thomas Page (CJ), Baby Hailu Hood, Edie Hammond, Cornelius Watts, Franklin Thomas, Steve Parker, Calvin Vismale, Jeanne Rance, Valencia Wilson Thomas, Michele Johnson, Reverend Pamela Smith, S. Renee Clark, Earlene Harris, Jamelia Stroud, Dr. Ruth Simmons-Herts, and Casey Cameron.

FALL AND WINTER CALENDAR AT GLANCE

10/25	"Faith and AI forum" after worship with author, activist, and scholar Dr. Kamau Bobb. He discusses his new book, *The Bullwhip's Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence and America's Racial Caste System.* Sponsored by the Social Action Committee.
11/1	Fall Quarterly Meeting after worship
11/6	A Special First Friday with Nnenna Freelon in the Sanctuary
11/8	Stewardship Sunday
11/14	Church Council In-Person Potluck Luncheon 12pm-2pm
11/29	First Sunday of Advent. Hanging of the Green
12/6	Second Sunday of Advent. Many Moods of Christmas
12/11-12	Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers
12/13	Third Sunday of Advent. Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
12/20	Fourth Sunday of Advent. Children's Christmas Play
12/25	Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am.
12/31	Watch Night Service. In Person at 10:00 pm.

Book Signing Event at First Church

MEET THE AUTHOR!



Join author and tech industry leader, Dr. Kamau Bobb, for a provocative conversation examining how Artificial Intelligence intersects with history, culture, and human systems.
Drawing from his new book, the discussion will explore how race, education, and Artificial Intelligence collide.
Rev. Dr. Dwight D. Andrews will moderate the Q&A session.

All are welcome! EDUCATORS: please attend and invite your colleagues!

SUNDAY, OCT. 25TH
REFRESHMENTS: 1:00PM
TALK & BOOK PURCHASE & SIGNING BEGIN: 1:30PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ATLANTA
FELLOWSHIP HALL
105 COURTLAND ST. NE
ATLANTA 30303

THE BULLWHIP'S ALGORITHM



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AMERICA'S RACIAL CASTE SYSTEM

KAMAU BOBB

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