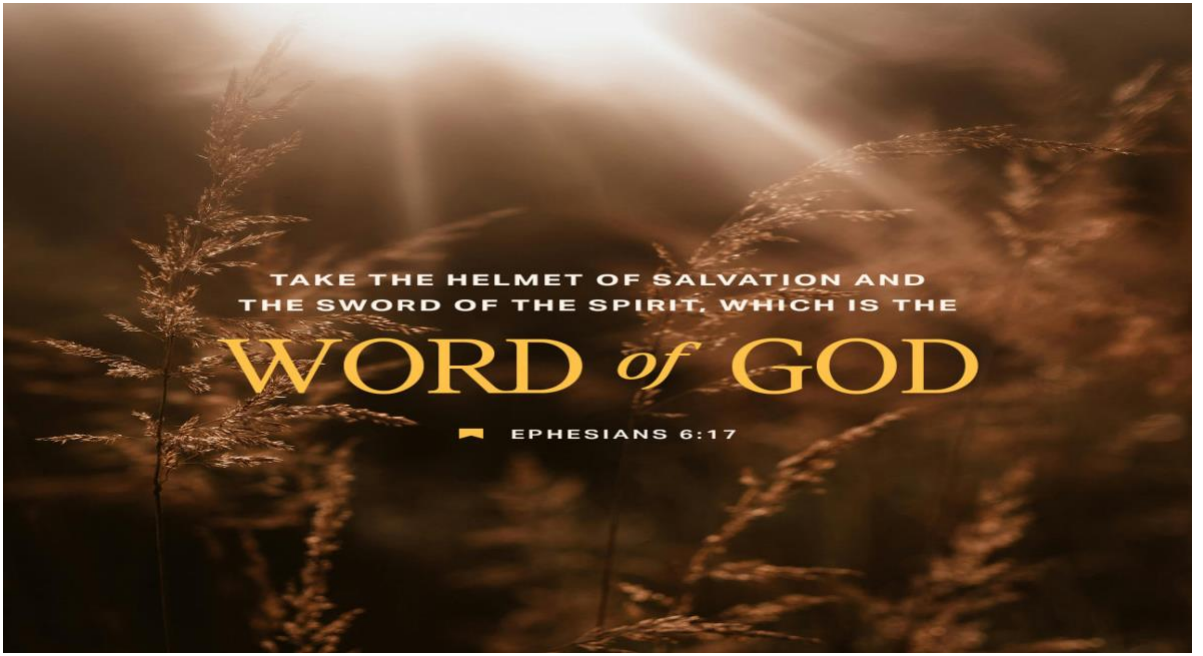


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

October 25, 2026
11:00 am

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

First Congregational Church, UCC

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost **October 25, 2026**

PRELUDE

Frank Hoke, organist

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION Rev. Andrews

*OPENING HYMN Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing # 175 AAHH
The Congregation and First Church Voices
*All who are able please stand and sing.

WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Reverend Andrews

OFFERTORY WORDS AND OFFERING

"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 Say *You Love Jesus?(trad.)*
Children's Choir

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.

ANTHEM *If Ye Love Me* Philip Wilby
The Chancel Choir

*PRAYER HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
The Congregation

THE PASTORAL PRAYER Minister Myles Riley

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS — Deacon Ruth Chin Hicks
Old Testament: Psalm 16:1-9 — New Testament: Ephesians 6:13-17

MUSICAL OFFERING — *The Blessing of Abraham* — Donald Lawrence
First Church Voices

THE MESSAGE — *What is Your Inheritance?* — Reverend Andrews

INVITATION SONG — *Stand* — Donnie McClurkin
First Church Voices

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP — Reverend Andrews
Those interested in joining First Church may come down at this time.

BENEDICTION — Reverend Andrews

CHORAL RESPONSE — *God Be with You till We Meet Again*
Chancel Choir

Postlude — Frank Hoke, organist

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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 AND PARISH CONCERNS

We are deeply saddened to share that our beloved Valencia Wilson Thomas has passed away. Final arrangements will be shared as soon as they are available.

Welcome new member **Blake Stoner** to our fellowship. Blake joined First Church last Sunday. We continue to offer our welcome to new members Cecelia (CeCe) Houston Torrence and Diarius Peak. We look forward to our mutual ministry. A new member orientation is being scheduled. Stay tuned!

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!

First Church in partnership with **CSM Angels Refuge St. Outreach** provided over 125 meals last week 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.

Men's Day last week was extraordinary. Dr. Willie Underwood, President of the American Medical Association shared the remarkable story of his own success and inspired all of us to aspire and achieve and serve. The Men's Fellowship gave two generous donations, $1,000.00 to the Building Fund and $1,000.00 to the Dr. Selwyn Howard Memorial Scholarship Fund. A grateful church thanks you for all you do.

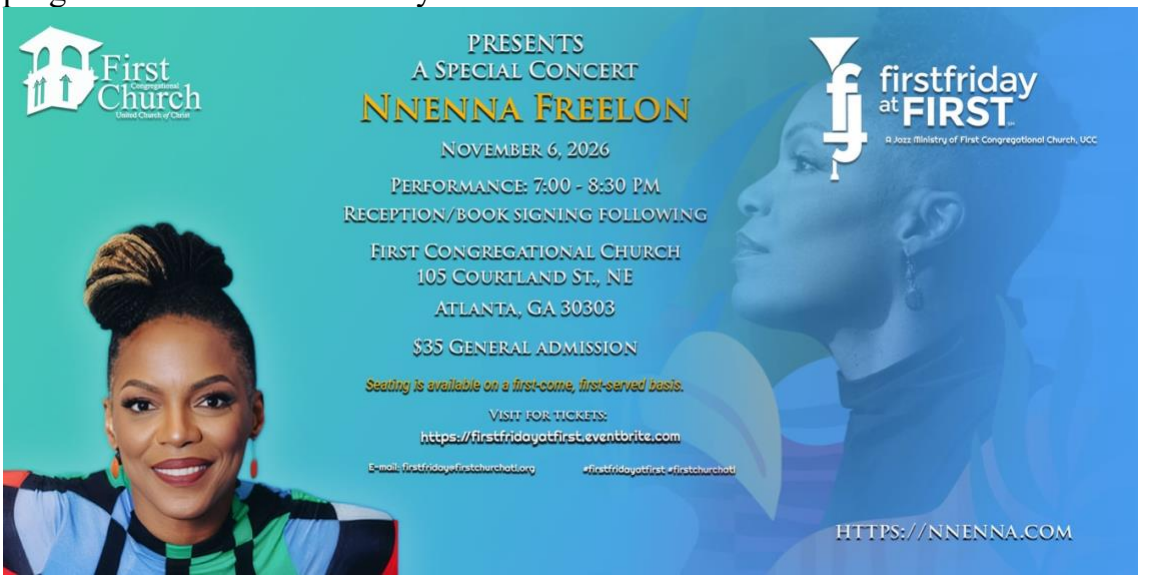
Please welcome our new staff members. **Ms. Precious Shanks** is our new temporary Administrative Assistant and **Ms. Brianna Severe** is our new Nursery attendant. Please welcome then when the opportunity arises.

After worship today please join us for an important conversation with author, activist, and scholar **Dr. Kamau Bobb for a "Faith and AI forum."** Dr. Bobb will discuss his new book, *The Bullwhip's Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence and America's Racial Caste System*. Sponsored by the Social Action Committee.

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.

The amazing **Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers** is set for December 11th and 12th. This is an Atlanta favorite is 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.

The final First Friday concert of the season will feature Ms. Nnenna Freelon. The event is only two weeks away. Please support this wonderful artist and distinctive program of First Church. Get your tickets now!



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.
- The Virtual Bible Study will meet on Monday, October 26, at 6:30 pm ET. We are starting the book of Daniel with Chapters 1 and 2. Jesse Spikes and Rev. Henrietta Andrews will lead the discussion.

Zoom 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.

Sermon Notes

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY

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 Maurice Copeland and his family. Maurice's cousin, Melvin Copeland, passed away. Melvin was like a brother to him.

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, Valencia Wilson Thomas 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- Carolyn Marks, Shawn Keyes, Glenda Rowe, Grady and Margaret Gamble, Marcia Nurse, 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, 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

11/1	Fall Quarterly Meeting after worship
11/6	A Special First Friday with Nnenna Freelon in the Sanctuary
11/8	Stewardship Sunday with Reverend Susan Mitchell Guest Speaker
11/14	Church Council In-Person Potluck Luncheon 12pm-2pm
11/15	3rd Sunday with Ambassador Andrew Young and the 3rd Sunday Band
11/22	Youth Sunday
11/29	First Sunday of Advent-Hanging of the Green
12/2	College Ministry Event Commons
12/6	Second Sunday of Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
12/11-12	Annual Holiday Jazz Vespers
12/13	Third Sunday of Advent – The Many Moods of Christmas
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